1. Record Nr. UNINA9910451507903321 Autore Lim David C.L. **Titolo** The Infinite Longing for Home: Desire and the Nation in Selected Writings of Ben Okri and K.S. Maniam / / David C.L. Lim Leiden; ; Boston: ,: BRILL, , 2005 Pubbl/distr/stampa 94-012-0149-8 **ISBN** 1-4237-8902-4 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (251 p.) Collana Cross/Cultures;;80 Disciplina 823.914 Soggetti Home in literature Malaysian fiction (English) Nationalism in literature Nigerian fiction (English) Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Revised thesis (Ph.D.). Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Acknowledgements -- Abbreviations -- Introduction -- PART I. NATION(S) -- 1 Nation: Conceptions -- 2 Becoming Nations: Nigeria. Malaysia -- PART I I. BEN OKRI: THE ABIKU TRILOGY -- 3 The Famished Road -- 4 Songs of Enchantment -- 5 Infinite Riches -- PART III. K.S. MANIAM: TWO NOVELS -- 6 The Return -- 7 In A Far Country --Conclusion -- Appendix -- Synopsis of K.S. Maniam's Unpublished Novel Delayed Passage -- Works Cited -- Index. Sommario/riassunto The Infinite Longing for Home is a groundbreaking study of Ben Okri's and K.S. Maniam's literary problematization of 'home' in relation to subjectivity and the nation within and beyond the context of Nigeria and Malaysia. Drawing on Lacan, Žižek, Laclau and Mouffe, and weaving through history, politics, philosophy and literature, this book critically examines the motives and means by which peoples forced to live together in a country love and hate each other, and overlook the truths about themselves, their actions and beliefs. It looks into why some

embrace heterogeneity and open-endedness while others are internally compelled to over-identify passionately with their religion and race, and to posit theirs as irreducibly distinct from and superior to others'.

The Infinite Longing for Home also traces through Okri's and Maniam's writings a way out of today's political aporia, a path to the re-creation of a new society humbled and unified by the recognition of its participation in flawed humanity.