

Preface

In Europe, and especially in Germany, there are (at the present time) only a few research institutions devoted to the study of language and culture in diverse linguistic and sociocultural contexts (beyond Europe). This book is part of a larger project aimed at establishing a Center for Anthropological Linguistics/Linguistic Anthropology at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz in the future – in research projects, in teaching (both linguistics and anthropology), in interdisciplinary working groups, and through the launch of a new and exciting book series “*Anthropological Linguistics*”.

We are very grateful to all the contributors to this volume for accepting our invitation to participate in this project and for sharing their expertise and years of experience with us – and with all readers. However, without the valuable comments of many colleagues, anonymous reviewers, and kind readers and their insightful ideas and advice, this project would never have taken shape. Our heartfelt thanks go to all of them, as well as to the many colleagues in our departments (Department of English and Linguistics and Department of Anthropology and African Studies, respectively) for their support, interest, and stimulating intellectual atmosphere. The Center for Intercultural Studies (ZIS) at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz is thanked for providing generous financial support and a platform for international cooperation.

As the first volume, i.e., the present book, is now about to be published, we must thank Birgit Sievers, Natalie Fecher, and Kirstin Boergen of De Gruyter Mouton for their support and interest in our project: without their approval, enthusiasm, and hard work, this new book series would not see the light of day. We are already looking forward to the exciting volumes in preparation, and we appreciate the effort and precise work of many colleagues who choose this series and who plan to base the results of their research with us.

Mary Chambers is sincerely thanked for proofreading some of the contributions; any remaining inaccuracies and errors are on our account. We thank our (patient) families and loved ones who have had to put up with long absences while this project got off the ground – and is still getting off the ground. We invite all readers, interested colleagues, and students to join us on this exciting journey within the new book series!

