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Nota di bibliografia

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Nota di contenuto

Preliminary Material -- Acknowledgements -- Introduction -- The online support group as a community -- Identity in a community -- Accomplishing identity in an online community on eating disorders -- Research design: The forum, ethics, data and method -- Identity accomplished through nicknames -- Opening the first posting: Ambivalence towards the community -- Displaying forumability in the online community -- The main requirement of forumability: Recognition -- Entering the online support group and adopting the sick role -- Conclusions and discussion -- References -- Appendix -- CurriculumVitae.

Sommario/riassunto

Online support groups are considered highly valuable in addition to traditional health care services, but we know very little about how people actually join such a group. This book offers a microanalysis of an online support group on eating disorders, specifically the communication through textual messages between newcomers and regular members and members' nicknames. The study uses an ethnomethodological and conversation analytical approach to show that members of online support groups treat the group as a community in which their illness-identity is highly relevant. It appears that members invoke community norms regarding legitimacy for newcomers: Newcomers are expected to admit that they are ill, but this is a very difficult step for those who have not yet fully adopted the "sick role" (Parsons, 1951). In the field of eating disorders, it is particularly difficult for people that tend to pro-ana , id est the glamorization of eating disorders. The insecurity and anxiety that newcomers display as they enter the online group could probably be relieved when a special entry subforum would be installed in which they can take time and space to actually recognize that they are illustrations.