

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910136644503321
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Titolo	The Institution of Criticism // Peter Uwe Hohendahl
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cornell University Press, 1982 Ithaca, N.Y. : , : Cornell University Press, , [2016] ©1982
ISBN	9781501705427 1501705423 9781501705434 1501705431 9780801413254 9781501707186
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource
Classificazione	EC 1700
Disciplina	801
Soggetti	Criticism Anthologies
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Introduction -- 1. Literary Criticism and the Public Sphere -- 2. Art Evaluation and Reportage: The Aesthetic Theory of the Later H Eine -- 3. The End of an Institution ? The Debate Over the Function of Literary Criticism in the 1960s -- 4. The Task of Contemporary Literary Criticism -- 5. Promoters, Consumers, and Critics: On the Reception of the Best-Seller -- 6. Prolegomena to a History of Literary Criticism -- 7. Critical Theory, Public Sphere, and Culture: Jürgen Habermas and His Critics -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	German radicals of the 1960s announced the death of literature. For them, literature both past and present, as well as conventional discussions of literary issues, had lost its meaning. In The Institution of Criticism, Peter Uwe Hohendahl explores the implications of this crisis from a Marxist perspective and attempts to define the tasks and responsibilities of criticism in advanced capitalist societies. Hohendahl takes a close look at the social history of literary criticism in Germany

since the eighteenth century. Drawing on the tradition of the Frankfurt School and on Jürgen Habermas's concept of the public sphere, Hohendahl sheds light on some of the important political and social forces that shape literature and culture. The Institution of Criticism is made up of seven essays originally published in German and a long theoretical introduction written by the author with English-language readers in mind. This book conveys the rich possibilities of the German perspective for those who employ American and French critical techniques and for students of contemporary critical theory.
