1. Record Nr. UNINA9910136458503321 Helmerdig Silke Silke Helmerdig, Pforzheim University, Germany Autore Titolo Fragments, Futures, Absence and the Past: A New Approach to Photography / Silke Helmerdig Pubbl/distr/stampa Bielefeld, : transcript Verlag, 2016 **ISBN** 9783839436240 3839436249 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (207 p.) Collana **Image** Classificazione AP 94750 Disciplina 770 Soggetti **Photography** History Post-War Germany Future **Past** Absence Presence Moment Depiction **Image** Memory Culture Visual Studies Contemporary History Fine Arts Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter 1 Contents 5 Introduction. "After Auschwitz" photography and the principle of hope 7 Chapter 1. Photography and historiography 23 Chapter 2. Post-War Germany and its

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## Sommario/riassunto

According to Walter Benjamin, the past that is not recognized by the present threatens to disappear irretrievably. As a consequence, photographs cannot save the moment from oblivion by pure depiction alone, but only by keeping the depicted moment actual at every present moment. Instead of counting on the documentary quality of photography that speaks in the past tense of "what has been", Silke Helmerdig suggests a different approach to photography: an extension of a future subjunctive (photographic) tense speaking of "what could be, if", allowing one to think possible futures instead of harking back to the past.

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