How do people use the ordinary events of daily life to organize a vision of a world that existed for eons before they were born and extends far beyond what they can possibly witness in a lifetime? And if everyone experiences reality slightly differently, then how can they negotiate coherent understandings that allow them to communicate with and make sense of the people around them? In Narrative Practice and Cultural Change: Building Worlds with Karma, Ghosts, and Capitalist Invaders in Thailand, Steven Carlisle developed a narrative-based practice theory to explore the balance Buddhists in Bangkok strike between individual difference and conformity. The goal was to find a way to talk about lives that are intelligent, emotional, self-aware, and often idiosyncratic, while also accounting for the forces that pull people toward conformity and make communication possible, in spite of those differences. The result is a new way of looking at the nature of belief, the negotiation of meaning, and grounding of social solidarity.