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## **MEMORY, EMOTIONS AND PRACTICE: A CONSIDERATION OF THE ROLE OF THE “NONNI” AMONG ITALIAN-AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES**

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The present paper sheds light on the “domestic spaces” of Italian-Australian grandparents, where culture and ethnicity are nurtured and transmitted across generations. Specifically, the study investigates the construction and transmission of ethnic identity within a field where the “sense of place” and belonging appear to be embodied, and to an extent idealised, through the sharing of memories, cultural practices and the development of strong emotional attachments. It appears that the *nonni*’s place is a key *locus*, a generator of ethnic identity for the third generation of participants, where an idealisation of Italian-ness takes place. Practices and memories experienced at the *nonni*’s homes, seem to be accumulated, romanticised and then converted into a manifestation of ethnic identity by young participants. Moreover, grandparents’ personal belongings *oggetti spaesati* (out of place), appear to play a complementary role in nurturing grandchildren’s ethnic identity, appearing to be invested with an “emotional energy” due to the strong memories and affective attachments they assume. Such mementoes bring to life the *nonni*’s ethnic authenticity, in terms of their cultural capital, dispositions and worldviews.