

Preface

This book originated in our belief that negotiation of identities in multilingual settings frequently occurs in encounters where relations of power are unequal. It is also our view that such encounters are profoundly influenced by the social, cultural, political, and historical settings in which they occur. In putting together this collection it was not difficult to identify colleagues throughout the world who were engaging with these issues in their research. Some were established authors in their field, others new talents undertaking original and stimulating work. All were readily responsive to our invitation to participate in the project. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their willingness to contribute, and for their patience with our requests in the editing process.

We are grateful for the easy working relationship provided by Tommi, Marjukka, and Mike Grover at Multilingual Matters. They were supportive throughout the process of writing, editing, and bringing the volume to its conclusion. We also wish to acknowledge the support and enthusiasm of the series editors, Colin Baker and Nancy Hornberger. They welcomed the volume proposal almost immediately, and were encouraging and helpful throughout.

Working on opposite sides of the Atlantic Ocean on a substantial academic project is not straightforward. Almost all of our editing, decision-making, and intellectual endeavour was conducted through the wonders of computer technology. Busy periods of course do not always coincide; however, we got there in the end, and produced what we believe is a highly readable and stimulating text, which in many ways breaks new ground in our field.

Most of all we are grateful to our families for their constant patience, love, and support as we brought the volume to its conclusion.