1. Record Nr.   UNINA9910463395803321

   Autore   O'Neal John C.

   Titolo   The progressive poetics of confusion in the French Enlightenment / /
                      John C. O'Neal

   Pubbl/distr/stampa Newark : , : University of Delaware Press, , [2011]
                      ©2011

   ISBN   1-61149-025-1

   Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (241 p.)

   Disciplina   840.9/353

   Soggetti   Enlightenment - France
                      Philosophy, French - 18th century
                      French literature - 18th century - History and criticism
                      Complexity (Philosophy)
                      Ambiguity
                      Electronic books.
                      France Intellectual life 18th century

   Lingua di pubblicazione   Inglese

   Formato   Materiale a stampa

   Livello bibliografico   Monografia

   Note generali   Description based upon print version of record.

   Nota di bibliografia   Includes bibliographical references (pages 215-226) and index.

   Nota di contenuto The subversive use of confusion in Marivaux's theater -- Cultivating the
                      reader's critical mind in Crebillon's Les egarements du coeur et de
                      l'esprit -- Telling, reading (or listening), and knowing : interpolated
                      narrative in Voltaire and Diderot -- Diderot and the Enlightenment's
                      poetics of confusion in the Lettre sur les aveugles -- Blurring the
                      boundaries between mind and body : Rousseau and the philosophes on
                      the soul -- Society's confusion in the Lettre a d'Alembert sur les
                      spectacles and the question of Rousseau's modernity -- Gender
                      confusion -- Understanding and interpreting confusion : Philippe Pinel
                      and the invention of psychiatry -- Sade's Justine : a response to the
                      Enlightenment's poetics of confusion.

   Sommario/riassunto Drawing largely on the etymological meaning of the word 'confusion' as
                      the action of mixing or blending, John C. O'Neal traces the
                      development of a progressive poetics of confusion in the French
                      Enlightenment. This project, he claims, aimed to reject dogmatic
                      thinking in all of its forms and to recognize the need to embrace

complexity. Eighteenth-century thinkers used the notion of confusion in a progressive way to reorganize social classes, literary forms, metaphysical substances, scientific methods, and cultural categories such as taste and gender.