THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF INTENSITY

What counts as too close for comfort? How can an entire room suddenly feel restless at the imminence of a yet unknown occurrence? And who decides whether or not we are already in an age of unliveable extremes? The anthropology of intensity studies how humans encounter and communicate the continuous and gradable features of social and environmental phenomena in everyday interactions. Focusing on the last twenty years of life in a Mayan village in the cloud forests of Guatemala, this book provides a natural history of intensity in exceedingly tense times, through a careful analysis of ethnographic and linguistic evidence. It uses intensity as a way to reframe Anthropology in the age of the Anthropocene, and rethinks classic work in the formal linguistic tradition from a culture-specific and context-sensitive stance. It is essential reading for not only anthropologists and linguists, but also ecologically oriented readers, critical theorists, and environmental scientists.

PAUL KOCKELMAN is Professor of Anthropology at Yale University. His books include *Kinds of Value: An Experiment in Modal Anthropology* (Prickly Paradigm Press) and *The Art of Interpretation in the Age of Computation* (Oxford University Press).
NEW DEPARTURES IN ANTHROPOLOGY

New Departures in Anthropology is a book series that focuses on emerging themes in social and cultural anthropology. With original perspectives and syntheses, authors introduce new areas of inquiry in anthropology, explore developments that cross disciplinary boundaries, and weigh in on current debates. Every book illustrates theoretical issues with ethnographic material drawn from current research or classic studies, as well as from literature, memoirs, and other genres of reportage. The aim of the series is to produce books that are accessible enough to be used by college students and instructors, but will also stimulate, provoke and inform anthropologists at all stages of their careers. Written clearly and concisely, books in the series are designed equally for advanced students and a broader range of readers, inside and outside academic anthropology, who want to be brought up to date on the most exciting developments in the discipline.

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The Anthropology of Intensity

Language, Culture, and Environment

PAUL KOCKELMAN

Yale University
For Mia, Zeno, and Lara
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### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>asserted content</td>
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<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>absolutive case</td>
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<td>abs</td>
<td>abstracting suffix</td>
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<td>af</td>
<td>afactive status</td>
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<td>ap</td>
<td>adposition</td>
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<td>apsv</td>
<td>anti-passive</td>
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<td>cf</td>
<td>counterfactual status</td>
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<td>comp</td>
<td>complementizer</td>
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<td>conj</td>
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<td>interj</td>
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List of Abbreviations

irr = irrealis
loc = locative
nec = necessity
neg = negation
nom = nominalizer
ns = nonspecific
p = proposition
plr = plural number
part = participle
per = perfect aspect
prep = preposition
pres = present tense
psv = passive
np = noun phrase
q = proposition
qr = reference quantity
qn = narrated quantity
ques = question particle
rn = relational noun
s = singular number or ‘nonplural’
sd = status designator
sg = speaker’s gloss
t = reference time
top = topic
w = world
1 = first person
2 = second person
3 = third person
/ separates alternative forms that may occur in the same syntactic position
() indicates added material.

Vowel length (signaled by doubling letters) is phonemic in Q’eqchi’. /k/ and /q/ are velar and uvular plosives, respectively. /x/ and /j/ are palato-alveolar and velar fricatives, respectively.

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