

Nomadic Theory: The Portable Rosi Braidotti (Gender and Culture (Paperback))

By Rosi Braidotti

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Rosi Braidotti's nomadic theory outlines a sustainable modern subjectivity as one in flux, never opposed to a dominant hierarchy yet intrinsically other, always in the process of becoming, and perpetually engaged in dynamic power relations both creative and restrictive. Nomadic theory offers an original and powerful alternative for scholars working in cultural and social criticism and has, over the past decade, crept into continental philosophy, queer theory, and feminist, postcolonial, techno-science, media, and race studies, as well as into architecture, history, and anthropology. This collection provides a core introduction to Braidotti's nomadic theory and its innovative formulations, which playfully engage with Deleuze, Foucault, Irigaray, and a host of political and cultural issues.

Arranged thematically, essays begin with such concepts as sexual difference and embodied subjectivity and follow with explorations in technoscience, feminism, postsecular citizenship, and the politics of affirmation. Braidotti develops a distinctly positive critical theory that rejuvenates the experience of political scholarship. Inspired yet not confined by Deleuzian vitalism, with its commitment to the ontology of flows, networks, and dynamic transformations, she emphasizes affects, imagination, and creativity and the politics of radical immanence. Incorporating ideas from Nietzsche and Spinoza as well, Braidotti establishes a critical-theoretical framework equal parts critique and creation. Ever mindful of the perils of defining difference in terms of denigration and the related tendency to subordinate sexualized, racialized, and naturalized others, she explores the eco-philosophical implications of nomadic theory, feminism, and the irreducibility of sexual difference and sexuality. Her dialogue with technoscience is crucial to nomadic theory, which deterritorializes the established understanding of what counts as human, along with our relationship to animals, the environment, and changing notions of materialism. Keeping her distance from the near-obsessive focus on vulnerability, trauma, and melancholia in contemporary political thought, Braidotti promotes a politics of affirmation that has the potential to become its own generative life force.

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Editorial Review

Review

Fans of Rosi Braidotti's unique approach to feminism and philosophy will appreciate having her recent essays collected in one volume. Her call to 'construct social horizons of hope and sustainable futures' offers a reassuring 'politics of affirmation' for these troubled and troubling times.

(Joan W. Scott, professor of social science, Institute for Advanced Study)

For all of those seeking a positive turn building on the powerful critique that so influenced the academy in recent decades, Rosi Braidotti offers an understanding of philosophy?of thinking?that she views as crucial to creative production. At a time when intellectual discourse is becoming increasingly disciplinary, Braidotti opens a path for broad discussion and debate.

(Elizabeth Weed, director, Pembroke Center, Brown University)

About the Author

Rosi Braidotti was born in Italy, raised in Australia, graduated from the Sorbonne in Paris, and became the founding professor of the women's studies program in Utrecht. She is Distinguished University Professor at Utrecht University and founding director of its Centre for the Humanities, and she is the author of *Nomadic Subjects: Embodiment and Sexual Difference in Contemporary Feminist Theory*, now in its second edition.

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