

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910451592703321
Titolo	Global fragments [[electronic resource]] : (dis)orientation in the new world order / / edited by Anke Bartels and Dirk Wiemann
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam ; ; New York, NY, : Rodopi, 2007
ISBN	94-012-0422-5 1-4294-8082-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (380 p.)
Collana	ASNEL papers ; ; 10 Cross/cultures ; ; 90
Altri autori (Persone)	BartelsAnke WiemannDirk
Disciplina	303.48/201
Soggetti	Literatura y globalización Literature and globalization Postcolonialismo en la literatura Postcolonialism in literature Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"This volume presents a collection of papers read at the international conference 'Global Fragments: (Dis)orientation in the New World Order' held at Magdeburg in May 2003."--P. x.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
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Sommario/riassunto

While the world seems to be getting ever smaller and globalization has become the ubiquitous buzz-word, regionalism and fragmentation also abound. This might be due to the fact that, far from being the alleged production of cultural homogeneity, the global is constantly re-defined and altered through the local. This tension, pervading much of contemporary culture, has an obvious special relevance for the new varieties of English and the literature published in English world-wide. Postcolonial literatures exist at the interface of English as a hegemonic medium and its many national, regional and local competitors that transform it in the new English literatures. Thus any exploration of a globalization of cultures has to take into account the fact that culture is a complex field characterized by hybridization, plurality, and difference. But while global or transnational cultures may allow for a new cosmopolitanism that produces ever-changing, fluid identities, they do not give rise to an egalitarian 'global village' — an asymmetry between centre and periphery remains largely intact, albeit along new parameters. The essays collected in this volume offer readings of literary, theoretical, and filmic texts from the postcolonial world. These texts are read as attempts to articulate the global with the local from a perspective of immersion in the actual diversity of life-worlds, focusing on such issues as consumption, identity-politics, and modes of affiliation. In this sense, they are global fragments: locally refracted configurations of an experience of world-wide interconnectedness.
