1. Record Nr. UNINA9910463686803321 Autore Rosenthal Laura J (Laura Jean), <1960-> Titolo Infamous commerce: prostitution in eighteenth-century British literature and culture / / Laura J. Rosenthal Pubbl/distr/stampa Ithaca, [New York];; London, [England]:,: Cornell University Press,, 2006 ©2006 **ISBN** 0-8014-5435-2 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (283 pages): illustrations 820.9/3552 Disciplina Soggetti English literature - 18th century - History and criticism Prostitutes in literature Prostitution - Great Britain - History - 18th century 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 and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. A "Cool State of Indifference": Mother Creswell's Academy -- 2. The "Deluge of Depravity": Bernard Mandeville and the Reform Societies --3. Whore, Turk, and Jew: Defoe's Roxana -- 4. Fanny's Sisters: The Prostitute Narrative -- 5. Clarissa among the Whores -- 6. Tom Jones and the "New Vice" -- 7. Risky Business in the South Seas and Back --Conclusion: Usury of the Heart -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index Sommario/riassunto In Infamous Commerce, Laura J. Rosenthal uses literary and historical sources to explore the meaning of prostitution from the Restoration through the eighteenth century, showing how both reformers and libertines constructed the modern meaning of sex work during this period. From Grub Street's lurid "whore biographies" to the period's most acclaimed novels, the prostitute was depicted as facing a choice between abject poverty and some form of sex work. Prostitution, in Rosenthal's view, confronted the core controversies of eighteenthcentury capitalism: luxury, desire, global trade, commodification, social mobility, gender identity, imperialism, self-ownership, alienation, and

even the nature of work itself. In the context of extensive research into

printed accounts of both male and female prostitution-among them sermons, popular prostitute biographies, satire, pornography, brothel guides, reformist writing, and travel narratives-Rosenthal offers indepth readings of Samuel Richardson's Clarissa and Pamela and the responses to the latter novel (including Eliza Haywood's Anti-Pamela), Bernard Mandeville's defenses of prostitution, Daniel Defoe's Roxana, Henry Fielding's Tom Jones, and travel journals about the voyages of Captain Cook to the South Seas. Throughout, Rosenthal considers representations of the prostitute's own sexuality (desire, revulsion, etc.) to be key parts of the changing meaning of "the oldest profession."