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WE'RE POLISH": LOCAL, NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN IDENTITIES; Wojtek: Pole, European and Euroskeptic; Imagining Territorial Scales of Social Organization; Attachment to Place: Quality and Intensity at Different Scales; Talking about region; Talking about nation; Talking about Europe; European Integration and Territorial Scales of Belonging; Do scales of belonging preclude each other? Which do you consider your priority? Which describes you best?; Being and Becoming European; Marek: I Can Live Anywhere; Chapter 5 "EU MEMBERSHIP GIVES POLAND A BETTER CHANCE": PERSPECTIVES ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION; Ewelina: Prospects for a Better Life in the European Union; Becoming European: Overview of the Integration Process; Association; Candidacy; Accession; Perspectives on the European Union; Economic opportunity vs. consumer market; Governance: Transnational order vs. external control; Implications for the European Union; Krzysiek: Let Someone Else Govern Us Chapter 6 "NOW WE CAN TRAVEL WITHOUT A PASSPORT": MOBILITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION Dorota: Opportunity and Loss in England; Mobility in the European Union; History of Polish Migration; "I Can Go Abroad with just My ID Card, and I Can Work Legally"; Eased restrictions on mobility; Social advancement and social demotion in an imagined world hierarchy; Global mobility and the choice to stay home; Traveling without a Passport; Stasiek: Transnational Entrepreneur; Chapter 7 "THIS REGION IS OUR PRIORITY": EU SUBSIDIES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRANSNATIONAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY Joasia: Social Entrepreneur

Sommario/riassunto

Overthrowing communism in 1989 and joining the European Union in 2004, the Polish people hold loyalties to region, country and now continent - even as the definition of what it means to be 'European' remains unclear. Paying particular attention to those who came of age in the earliest years of the neoliberal and democratic transformations, this book uses the life-story narratives of rural and urban southern Poles to reveal how 'being European' is considered a fundamental component of 'being Polish' while participants are simultaneously 'becoming European'. Ultimately, this study demonstrates how the EU is regarded as both an idea and an instrument, and how ordinary citizens make choices that influence the shape of European identity and the legitimacy of its institutions.
