



### Politics, Media and Campaign Language

#### Australia's Identity Anxiety

*By Stephanie Brookes*

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#### **An original, groundbreaking analysis of the story of Australian identity and politics.**

'Beneath the clashing rhetoric of election campaigns lies another contested agenda, the framing of national aspirations and anxieties, barely acknowledged in media commentary. Stephanie Brookes, with her strong historical sweep, reveals how the changing language reflects the changing visions and fears of parties and public.' —Rodney Tiffen, Emeritus Professor of Government and International Relations, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, University of Sydney, Australia

'In an age of disillusion, Stephanie Brookes's analysis of Australian identities imagined, contested and created in campaign rhetoric is a revelation. This novel history of political discourse captures who we believe we are, and why.' —James Walter, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Australia

'Stephanie Brookes delves behind the speeches our leaders make at election time to expose what they're really trying to do. Understanding how and why this is done is an important aid to our democracy.' —Dennis Glover, speechwriter and author of 'The Art of Great Speeches'

'Politics, Media and Campaign Language' is an original, groundbreaking analysis of the story of Australian identity told through Australian election campaign language. Introducing the concept of identity security, the book argues that the story of Australian identity is characterised by recurring cycles of anxiety and reassurance, which betray a deep underlying feeling of insecurity.

#### **Contents**

Acknowledgements; 1. Introduction; 2. Storytelling; 3. Belonging; 4. Values; 5. Community; 6. Security; 7. Vision; 8. Hearts and Minds; Appendices; References; Index.

#### **About the Author**

Stephanie Brookes is lecturer in journalism studies, School of Media, Film and Journalism, Monash University, Australia. She researches at the intersection of media and politics, focusing on questions of identity and belonging in news media and political discourse. Brookes has previously published her research in book chapters and journal articles. 'Politics, Media and Campaign Language' is her first book.

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