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Nota di contenuto	; Introduction: TEXTureS, gestures, power: orientation to radical excavation / Vincent L. Wimbush -- Scriptures: text and then some / Catherine Bell -- Signifying revelation in Islam / Tazim R. Kassam -- Scriptures and the nature of authority: the case of the Guru Granth in Sikh tradition / Gurinder Singh Mann -- Dynamics of scripturalization: the ancient Near East / Hugh R. Page Jr. -- Known knowns and unknown unknowns: scriptures and scriptural interpretations / R.S. Sugirtharajah -- ; Talking back -- Signifying scriptures in Confucianism / Yan Shoucheng -- Confessions of Nat Turner: memoir of a martyr or testament of a terrorist? / William L. Andrews -- Signifying scriptures from an African perspective / Oyeronke Olajubu -- Transforming identities, de-textualizing interpretation, and re-modalizing representation: scriptures and subaltern subjectivity in India / Sathianathan Clarke -- Signification as scripturalization: communal memories among the Miao and in ancient Jewish allegorization / Sze-kar Wan -- ; Talking back -- Conjuring scriptures and engendering healing traditions / Yvonne P. Chireau -- Visualizing scriptures / Colleen McDannell -- Signifying in nineteenth-century African American religious music / Jacqueline Cogdell Djedje -- Signifying proverbs: Menace II society / Erin Runions -- Scriptures beyond script: some African diasporic occasions / Grey Gundaker -- Texture, text,

and testament: reading sacred symbols/signifying imagery in American visual culture / Leslie King-Hammond -- ; Talking back -- Differences at play in the fields of the lord / Susan F. Harding -- American Samson: biblical reading and national origins / Laura E. Donaldson -- Against signifying: psychosocial needs and natural evil / Leonard Harris -- Orality, memory, and power: Vedic scriptures and Brahmanical hegemony in India / Patrick Olivelle -- Reading places/reading scriptures / Wesley A. Kort -- Taniwha and serpent: a trans-Tasman riff / Jo Diamond -- Scriptures without letters, subversions of pictography, signifyin(g) alphabetical writing / Jose Rabasa -- ; Talking back -- In Hoc Signum Vincent: a Midrashist replies / Burton L. Visotzky -- Powerful words: the social-intellectual location of the international signifying scriptures project / Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza -- Racial and colonial politics of the modern object of knowledge: cautionary notes on "scripture" / Joseph Parker -- Who needs the subaltern? / Ranu Samantrai -- ; Talking back.

Sommario/riassunto

Historically, religious scriptures are defined as holy texts that are considered to be beyond the abilities of the layperson to interpret. Their content is most frequently analyzed by clerics who do not question the underlying political or social implications of the text, but use the writing to convey messages to their congregations about how to live a holy existence. In Western society, moreover, what counts as scripture is generally confined to the Judeo-Christian Bible, leaving the voices of minorities, as well as the holy texts of faiths from Africa and Asia, for example, unheard. In this innovative collection of essays that aims to turn the traditional bible-study definition of scriptures on its head, Vincent L. Wimbush leads an in-depth look at the social, cultural, and racial meanings invested in these texts. Contributors hail from a wide array of academic fields and geographic locations and include such noted academics as Susan Harding, Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, and William L. Andrews. Purposefully transgressing disciplinary boundaries, this ambitious book opens the door to different interpretations and critical orientations, and in doing so, allows an ultimately humanist definition of scriptures to emerge.
