Record Nr. UNINA9910299801403321 Autore Horan Thomas Titolo Desire and Empathy in Twentieth-Century Dystopian Fiction / / by Thomas Horan Pubbl/distr/stampa Cham:,: Springer International Publishing:,: Imprint: Palgrave Macmillan, , 2018 **ISBN** 3-319-70675-6 Edizione [1st ed. 2018.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource Collana Palgrave Studies in Utopianism Disciplina 809.304 Soggetti Literature—History and criticism History, Modern Civilization—History Intellectual life—History Comparative literature Literary History Modern History **Cultural History** Intellectual Studies Comparative Literature Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto 1. Introduction -- 2. The Sexualized Proletariat in Jack London's The Iron Heel -- 3. Redemptive Atavism in Yevgeny Zamyatin's We -- 4. The Sexual Life of the Savage in Aldous Huxley's Brave New World -- 5. Katherine Burdekin's Swastika Night, a Gay Romance -- 6. Distortions of Queer Desire in Ayn Rand's Anthem -- 7. Desire and Empathy in George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four -- 8. Ludic Perversions and Enduring Communities in Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale --9. Conclusion. Sommario/riassunto This book assesses key works of twentieth-century dystopian fiction, including Aldous Huxley's Brave New World, George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four, and Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale, to demonstrate that the major authors of this genre locate empathy and

morality in eroticism. Taken together, these books delineate a subset of

politically conscious speculative literature, which can be understood collectively as projected political fiction. While Thomas Horan addresses problematic aspects of this subgenre, particularly sexist and racist stereotypes, he also highlights how some of these texts locate social responsibility in queer and other non-heteronormative sexual relationships, anticipating the ideas of various cultural theorists. In these novels, even when the illicit relationship itself is truncated, sexual desire fosters hope and community.