

Preface

This book is the result of a four-year-long collaboration between linguists and geneticists working on the project ANR-12-BSH2-0004-01 *Do languages and genes correlate?—A case study in Northwestern China* funded by a grant from a French research fund, the *Agence Nationale de la Recherche* (ANR). Numerous researchers from different institutions around the world have taken part in this project and have contributed to two collective works. In addition to work performed at the *Centre de Recherches Linguistiques sur l'Asie Orientale* (CRLAO-CNRS) and the *Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales* (INALCO) in France, genetic data in the target zone were collected and analyzed by Fudan University, Lanzhou University, and the Gansu Institute of Political Science and Law in China, providing a solid framework for this project. Linguists from the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), the University of Ethnology, Tsinghua University in China, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan, and St. Mary's College of Maryland, USA, have completed different work related to language contact in China. Twenty-one articles have been included in a book entitled *Yuyan jiechu yu yuyan bianyi* [language contact and variation] (which will be published by Shangwu yinshuguan [Commercial Press] in China). As the title indicates, language contact constitutes the main topic of the project's first book. The present volume *Languages and Genes in Northwestern China and Adjacent Regions* mainly focuses on (non-)correlation between languages and genes in Northwest China. Ten authors have offered their works to this book. Warm thanks go to these institutions and specially to these researchers. Without their work, the results of our interdisciplinary approach would never have been available to those who might make use of them.

Today, it is becoming common for molecular anthropologists, archeologists, and linguists to work together to explore the social sciences. If we are not aware of the historical period we live in, we will miss the opportunity of learning from other researchers, depriving ourselves of the pleasure of knowing research domains other than our own.

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