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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Rebecca Fanany has a PhD in Public Health from University of Tasmania. She is currently in the School of Health, Medical and Applied Sciences at Central Queensland University in Melbourne, Australia. Her research centres on the impact of language and culture on health and illness, with a focus on cultural consonance and the conceptualization of health. She has many years of experience in Asia and Indonesia where she has several long-term research relationships and collaborations and has worked with WHO and UNESCAP in the region. She is the author of several books and numerous articles and publications. Her textbook, *Health as a Social Experience*, is an introduction to the social determinants of health that is used at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The present work is the result of several years of research in West Sumatra and other parts of Indonesia and reflects ongoing study of health and social change.

Ismet Fanany is a sociolinguist with a PhD from Cornell University. He is currently Professor of Language and Society in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Deakin University in Melbourne. His interests relate to the experience of ageing and social change in modern Indonesia, in particular the interaction between local and national culture with an emphasis on language and language issues. He has worked with universities and other institutions across Indonesia and is a well-known writer and social commentator. In addition to a range of scholarly works on topics such as disaster reconstruction, ageing in Indonesia, and the development of the Indonesian language, he is the author of many short stories and two novels and has a strong interest in modern Indonesian society in the global context. The research presented in this book represents an integration of these elements in an interdisciplinary approach to ageing in a traditional society in a modern nation.