

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910433253503321
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Titolo	</p>Belonging and Narrative : A Theory of the American Novel / Laura Bieger
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bielefeld, : transcript Verlag, 2018
ISBN	9783839446003 3839446007
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (182 pages)
Collana	Lettre
Classificazione	HR 1800-HR 1819
Disciplina	813.009
Soggetti	Narrative Theory American Novel Space and Place Literature America American Studies Cultural History Cultural Studies Literary Studies
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter 1 Contents 5 Preface 7 1. Belonging, Narrative, and the Art of the Novel 13 2. Poisoned Letters from a Gothic Frontier 41 3. The Art of Attachment 73 4. Dwelling in What is Found 105 5. Of Cranes and Brains 135 Works Cited 163
Sommario/riassunto	Why did the novel become so popular in the past three centuries, and how did the American novel contribute to this trend? As a key provider of the narrative frames and formulas needed by modern individuals to give meaning and mooring to their lives. Drawing on phenomenological hermeneutics, human geography and social psychology, Laura Bieger contends that belonging is not a given; it is continuously produced by narrative. Against the current emphasis on metaphors of movement and destabilization, she explores the salience and significance of home.

Challenging views of narrative as a mechanism of ideology, she approaches narrative as a practical component of dwelling in the world – and the novel a primary place-making agent.
Besprochen in: IDA-NRW, 4 (2018)
