The acknowledgments was the hardest part of this book to write. I have so many thanks to give to so many people, and I feel and fear that my words can never be enough. First, my greatest thanks to my participants who generously opened their homes to me and shared their stories, insights, and knowledge. There is no way I can reciprocate. I wrote this book in the hope that it can be my way of thanking you. I want the whole world to know all the brilliance you are, to respect and learn from all your wisdom and your ingenuity. Çok sağolun varolun! Merci beaucoup! Thank you!

Although rarely mentioned, ethnographers do have bodies too—bodies that can be impaired, sick, and chronically ill. Mine is one of those, and I am indebted to my care network. There are no words to describe my gratitude to Hasan Yazıcı (aka Hasan Hocam). Back then, when other rheumatologists gave up, saying there was nothing more they could do for me, you took on my care and gave me hope, which I desperately needed. For years, you have taken care of my ill health and have seen me through the most difficult times of my illness. When I left Turkey and became an academic nomad (moving from country to country and getting lost in unfamiliar healthcare systems and bureaucracies), you always answered my calls for help, making sure I would find the care I needed regardless of where I was. You have been not only a relentlessly meticulous rheumatologist, a most caring doctor, but also an unwaveringly supportive mentor. (Not everyone gets to have a genius scientist both as their doctor and mentor!) From the first time I mentioned my project on the daily lives of people with rheumatoid arthritis, you entirely believed in it and, of course, challenged it! From its beginning to its end, you did everything you could to make this project happen, for which I am forever
grateful. I could not have done this project if it were not for your generous support and mentorship all the way through. Mine Batumlu (aka Mine Abla), I do not know how to thank you for all the things you have done for me on a personal and a professional level. I remember many hospital visits where I was in pain, angry and in tears, and you were always there to listen to me with deep care, which meant the world to me. You have been my emotional line of support, and I know for a fact that I am not the only one to say this. During my fieldwork you were a key facilitator and a mentor, and it is thanks to you and your amazing skills that I was able to meet so many fascinating participants. You are an amazing nurse, a gifted researcher, and a steadfast problem-solver who touches the lives of so many people. I also want to thank the entire rheumatology team and staff at İstanbul Cerrahpaşa University Hospital, in particular Dilşen Abla. I am thankful to Dr. Henri Menard and Dr. Elizabeth Hazel at McGill University Health Centre for their support during my fieldwork in Montreal. Finally, I am eternally grateful to my rheumatologist, Dr. Inés Colmegna. You are a brilliant scientist, a scrupulous and fearless researcher, and an exceptionally caring doctor. I am in awe, and I am continually inspired by your sharp mind, your fierce mentorship, your endlessly caring sprit, and all the love your enormous heart holds for the world. You always went above and beyond in taking care of my health, and you also supported me professionally, emotionally, and academically. I do not have words to thank you enough. Were it not for you and your unwavering care, I would not have been able to finish this book.

This book draws from my doctoral and postdoctoral research materials, and I am grateful to everyone who supported this project, whether as a supervisor, advisor, mentor, or committee member: Mike Pearson, Margaret Ames, Heike Roms, Alan Read, Kim Sawchuk, Lisa Stevenson, Tobias Rees, and Ayo Wahlberg. It was a gift for me that I completed my PhD journey under the supervision of Mike Pearson. It hurts to write these lines in past tense: Mike was an extraordinary human, a brilliant artist, creator, thinker, teacher, and yet the embodiment of humility. I wish I could have shared and celebrated this book with you. I wish you could have seen for yourself how deeply your work affected my thinking . . . You and your work will continue to live in this and many other books.

My gratitude to Lisa Stevenson is boundless. There is no way I can thank you enough for your generosity, your extraordinary supervision, and everything you have done for me. Your “Anthropology of the Self” graduate course was in many ways an eye-opener. I learned so much from the most generative discussions you led. (Not to mention that I got to meet wonderful people!)
Over the years I benefited enormously from being in dialogue with your brilliant mind, which has nurtured this book project in so many ways. Your never-ending feminist line of support made me survive the precarity of academia. You have always and always been there, and for that I am forever grateful. You are my role model of what a feminist supervisor and mentor is—one that I can only hope to become. I would also like to give a very special thanks to Ayo Wahlberg for his amazing supervision and mentorship during my time at the University of Copenhagen. Thank you for bringing me into the Vitality of Disease—Quality of Life in the Making (vital) team. Those two years have been the most intellectually nourishing and delightful time of my academic life, and I felt completely welcomed and at home. It is thanks to you, Ayo, and the vital spirit you created, that I was able to experience what a sincere collaboration was and felt like. Your humility as an academic, heartfelt commitment to supporting early career researchers, and dedication to collective work have given me so much hope. I vow to emulate your leadership style, support for others, and collaborative commitments in my own work in the future.

I cannot begin to thank Faye Ginsburg enough for her unwavering support, enormous generosity, and the intricate feminist care webs she gently weaves around her. I was lucky enough to be enveloped by them. (May all early career folks be as lucky as me!) You are the definition of brilliance. Your mentorship opened my eyes to so many things that I would not have otherwise thought of. I adore your fearless feminism, commitment to disability justice, and all the good vibes and energy you radiate, which make the world more welcoming, accessible, and hospitable. Thank you for being so smart, inventive, and hilarious. You are a gift to the world.

At Aberystwyth University, where I completed my PhD, I was so lucky to have wonderful colleagues. Esther Pilkington, Daniel Ladnar, and Jazmin Llana, you made Aber-times so fun and unique, and that deserves so much thankfulness. Esther, I am indebted to you for being such a caring friend and endlessly fun coconspirator. I deeply miss our days at the National Library, all our conversations, and all the joy we shared. My postdoctoral time at the University of Copenhagen Anthropology Department was hugely transformative. My colleagues there were very welcoming and kind. The entire vital team has been wonderful, and I am especially happy that I met the amazing Rebecca Journey and Thomas Scott Hughes. Thank you Peter Fini Henriques for inviting me to lunch tables.

I would like to thank Francesca Meloni, Katherine (Katie) Zien, Jonathan Sterne, David Howes, Janet Gibson, and Kate Maguire-Rosier, who
read drafts of the introduction, offered extremely generous feedback, and talked through ideas with me. My special thanks to Jonathan Sterne for his press matchmaking role. I am deeply grateful to Francesca Meloni, Janet Gibson, Katherine Zien, and Dörte Bemme for being such wonderful and supportive friends. We had so many conversations about this book, and you sharpened my thinking with your priceless feedback. You also listened to my worries and encouraged me along this path endlessly. Katie, thank you also for inviting me to your graduate class, “Interdisciplinary Approaches to Improvisation,” at McGill. I am thankful to your students who read the introduction and generously engaged with my work and provided incisive feedback. I am grateful to Michele Friedner, Faye Ginsburg, and Rayna Rapp for inviting me to contribute to the special issues they edited. Your feedback was extremely helpful, and it was such a privilege to work with and learn from you, and of course, be involved in the same issues with amazing scholars whose works I admire.

The ideas in this book developed over the course of several years and have been nurtured by many gatherings, events, and conversations. I cannot thank enough the participants of the Wenner Gren Disability Worlds Symposium that took place in 2018 in Tucson, Arizona. This was the most nourishing, most intense, and at the same time the most delightful event of my academic life. To this day, I still think about and remember all the enriching conversations. My deepest thanks to the organizers, Rayna and Faye, for inviting me. I am grateful to all the wonderful participants whose commentaries immensely helped me and this book: Ayo Wahlberg, Beatriz Miranda-Galaraza, Cassandra Hartblay, Danilyn Rutherford, Devva Kasnitz, Herbert Muyinda, Laurence Ralph, Michele Friedner, Pamela Block, Patrick J. Devlieger, Renu Addlakha, Roy Richard Grinker, Susan Reynolds Whyte, Tom Boellstorff, and Tyler Zoanni. Also, my thanks to Laurie Obbink for making everything run smoothly. I am thankful to the amazing participants of the Performing Disability/Enabling Performance Working Group that took place in Montreal as part of the Hemispheric Institute’s 2014 Encuentro. This was in many ways a foundational event that led to establishing of Critical Disability Studies Working Group (cDSWG) at Concordia (2014), which in turn set the ground for the Access in the Making Lab. Finally, I want to thank the past and current members of Performance and Disability Working Group at the International Federation for Theatre Research. I much enjoyed being part of the working group and deeply appreciate the vital work this group is doing. I would like to thank my colleagues at Concordia University in the Department of Communication Studies and beyond. I would especially like to thank Kim
Sawchuk for her ongoing and generous support, and Krista Lynes for her kindness and mentorship.

I am grateful to my editor, Courtney Berger, as well as Sandra Korn, Lisa Lawley, and the staff at Duke University Press for all the care they put into their work. I cannot thank enough my developmental editor, Claudia Castañoeda, for her generous, generative, and brilliant feedback, and for thinking together with me throughout the writing process of this book. Thank you for always challenging and pushing me further, Claudia. I immensely benefited from your most meticulous and caring editorial work which, to me, is feminist editing.

As this book was in its final stages, Access in the Making (AIM) Lab came into being, and I am filled with gratitude to the following amazing team of hard-working, bright, creative, and generous students, research associates, postdocs, and community members who brought this lab into being: Alaina Perez, Amy Mazowita, Diego Bravo Pacheco, Dresda Emma Méndez de la Brena, Jessie Stainton, Nicholas Goberdhan, Prakash Krishnan, Raphaëlle Bessette-Viens, Roi Saade, Sabrina Ward-Kimola, Salima Punjani and Yolanda Muñoz. You all are extraordinary humans and I learn from you every day.

I am grateful to my friend Senem Göçtü for our longtime friendship and for her continual helping hand that was and will always there for me. I am so lucky to be friends with Janet Gibson. You are such a friend that, even if we are at the two other ends of the world, whenever we meet it feels as if we have been friends forever and were seeing each other every day. Thank you for being who you are, the beautiful soul and mind. I am deeply grateful to my longtime friend Özcan Vardar, who so generously helped me with filming during my fieldwork in İstanbul. Without your amazing skills and kind help, I would not have been able to do this fieldwork. I am so proud to have such a gifted artist as my friend. Your friendship is irreplaceable, and I am so thankful that we can still meet in different parts of the world and take up where we left off. I would also like to thank Melike Sungur, who opened her home to me during my fieldwork in İstanbul and helped me along the way. I also want to thank Geneviève Vincent, all of her kind colleagues, and Benoit Laroche for helping me during my fieldwork.

Dearest Francesca Meloni, you have a very special place in my heart reserved for you and you only. No one can take or replace it. It is only with you that I can enjoy the deep darkest corners of humor. It is only with you that I can go into endless ramblings about literally anything. It is only with you that I can feel supported at all times regardless of time, place, and boundaries, and most importantly, with zero judgment. Your care, love, brilliance,
and friendship are magical. If anyone is lucky enough to be touched by that magic, I know that they would be transformed by it forever. I am forever grateful to the universe that I have you in my life. I couldn’t have walked all this journey, or any journey, without you.

My parents have been very supportive of my research all the way, and I know that they would do everything they can to help me. Thank you so much, Anne and Baba, for all your love, support, and care. I also want to send a heartfelt thank you to Guy Vincent and Louise Bastien, who always care for me and François. We care so much for you, too. Thank you Bruno Vincent and Melissa Viens for all the good and fun times we have had together, and for your support. My brother (Abi), my sister-in-law (Arzu’cum), and my nephew (Arel) and my niece (Arya), I love you all unconditionally. You are not only my kin; you also are my dearest friends with whom I have endless fun and the best of times. Abi, bi tanesin. You mean the world to me. You have always been and will always be there for me and for anyone you love. You deeply, truly, and inexhaustibly care, and I have no words to describe your caring spirit. You are the best of brothers, and I have loved and continue to love every moment of growing with you. You have made and continue to make my life beautiful. Arzu’cum, you are the sister I never had and could only have wished for. I am forever grateful to have you in my life, in our lives. . . Arel and Arya, you are the light of my world. To see you grow into the beautiful human beings you are has been the most precious gift of my life. Your generous hearts, your gentle and caring souls, your extremely curious and sharp minds, and your joyful spirits nourished each and every page of this book. You always asked about this book, and when I explained to you what it is about, you immediately got it. Not only that, you even kept feeding me new ideas for new books I should coauthor with you. What a gift you two are . . . Thank you for making me your auntie. I love you endlessly.

And finally, François, there are no words that can describe what I feel for you. Since you came into my life, you transformed it so much so that I cannot imagine a “me” or a life without you. You made me understand love. This book is in so many ways the story of us. You enabled this book in ways that you even don’t realize. I could not have and would not have done this or anything without you. Thank you for being who you are—the beautiful, caring, kind, and most gorgeous human I love. Thank you for gifting me the life we share. I couldn’t have asked for more, and I cherish every second of it.

I would like to acknowledge the generous funding that allowed me to complete this book. The writing of this book was supported in part by funding from the Canada Research Chairs Program (Canada Research Chair in
Critical Disability Studies and Media Technologies); the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC Insight Grant: 435-2021-0869, Mobilizing Disability Survival Skills for the Urgencies of the Anthropocene, PI Arseli Dokumaci); a Fonds de Recherche du Québec–Société et Culture grant (FRQSC Établissement a la relève professorale: NP-296720, Disability Creativity, PI Arseli Dokumaci); a European Research Council grant (ERC-2014-STG-639275, The Vitality of Disease—Quality of Life in the Making, PI Ayo Wahlberg); a Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la société et la culture postdoctoral fellowship.
