



# **Narratives of Identity and Place**

Stephanie Taylor

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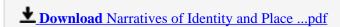
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Changes of residence are common in contemporary Western societies. Traditional connections to birthplaces, home towns and countries are broken as people relocate and migrate, yet where they live remains significant to people's identity and stories of who they are. This book investigates the continuing importance of place for women's identities, employing a theoretical and empirical approach based on previous work in narrative and discursive psychology.

Through an analysis of women's talk, the book examines how commonsense meanings shape and limit people's identity-work to establish a connection to place. It argues that talk about place, and especially place of residence, enables a complex positioning of self and others in which identities of gender, class and national identity intersect. It shows how a speaker's multiple interpretations of where she lives remain central to her life narrative, and to her fragile and idealized definition of 'home' as the place in which she may position herself positively.

*Narratives of Identity and Place* presents a unique and valuable integration of the popular methods of narrative and discourse analysis, compellingly demonstrating the value of these approaches for research on identity.



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