Record Nr. UNINA9910369912803321 Autore Ghumkhor Sahar Titolo The Political Psychology of the Veil: The Impossible Body / / by Sahar Ghumkhor Pubbl/distr/stampa Cham:,: Springer International Publishing:,: Imprint: Palgrave Macmillan, , 2020 **ISBN** 3-030-32061-8 Edizione [1st ed. 2020.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (285 pages) Collana Palgrave Studies in Political Psychology Disciplina 391.430944 297.576 Soggetti Identity politics **Psychoanalysis** Political philosophy Religion and politics Discourse analysis Political sociology Politics and Gender Political Philosophy Politics and Religion Discourse Analysis **Political Sociology** Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Includes index. Nota di contenuto 1. Introduction: Bodies without Shadows -- 2 The Unveiling Body -- 3. The 'Pure Defense of the Innocent' and Innocence Lost: Imagining the Veiled Woman in Human Rights -- 4. The Woman Question -- 5. The Postcolonial Veil: Bodies in Contact -- 6. The Confessional Body -- 7. Conclusion. Veiled women in the West appear menacing. Their visible invisibility is a Sommario/riassunto cause of obsession. What is beneath the veil more than a woman? This book investigates the preoccupation with the veiled body through the imaging and imagining of Muslim women. It examines the relationship

between the body and knowledge through the politics of freedom as

grounded in a 'natural' body, in the index of flesh. The impulse to unveil is more than a desire to free the Muslim woman. What lies at the heart of the fantasy of saving the Muslim woman is the West's desire to save itself. The preoccupation with the veiled woman is a defense that preserves neither the object of orientalism nor the difference embodied in women's bodies, but inversely, insists on the corporeal boundaries of the West's mode of knowing and truth-making. The book contends that the imagination of unveiling restores the West's sense of its own power and enables it to intrude where it is 'other' – thus making it the centre and the agent by promising universal freedom, all the while stifling the question of what freedom is. Sahar Ghumkhor teaches and researches in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne, Australia.