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Edited by Catherine A. Lutz and Lila Abu-Lughod
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Studies in Emotion and Social Interaction

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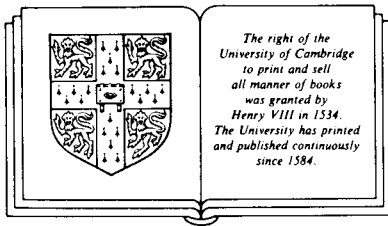
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Preface

Out of anthropological fieldwork in India, Fiji, the United States, Egypt, Senegal, and the Solomon Islands, and out of close critical readings of earlier work in the anthropology of emotion, linguistics, and semiotics, the authors in this volume have explored the interplay of emotion talk and the politics of everyday social life. The contributors share a sense of the beauty and intricacies of conversation, as well as its involvement in power – whether the power to move others or the power that shapes discursive forms and the social relations in which they participate. They show the many ways discourse becomes emotional and emotion becomes discourse, and they treat narratives, conversation, performances, poetry, and song not as texts for cultural analysis but as social practices with serious effects. For this reason, we are happy to have the Cambridge series on emotion and social interaction as the home for this book. We would like to thank Paul Ekman and Klaus R. Scherer, the series editors, for their enthusiastic support for a project that is so wholeheartedly cross-cultural and suspicious of psychology's essentialisms.

We would like to thank a number of other people who helped bring this project to fruition. The anthropological study of emotion and discourse is an exciting and growing field; our work is enriched by being in conversation with that of many others who do not have essays in this volume. That is a matter of history. This particular book grew out of a session at the 1987 annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association called "Emotion and Discourse." We are grateful to Geoffrey M. White for helping to formulate the theme of the session and for soliciting many of the papers in connection with it. John Sabini and Fitz John Porter Poole contributed generously to the lively dialogue at the conference and to our thinking about the issues. Arjun Appadurai, Timothy Mitchell, Margaret Trawick, and Geoffrey M. White gave us helpful critical readings of the introductory chapter. Steven Feld and Stephen

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Foster gave us invaluable suggestions for improving each of the chapters and the manuscript as a whole. Lila Abu-Lughod is grateful to the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and to the National Endowment for the Humanities for support to work on this project and for the extraordinary opportunity to participate in the Gender Seminar (1987–8), two of whose members, Donna Haraway and Judith Butler, provided clues for developing the arguments about discourse. For help with typing for the volume, we thank Lucille Allsen and Margaret Roe. We are grateful to Hugh M. Lewis for his careful and intelligent indexing. The publication process has been made pleasant and productive by Susan Milmoie, Helen Wheeler, Laura Dobbins, and Sophia Prybylski.

Our work on this book is for Jonathan and Lianna, and for Tim.