

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910520085803321
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Titolo	A Novel Approach to China : What China Debaters Can Learn from Contemporary Chinese Novelists // by Gongsong Gao
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Singapore : , : Springer Nature Singapore : , : Imprint : Palgrave Macmillan, , 2021
ISBN	9789811665189 9789811665172
Edizione	[1st ed. 2021.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xxvii, 233 pages)
Collana	Gale eBooks
Disciplina	895.13009
Soggetti	Oriental literature Asia - Politics and government China - History Asian Literature Asian Politics History of China
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1: Public Function and Literary Singularity: Post-Tiananmen Intellectual Debate and Literary Criticism -- Chapter 2: Han Shaogong: Revealing and Reworking Chinese Linguistic Background -- Chapter 3: Han Shaogong: Revealing and Reworking Chinese Linguistic Background -- Chapter 4: Chen Zhongshi: Disclosing a Local Everyday Confucian World -- Chapter 5: Towards a Dialogic Chinese Studies.
Sommario/riassunto	Gongsong Gao is Assistant Professor of Chinese Studies at the University of Richmond, where he teaches Chinese language courses and courses concerning modern and contemporary Chinese literature and culture. This book explores Chinese novelists' distinctive contributions to the China debate in terms of the key issues of Chinese language, power dynamics and Confucian tradition. As China is rising, Chinese scholars and policymakers are debating heatedly over China's past, present and future. Who are the major debaters? How do they analyze China's problems and figure out solutions? What are the main achievements and weaknesses of the Chinese intellectual debate and

discourse? Chinese novelists also get involved in the China debate. However, their voices are rarely heard. This book argues that, by dramatizing the diversities of ordinary social actors' everyday languages, active discursive practices and enchanted local traditions, Chinese novelists do not merely illustrate the dominant liberal, the New Left and the New Confucian ideologies, but enrich the China debate and provide a "novel" approach to our understanding of modern China. "Gengsong Gao's *A Novel Approach to China* is a highly original, multidimensional contribution to literary studies and Chinese thought, the kind of work that deserves widespread attention. First, he outlines and criticizes theoretical trends in postsocialist Chinese literary studies to show how these theories have blocked out the capacity of Chinese literary texts to articulate political and social issues in ways that the language of political argument has not. Second, he lays out the major positions of the political debates in post-Tiananmen China—liberals, New Confucians, New Left, Maoists, etc. Then he introduces the problematic of the social imaginary, the common background shared by all of a society's discourses, to connect the analysis of literature to the language politics. Gao's discussion of three contemporary novels by Han Shaogong, Wang Xiaobo, and Chen Zhongshi shows how these texts employ linguistic strategies that break down the ideological grids of the debate, not in order to deconstruct them, but to provide the resources for their enrichment. Readers of this book will not only get a thorough treatment of the relationship of Chinese literary theory to the West but an innovative theoretical problematic that opens a new way for literature to contribute to public debates." —Meili Steele, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of South Carolina at Columbia. .

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