1. Record Nr. UNINA9910480970503321 Autore Wong Edlie L. **Titolo** Neither Fugitive nor Free: Atlantic Slavery, Freedom Suits, and the Legal Culture of Travel / / Edlie L. Wong New York, NY:,: New York University Press,, [2009] Pubbl/distr/stampa ©2009 **ISBN** 0-8147-9546-3 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (348 p.) Collana America and the Long 19th Century;; 8 Disciplina 810.93552 Soggetti Law in literature Slavery in literature Law and literature - United States - History - 19th century Slavery - Law and legislation - United States - History - 19th century Antislavery movements - United States - History - 19th century Slaves - Legal status, laws, etc - United States - History - 19th century American literature - African American authors - History and criticism American literature - 19th century - History and criticism Slave narratives - History and criticism Black people - Travel - History - 19th century Slaves - Travel - History - 19th century Electronic books. 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 and index. Nota di contenuto Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1 Emancipation after "the Laws of Englishmen" -- 2 Choosing Kin in Antislavery Literature and Law -- 3 The Gender of Freedom before Dred Scott -- 4 The Crime of Color in the Negro Seamen Acts -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Index -- About the Author Sommario/riassunto Neither Fugitive nor Free draws on the freedom suit as recorded in the press and court documents to offer a critically and historically engaged understanding of the freedom celebrated in the literary and cultural histories of transatlantic abolitionism. Freedom suits involved those enslaved valets, nurses, and maids who accompanied slaveholders onto

free soil. Once brought into a free jurisdiction, these attendants became informally free, even if they were taken back to a slave jurisdiction—at least according to abolitionists and the enslaved themselves. In order to secure their freedom formally, slave attendants or others on their behalf had to bring suit in a court of law. Edlie Wong critically recuperates these cases in an effort to reexamine and redefine the legal construction of freedom, will, and consent. This study places such historically central anti-slavery figures as Frederick Douglass, Olaudah Equiano, and William Lloyd Garrison alongside such lesser-known slave plaintiffs as Lucy Ann Delaney, Grace, Catharine Linda, Med, and Harriet Robinson Scott. Situated at the confluence of literary criticism, feminism, and legal history, Neither Fugitive nor Free presents the freedom suit as a "new" genre to African American and American literary studies.