

Acknowledgments

No empirical study in Humanities can exist without the participation of individuals. Therefore, I express my profound gratitude to all those who made this empirical study possible. Their voluntary participation in the study, which included consenting to be videotaped and engaging in the multimodal analysis of their intercultural interactions, as well as their trust in our handling of the generated data, is deeply appreciated.

Over the past fourteen years, the ICMI Research Center has not only been an integral part of my academic pursuits but has also become intertwined with my entire life. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the members of the ICMI Research Center who have contributed to this journey. Many of them have shown immense enthusiasm in our endeavors, persisting in their involvement to this day despite facing numerous challenges since 2010. I am particularly indebted to my dear friend Mariana Carneiro Mendes, whose close collaboration has imparted invaluable knowledge about technology and the intricate facets of Brazilian culture. Additionally, I express my appreciation to Thiago Cunha da Nascimento, Adriana Fernandes Barbosa, Fernanda Roque Amendoeira, and Maria José D'Alessandro Nogueira for their dedicated roles in overseeing the subcoordination of our group.

In this regard, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to our partner universities, with whom we have cultivated collaborative networks over the years. Special thanks are due to Milene Mendes de Oliveira and Hans-Georg Wolf from the University of Potsdam, as well as Anna Ladilova from JLU Gießen, with whom I have shared both memorable academic and wonderful personal moments throughout my lifetime.

The establishment of our international network and, consequently, the production of this book, would not have been possible without the generous funding I received over the years. I am grateful for the support provided by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation through the *Research Group Linkage Programme* (2017–2022, in collaboration with the University of Potsdam), the Senior Fellowship at the University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Duisburg-Essen, facilitated by the *Capes-PrINT Programme* (Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel, 2020–2021). During this period, I had the opportunity to dedicate significant time to the project 'The multimodal co-construction of interculturalities: A cognitive approach to talk-in-interaction'. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Jürgen Streeck for our enriching conversations and amazing excursions, and to Jens Loenhoff whose swift assistance was invaluable, especially in light of the challenges posed by the pandemic. Furthermore, I am grateful to FAPEMIG (The Minas Gerais State Research Foundation) for the Fellowship under the *Research Program Minas Gerais* (2022–2024), WUN (*Worldwide*

Universities Network Research Development Fund, in cooperation with the University of Alberta, Leeds, Sheffield, and Potsdam, 2019–2020), CNPq (National Council for Scientific and Technological Development) for the *Fellowship Program Productivity in Research* (2022–2025), and the Research Grant from the Brazilian-German Exchange Program *Probral* CAPES-DAAD (in collaboration with the Universities of Lavras, Pará, Potsdam, JLU Gießen, and Duisburg-Essen, 2023–2026). The findings from these projects have provided the foundational basis upon which the present work has been developed.

As this book not only reflects ten years of my own research on data from the ICMI Research Center but particularly addresses a specific question raised during my recent career advancement to obtain the title of *Professor Titular*, I extend special thanks to the members of the examination committee Augusto Soares da Silva, Solange Coelho Vereza, Regina Célia Fernandes Cruz, and Deise Prina Dutra. I am grateful for their acceptance of the invitation and for their invaluable advice.

I owe my deepest gratitude to Istvan Kecskes for pioneering a new dimension of intercultural theory within the realm of pragmatics and for having accepted this book for his series in a very open-minded manner. I am equally grateful for the insightful reviews on both my proposal and manuscript, which reassured me that studies at the intersection of different research lines are valued, and for the suggestion to integrate a forward-thinking article. Special thanks also to Michaela Göbels from De Gruyter for her constructive assistance and guidance on all editorial matters.

A heartfelt thanks goes to my esteemed mother, whose unwavering support bolstered a difficult decision that made this book possible.

And lastly, my infinite gratitude to my beloved husband, Richard, for being my most loyal supporter in every aspect.