

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910150304803321
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Titolo	Figures of natality : reading the political in the age of Goethe // Joseph D. O'Neil
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Bloomsbury Academic, , 2017
ISBN	1-5013-1505-6 1-5013-1504-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (321 pages)
Collana	New directions in German studies ; ; v. 17
Disciplina	830.9/006
Soggetti	Birth (Philosophy) in literature German literature - 19th century - History and criticism Politics and literature - Germany - History - 18th century Politics and literature - Germany - History - 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Machine generated contents note: Chapter 1: Lyric Births: Poetic Revolution and Maieutic Technique -- Chapter 2: Genre, Generation, and the Retreat of the Political -- Chapter 3: Ghostly Births: The Specter of Romanticism and the Maieutics of the Medium -- Chapter 4: "Not as in a mirror": Wilhelm Meister and the Haunting of Sovereignty -- Chapter 5: Kleist's Machiavellian Mothers: Institution, Relation, Distribution -- Conclusion: Split Summits and Bifurcated Maieutics: The Political Difference and the Future of Democracy.
Sommario/riassunto	"Figures of Natality reads metaphors and narratives of birth in the age of Goethe (1770-1832) as indicators of the new, the unexpected, and the revolutionary. Using Hannah Arendt's concept of natality, Joseph O'Neil argues that Goethe, Schiller, and Kleist see birth as challenging paradigms of Romanticism as well as of Enlightenment, resisting the assimilation of the political to economics, science, or morality. They choose instead to preserve the conflicts and tensions at the heart of social, political, and poetic revolutions. In a historical reading, these tensions evolve from the idea of revolution as Arendt reads it in British North America to the social and economic questions that shape the French Revolution and from there to the question of the German nation.

Alongside this geopolitical evolution, the ways of representing the political change, too, moving from the new as revolutionary eruption to economic metaphors of birth. More pressing still is the question of revolutionary subjectivity and political agency, and Goethe, Kleist, and Schiller have an answer that is remarkably close to that of Walter Benjamin, as that "secret index" through which each past age is "pointed toward redemption." *Figures of Natality* uncovers this index at the heart of scenes and products of birth in the age of Goethe."-- Bloomsbury Publishing.

"Examines the work of Goethe, Kleist, and Schiller in the light of Hannah Arendt's concept of natality"--Bloomsbury Publishing.
