Record Nr. UNINA9910586562903321 Autore Rana Swati Titolo Race characters: ethnic literature and the figure of the American dream // Swati Rana [[electronic resource]] Chapel Hill: ,: The University of North Carolina Press, , 2020 Pubbl/distr/stampa 979-88-908605-1-4 **ISBN** 1-4696-5947-6 1 online resource (273 pages): illustrations Descrizione fisica Collana North Carolina scholarship online Disciplina 810.9/920693 Soggetti American Dream in literature American literature - Minority authors Minorities in literature Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Also issued in print: 2020. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Reading race and character -- Superman of America vs. Ameen Rihani: the hyperproduction of character -- Jose Garcia Villa's book of grotesques: character and compulsion -- Many parts of Pocho: the discontinuous characters of Jose Antonio Villarreal -- Building American character: Dalip Singh Saund's model of minority -- Paule Marshall's Brown girls: structures of character -- The old constellation. A vexed figure inhabits U.S. literature and culture: the visibly racialized Sommario/riassunto immigrant who disavows minority identity and embraces the American dream. Such figures are potent and controversial for they promise to atone for racial violence and perpetuate an exceptionalist ideal of America. In this book, Swati Rana builds on studies of character and racial form and offers a new way to view characterization through racialization that creates, through literary analysis, a fuller social reading of race. Rana focuses on immigrant writers who do not fit an oppositional framing of ethnic literature. Situated in a nascent period of ethnic identification from 1900 to 1960, writings by Paule Marshall, Ameen Rihani, Dalip Singh Saund, Jose Garcia Villa, and Jose Antonio Villarreal explore different aspects of the American dream, from

individualism to imperialism, assimilation to upward mobility.