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Autore	Boltanski Luc
Titolo	Distant suffering : morality, media, and politics // Luc Boltanski ; translated by Graham Burchell [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 1999
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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xviii, 246 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge cultural social studies
Disciplina	179
Soggetti	Suffering
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Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 193-239) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminaries; Contents; Preface; Acknowledgements; 1 The politics of pity; 2 Taking sides; 3 The moral spectator; 4 The topic of denunciation; 5 The topic of sentiment; 6 The critique of sentimentalism; 7 The aesthetic topic; 8 Heroes and the accursed; 9 What reality has misfortune?; 10 How realistic is action?; Notes; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Distant Suffering, first published in 1999, examines the moral and political implications for a spectator of the distant suffering of others as presented through the media. What are the morally acceptable responses to the sight of suffering on television, for example, when the viewer cannot act directly to affect the circumstances in which the suffering takes place? Luc Boltanski argues that spectators can actively involve themselves and others by speaking about what they have seen and how they were affected by it. Developing ideas in Adam Smith's moral theory, he examines three rhetorical 'topics' available for the expression of the spectator's response to suffering: the topics of denunciation and of sentiment and the aesthetic topic. The book

concludes with a discussion of a 'crisis of pity' in relation to modern forms of humanitarianism. A possible way out of this crisis is suggested which involves an emphasis and focus on present suffering.

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