

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910463233303321
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Titolo	Medieval boundaries [[electronic resource] ] : rethinking difference in Old French literature // Sharon Kinoshita
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2006
ISBN	0-8122-0248-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (321 p.)
Collana	The Middle Ages series
Disciplina	840.9/001
Soggetti	French literature - To 1500 - History and criticism Provençal literature - History and criticism Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [287]-303) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Introduction -- PART I. EPIC REVISIONS -- 1. "Pagans Are Wrong and Christians Are Right" -- 2. The Politics of Courtly Love -- PART II. ROMANCES OF ASSIMILATION -- 3. "In the Beginning Was the Road" -- 4. Colonial Possessions -- PART III. CRISIS AND CHANGE IN THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY -- Introduction -- 5. Brave New Worlds -- 6. The Romance of MiscegeNation -- 7. Uncivil Wars -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Selected Bibliography -- Index -- Acknowledgments
Sommario/riassunto	In <i>Medieval Boundaries</i> , Sharon Kinoshita examines the role of cross-cultural contact in twelfth- and early thirteenth-century French literature. Starting from the observation that many of the earliest and best-known works of the French literary tradition are set on or beyond the borders of the French-speaking world, she reads the <i>Chanson de Roland</i> , the <i>lais</i> of Marie de France, and a variety of other texts in an expanded geographical frame that includes the Iberian peninsula, the Welsh marches, and the eastern Mediterranean. In Kinoshita's reconceptualization of the geographical and cultural boundaries of the medieval West, such places become significant not only as sites of conflict but also as spaces of intense political, economic, and cultural negotiation. An important contribution to the emerging field of medieval postcolonialism, Kinoshita's work explores the limitations of

reading the literature of the French Middle Ages as an inevitable link in the historical construction of modern discourses of Orientalism, colonialism, race, and Christian-Muslim conflict. Rather, drawing on recent historical and art historical scholarship, Kinoshita uncovers a vernacular culture at odds with official discourses of crusade and conquest. Situating each work in its specific context, she brings to light the lived experiences of the knights and nobles for whom this literature was first composed and-in a series of close readings informed by postcolonial and feminist theory-demonstrates that literary representations of cultural encounters often provided the pretext for questioning the most basic categories of medieval identity. Awarded honorable mention for the 2007 Modern Language Association Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Studies

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