Based on fieldwork carried out in a Mayan village in Guatemala, this book examines local understandings of mind through the lens of language and culture. It focuses on a variety of grammatical structures and discursive practices through which mental states are encoded and social relations are expressed: inalienable possessions, such as body parts and kinship terms; interjections, such as ‘ouch’ and ‘yuck’; complement-taking predicates, such as ‘believe’ and ‘desire’; and grammatical categories, such as mood, status, and evidentiality. More generally, it develops a theoretical framework through which both community-specific and human-general features of mind may be contrasted and compared. It will be of interest to researchers and students working within the disciplines of anthropology, linguistics, psychology, and philosophy.

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Language, culture and cognition

Editor:
Stephen C. Levinson,
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This series looks at the role of language in human cognition – language in both its universal, psychological aspects and its variable, cultural aspects. Studies focus on the relation between semantic and conceptual categories and processes, especially as these are illuminated by cross-linguistic and cross-cultural studies, the study of language acquisition and conceptual development, and the study of the relation of speech production and comprehension to other kinds of behaviour in cultural context. Books come principally, though not exclusively, from research associated with the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen, and in particular the Language and Cognition Group.

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I have had many teachers. When I first began anthropology at the University of Chicago, I took courses with Paul Friedrich, William Hanks, and Norman McQuown. I still think of them as standard bearers for the best that linguistic anthropology has to offer. Later, I spent a year at the University of Michigan, where I took language and culture, the first semester taught by Bruce Mannheim, and the second taught by Laura Ahearn. In some sense, my first and most sustained contact with the linguistic anthropology canon came through them. I also took a summer course on Kaqchikel, headed by Judith Maxwell and assisted by Robert Hamrick. They were a model of the kinds of interactions linguists should have with the communities they study. Back to the University of Chicago, my dissertation advisors were John Lucy, Elizabeth Povinelli, and Michael Silverstein. John Lucy taught a course on the self, with a focus on the American Pragmatists, that was fundamental for the topic choice and analytic framework of this monograph. Beth is clearly odd-man-out in this list of teachers: to paraphrase Wallace Stevens, in a world of square hats she wears a sombrero. Michael Silverstein has been called the Johnny Appleseed of linguistic anthropology – and rightly so. I cannot thank these three enough for their ideas, advice, and encouragement. Throughout my fieldwork, speakers of Q’eqchi’ living in the villages of Corozal and Chicacnab guided me with pointers and encouraged me with puzzles. Angelina and Alejandro, Humberto and Maynor, Oscar and Adela, stand out for their patience and generosity – and above all for their subtle, analytic minds. Part of this book was drafted while I was a guest in the Language and Cognition Group at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, and outlines of several chapters were presented there. Nick Enfield, Stephen Levinson, and Penny Brown gave me particularly helpful feedback. And Asif Agha and John Haviland gave me very useful critical commentary at several important junctures along the way.

In contrast, I haven’t had all that many friends – but the few I had mattered immensely to this project: Jessica Jerome, Brett King, and Erik Thogersen; Mike Cepek and Anya Bernstein; Stephen Scott, Paja Faudree, and Walter Little; Alexandra Horowitz and Nick Enfield; Ryan Cheney and Antina von Schnitzler. And as for my family, why drag them into this?