



Lee Oakley

Exploring Student Loneliness in Higher Education

A Discursive Psychology Approach

- **Focuses on student experiences of loneliness in UK higher education institutions**
- **Uses Discourse Analysis to explore how undergraduate students manage social identities when disclosing feelings of loneliness**
- **Ties in with the current media interest in student mental health at university.**

This book is an in-depth qualitative linguistic study of loneliness disclosures in interviews with undergraduate students in the UK. While much loneliness research has been undertaken in the areas of psychology, social policy and education, such studies have prioritised the social factors behind mental distress without paying explicit attention to the medium in which such distress is communicated and embodied (i.e. language). This monograph supplements this growing body of work by arguing for a stronger focus on the insights which linguistic analysis can provide for investigating how and why loneliness is disclosed by Higher Education students. This book is the first study to address discourses of loneliness in Higher Education specifically from a linguistic perspective, and will be of interest to education and healthcare professionals, counselling and welfare providers, and students and scholars of discourse analysis and linguistics.

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