Record Nr. UNINA990007423710403321 Fritz, Paul Autore Die Schlechtleistung im besonderen Teil des Schuldrechts / von Paul **Titolo** Fritz Pubbl/distr/stampa Karlsruhe: Macklot, 1931 Descrizione fisica 132 p.; 24 cm Disciplina 346.4307 Locazione **FGBC** DONO SCUTO VIII C 90 Collocazione Lingua di pubblicazione Tedesco **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Collezione Record Nr. UNINA9910787645503321 Titolo Realisms in contemporary culture: theories, politics, and medial configurations / / edited by Dorothee Birke, Stella Butter Berlin; ; Boston:,: De Gruyter,, [2013] Pubbl/distr/stampa ©2013 **ISBN** 3-11-031291-3 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (240 p.) linguae & litterae;;21 Collana Linguae & litterae;;21 Altri autori (Persone) BirkeDorothee ButterStella Disciplina 809/.912 Knowledge, Theory of Soggetti Realism in literature

Realism in motion pictures

Realism in the press Reality in mass media

Materiale a stampa

Inglese

Monografia

Lingua di pubblicazione

Livello bibliografico

**Formato** 

Note generali

Nota di bibliografia

Nota di contenuto

Description based upon print version of record.

Includes bibliographical references.

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Sommario/riassunto

'Realism' is a pervasive term in discussions of contemporary developments in the cultural sphere. By drawing on different theories of realism, the authors explore how the term may be used as a helpful concept in order to analyse and evaluate current trends in cultural production and, in turn, how cultural production changes our understanding of what counts as 'realism'. The contributions deal with realism in narrative fiction, drama and audiovisual media (film, television news) within the context of national traditions: examples drawn on in the case studies range from Africa, Britain, Germany, Iceland, Russia, Turkey to the United States. While the authors take their cues from media-specific 'realisms', focusing especially on narrative fiction, the volume also highlights continuities and intersections between notions of realism in different genres and media. With its original essays, this collection invigorates the transdisciplinary engagement with forms and socio-political functions of realism in contemporary culture.