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978-0-521-06677-8 - Medical Interpreting and Cross-cultural Communication

Claudia V. Angelelli

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Medical Interpreting and Cross-cultural Communication

When healthcare providers and patients do not speak the same language, medical interpreters are called in to help. In this book – the first ever ethnographic study of a bilingual hospital – Claudia V. Angelelli explores the role of medical interpreters, drawing on data from over 300 medical encounters and interviewing the interpreters themselves about the people for whom they interpret, their challenges, and how they characterize their role. Traditionally the interpreter has been viewed as a language conduit, with little power over the medical encounter or the relationship between patient and provider. This book presents an alternative view, considering the interpreter's agency and contextualizing the practice within an institution that is part of a larger society. Bringing together literature from social theory, social psychology, and linguistic anthropology, this book will be welcomed by anyone who wants to discover the intricacies of medical interpreting firsthand; particularly researchers, communication specialists, policy makers, and practitioners.

CLAUDIA V. ANGELELLI is Associate Professor of Spanish Linguistics at San Diego State University, where she teaches applied linguistics courses such as Spanish discourse analysis, English–Spanish translation and interpreting theory, and methods of teaching Spanish. Her research focuses on cross-linguistic and cross-cultural communication, and she has published articles in a variety of journals, such as *The Annual Review of Applied Linguistics*, *META: Journal des Traducteurs* and *Critical Link: Interpreters in the Community*.

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To my mother, Angela Rizzo, whose dedication to
science and public health served as an inspiration

To my husband, Christian Degueldre, whose longtime
interest and work in this topic and incredible support
helped make this work a reality

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Acknowledgments

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xii Acknowledgments

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Abbreviations

ASL	American Sign Language
CH	California Hope
D	doctor
EMT	emergency medical technician
HCP	healthcare provider
HI	hospital interpreter
ICE	interpreted communicative event
IPRI	Interpreter interpersonal role inventory
IS	interpreting services
MAC	medical admitting clerk
MCE	monolingual communicative event
N	nurse
P	patient
SES	socio-economic status