Record Nr. UNINA9910456379203321 Autore Saul Joanne <1969-> Titolo Writing the roaming subject: the biotext in Canadian literature / / Joanne Saul Pubbl/distr/stampa Toronto, [Ontario];; Buffalo, [New York];; London, [England]:,: University of Toronto Press, , 2006 ©2006 **ISBN** 1-281-99167-8 9786611991678 1-4426-8373-2 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (184 p.) Disciplina 810.9809045 Soggetti Canadian literature - Minority authors - History and criticism Autobiographical fiction, Canadian - History and criticism Authors, Canadian - 20th century - History and criticism Autobiography - Minority authors Ethnicity in literature Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: Writing the Roaming Subject -- 1. Introducing the 'Biotext' -- 2. 'The shape of an unknown thing': Writing Displacement in Running in the Family -- 3. 'A story of listening way back in the body': Writing the Self in Ghost Works -- 4. Routes and Roots: The Auto/biographical Voices of Mothertalk -- 5. The Politics and Poetics of Identity: 'Faking it' in Diamond Grill -- Epiloque: (Still) Roaming -- Notes -- Works Cited --Index Engaging current debates within the studies of life writing and of the Sommario/riassunto nation-state, Writing the Roaming Subject focuses on a group of Canadian writers who pose questions about cultural difference and national identity while writing about their own lives and their own experiences of displacement. Joanne Saul uses the term 'biotext' to

describe the unique form of writing that challenges critical practices

regarding both life writing and immigrant and ethnic minority writing by blurring the borders of biography, autobiography, history, fiction and theory, as well as poetry, prose, and visual representation. In her readings of selected contemporary Canadian biotexts - including Michael Ondaatje's Running in the Family, Daphne Marlatt's Ghost Works, Roy Kiyooka's Mothertalk, and Fred Wah's Diamond Grill - Saul suggests that by crossing generic boundaries, these works illuminate the complex relationships between language, place, and self as they are manifested in textual form. Writing the Roaming Subject explores issues of identity formation, representation, and resistance in Canada and suggests that these are particularly crucial questions during a period of Canadian literary history when so many writers are insisting on new, more diverse cultural performances that resist the pull of the national imaginary.