

Contributors

Brenda Farnell is an Associate Professor of socio-cultural and linguistic anthropology at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign). She holds a Teaching Diploma from I. M. March College of Physical Education, Liverpool; a Diploma in Dance and Dance Education from the Laban Center for Movement and Dance, Goldsmith's College, London University; an M.A. in the Anthropology of Human Movement from New York University and a Ph.D. in socio-cultural and linguistic anthropology from Indiana University (1990). Her research interests include ethno-poetics and performance, Plains Sign Language and dances of the Northern Plains, discourse, movement literacy, and problems in social theory and embodiment. She is the author of *Do You See what I Mean: Plains Indian Sign Talk and the Embodiment of Action* and an award winning CD Rom, *Wiyuta: Assiniboine Storytelling with Signs* (U of Texas Press 1995). She also edited, *Human Action Signs in Cultural Context: the Visible and the Invisible in Movement and Dance* (Scarecrow Press 1995). Recent papers include 'Moving Bodies, Acting Selves' (Annual Review of Anthropology, 1999); 'Getting Out of the *Habitus*: An Alternative Model of Dynamically Embodied Social Action', (*Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 2000); and 'Dynamic Embodiment in Assiniboine Storytelling' (*Anthropological Linguistics*, 2002).

Charles Varela is a Research Associate in the anthropology department at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign). He holds an M.A. degree in psychology and a Ph.D. in sociology from New York University, and was a professor of Sociology and Psychology at Union County College, New Jersey, from 1960-1998. His scholarly interests focus on fundamental theoretical problems at the intersection of the natural and social sciences mediated by the philosophy of science and unified by the issues of human agency, embodiment and causality. His recent papers in this area are 'Determinism and the Recovery of Human Agency' (*Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior* [JTSB] 29:4, 1999); 'The Impossibility of Which Naturalism?' (JTSB 32:1, 2002) and 'Biological Structure and Embodied Human Agency: The Problem of Instinctivism' (JTSB 33:1, 2003). He is currently working on a co-authored book (with Rom Harré) entitled *Science for Humanism: Determinism and the Problems of Structure and Agency*. His papers on the problem of dynamic embodiment include 'Harré and Merleau Ponty: Beyond the Absent Moving Body in Embodied Social Theory' (JTSB 24:2, 1994); and 'Cartesianism Revisited: The Ghost in the Moving Machine or the Lived Body' (In Farnell ed., 1995).

Drid Williams has conducted fieldwork in England, the USA, Australia and Kenya. She has taught anthropology of the dance and human movement studies in all four countries. She holds a D. Phil in social anthropology from St. Hugh's College, Oxford. In addition to numerous book chapters and articles, her publications include *Anthropology and Human Movement, 1: The Study of Dances* (1997, Scarecrow Press), *Anthropology and Human Movement, 2: Searching for Origins* (2000, Scarecrow Press). A revised version of her first book, *Ten Lectures on Theories of the Dance* (1991), retitled *Sociocultural Anthropology and the Dance: Ten Lectures*, has recently been published (2004, University of Illinois Press). A forthcoming work is *Signifying Bodies, Signifying Acts: New Ways of Thinking About Human Movement*. Dr. Williams is the founder and Senior Editor of JASHM.