Preface

The present volume is a collection of selected contributions from a workshop on "Demonstratives", that took place at the 36th conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft in Halle. In addition to some of the papers presented at that occasion, two other contributions, that we considered relevant for the topic under discussion, are also included in this volume. This is a joint collaboration of people working (or having worked) at the following institutions: Collaborative Research Center 917 (Department of Linguistics: The Cognitive Basis of Structuring Discourse, Sentence and Text) in Berlin and Potsdam; funded by the German Research Foundation, DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) and the Humboldt University Berlin, Research Training Group Semantic and Pragmatic Building Blocks in Leipzig; also funded by the DFG; and the Sonderforschungsbereich Sprachwissenschaft (SFB) at Hamburg, financial support also comes from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) of Germany (grant number 01G09091), which is hereby gratefully acknowledged. In addition to the colleagues that participated in the workshop and contributed to this volume, we also want to express our gratitude to those who have encouraged and assisted us in this enterprise: Eberhard Büttner, Karl Dunkelbusch, Bernd Fach, Reiner Foldi, Jaap van Geerenvald, Karin Hohenstein, and Lars Erik Selge. We especially want to highlight the role of Inge, who was involved from the very start as one of the original organizers, and only stepped down from this project to take up a 1.8 job at the academy. Finally, a special thank goes to the extensive group of anonymous reviewers for their invaluable help and support.