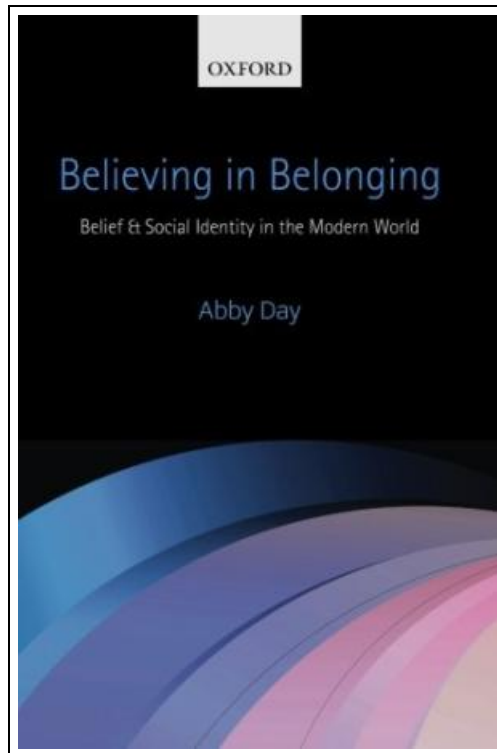


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Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2013. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Believing in Belonging draws on empirical research exploring mainstream religious belief and identity in Euro-American countries. Starting from a qualitative study based in northern England, and then broadening the data to include other parts of Europe and North America, Abby Day explores how people believe in belonging , choosing religious identifications to complement other social and emotional experiences of belongings . The concept of performative belief helps explain how otherwise non-religious people can bring into being a Christian identity related to social belongings. What is often dismissed as nominal religious affiliation is far from an empty category, but one loaded with cultural stuff and meaning. Day introduces an original typology of natal, ethnic and aspirational nominalism that challenges established disciplinary theory in both the European and North American schools of the sociology of religion that assert that most people are unchurched or believe without belonging while privately maintaining beliefs in God and other spiritual phenomena. This study provides a unique analysis and synthesis of anthropological and sociological understandings of belief and proposes a holistic, organic, multidimensional analytical framework to allow rich cross cultural comparisons. Chapters focus in particular on: the genealogies of belief in anthropology and sociology, methods for researching belief without asking religious questions, the acts of claiming cultural identity, youth, gender, the social supernatural, fate and agency, morality and a development of anthropocentric and theocentric orientations that provides a richer understanding of belief than conventional religious/secular distinctions.



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