This volume is the result of an international workshop on 'Women as Mediators in Indonesia' held at Leiden in 1988 and organized by the Royal Institute of Linguistics and Anthropology (KITLV) and the Interdisciplinary Study Group on Indonesian Women (WIVS).

The discussions at the workshop, to which participants from Indonesia, the USA, Australia, Germany, Switzerland, and the Netherlands contributed, were highly animated. The active participation of so many students of Indonesia from different disciplines and nationalities is reflected in the outline given in the Introduction of the concept of mediation, its possibilities and limitations, and the different ways the concept has been used by the contributors.

Not all of the contributions could be published in full. We are happy that in most of these cases participants accepted the idea of including a summary of their papers in an appendix to this volume. Each author remains responsible for the contents of her contribution.

We want to thank the KITLV both for co-organizing and for sponsoring the workshop. Financial support of the workshop by the Dutch Ministry of Education, the Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Humanistic Institute for Development Cooperation (HIVOS), and the Program of Indonesian Studies is highly appreciated. Funds made available by the Bureau for Indonesian Studies (BIS) and the KITLV enabled us to enlist the services of Ria van Yperen and Chris Martin to translate some of the contributions and correct the English of others. Thanks to the map by Hans Borkent, the reader can easily locate the different regions of the archipelago dealt with in the articles. Rita DeCoursey added her editorial knowledge and wisdom. We are grateful for all this help.

Finally, we wish to express our gratitude to the members of the WIVS for their interest and suggestions. It is there that the ideas for this workshop and this volume were born, as well as for a preceding workshop and reader (Indonesian women in focus: past and present notions, Leiden, 1987). We hope that, similar to its predecessor, Women and mediation in Indonesia will prove a valuable contribution to the field of women's studies, especially in relation to Indonesia.