

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910637744203321
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Titolo	Conversations on Empathy : Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Imagination and Radical Othering
Pubbl/distr/stampa	2022 Milton : , : Taylor & Francis Group, , 2023 ©2023
ISBN	9781000816433 1000816435 9781003189978 1003189970 9781000816341 1000816346
Descrizione fisica	1 electronic resource (316 p.)
Classificazione	SOC002000
Altri autori (Persone)	PelusoDaniela
Disciplina	152.41
Soggetti	Empatía Antropología cultural y social
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Foreword: Empathy ReduxMurray SmithIntroductionFrancesca Mezzennanza and Daniela Peluso Part I: Framing empathy and otherness: interdisciplinary perspectives1 On Empathy and its Limits: A ManifestoJason Throop2 Being Open and Looking On: Fluctuations in everyday life and PsychologyVasudevi Reddy3 A Psychological exploration of empathyHeather Ferguson and Lena Wimmer 4 Autism and the 'double empathy problem'Damian Milton, Krysia Emily Waldock, and Nathan KeatesPart II: Imagining others: human interactions5 Dynamics and Vicissitudes of EmpathyDouglas Hollan 6 Should we be against empathy? Engagement with antiheroes in fiction and the theoretical implications for empathy's role in moralityMargrethe Bruun Vaage7 Cultivating an Empathic Impulse in Wartime UkraineCatherine Wanner and Valentyna Pavlenko8 Capital Empathy, and the Inequality of the Radical OtherRobin Truth Goodman9 Situating Empathy: Holocaust Education for the Middle East/Muslim Minority in Germany Esra

OEzyurekPart III: Imagining others: encounters beyond-the-human10
Just like humans: similarity, difference and empathy towards
nonhumans in the Amazonian rainforest. Francesca Mezzennana 11
Un-Tabooing Empathy: The Benefits of Empathic Science with
Nonhuman Research ParticipantsChristine E. Webb, Becca Franks,
Monica Gagliano and Barbara Smuts12 Augenblick and the 'rush' of
extraordinary encounters: empathy and sociality with non-human
radical others in AmazoniaDaniela Peluso13 Robots as radical others:
Implications of children's social, emotional, and relational interactions
with robots for human-robot empathyJacqueline M. Kory
WestlundAfterword: Empathy's Entanglements Carolyn Pedwell.

Sommario/riassunto

In the aftermath of a global pandemic, amidst new and ongoing wars, genocide, inequality, and staggering ecological collapse, some in the public and political arena have argued that we are in desperate need of greater empathy — be this with our neighbours, refugees, war victims, the vulnerable or disappearing animal and plant species. This interdisciplinary volume asks the crucial questions: How does a better understanding of empathy contribute, if at all, to our understanding of others? How is it implicated in the ways we perceive, understand and constitute others as subjects? Conversations on Empathy examines how empathy might be enacted and experienced either as a way to highlight forms of otherness or, instead, to overcome what might otherwise appear to be irreducible differences. It explores the ways in which empathy enables us to understand, imagine and create sameness and otherness in our everyday intersubjective encounters focusing on a varied range of "radical others" – others who are perceived as being dramatically different from oneself. With a focus on the importance of empathy to understand difference, the book contends that the role of empathy is critical, now more than ever, for thinking about local and global challenges of interconnectedness, care and justice.
