Preface

This book was initially submitted to the publisher March 2, 2020; revisions were submitted September 7, 2020. The interim period coincided with the start of a pandemic which dramatically altered the lives of millions. Schools were shut down, shelter-in-place orders introduced and economies crumbled under an uncertain future. In the United States, those working in low-income jobs, Black, Brown, Native and People of Color were acutely and disproportionately impacted by societal shutdowns. At the time of writing, a vaccine for the novel coronavirus of 2019, or COVID-19, seems plausible. Operationalization of its massive distribution less so.

Over Memorial Day weekend, a Black man was executed in the streets of Minneapolis by a white police officer whose knee was used to carry out a 21st-century lynching. Mr George Floyd begged for his mother and repeatedly said, 'I can't breathe'. The murder was recorded by onlookers' cell phones, and across the United States and the world, protests against police brutality and systemic racism in the name of George Floyd erupted. The president's response was to select specific wording echoing an openly racist police chief whose approach to protestors during the Civil Rights era was violence – 'When the looting starts, the shooting starts'.

In response to the president and unrest, Mayor Muriel Bowser created Black Lives Matter Plaza, in clear view from The White House. After decades of challenges and refusals by its owner, the Washington, DC football team finally succumbed to changing its name – chosen in 1932 by its racist founding owner *in jest*. The depiction of a human being as its 'logo' also removed.

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic rages on, especially across the United States, where it has become a form of weaponized politicking. While writing manuscript revisions, I felt a responsibility to address areas where Africans kidnapped and trafficked into enslavement in the land now referred to as the United States may be pertinent to sociolinguistics and historical language policy. I attempt not to exclude issues of language

education for Indigenous and Tribal Language Communities. With hope, this volume situates these and related concerns with sufficient sensitivity and historical reverence to Indigenous, heritage, marginalized, minority and minoritized communities.