

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910781622103321
Autore	Lemire Elise Virginia
Titolo	"Miscegenation" [[electronic resource]] : making race in America // Elise Lemire
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia [Pa.], : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2002
ISBN	1-283-21082-7 9786613210821 0-8122-0034-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (215 p.)
Collana	[New cultural studies] "Miscegenation"
Disciplina	810.9/355
Soggetti	American literature - 19th century - History and criticism Miscegenation in literature Literature and society - United States - History - 19th century Racially mixed people in literature Race relations in literature Racism in literature Race in literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Series statement on jacket.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [179]-189) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Introduction: The Rhetorical Wedge Between Preference and Prejudice -- 1. Race and the Idea of Preference in the New Republic -- 2. The Rhetoric of Blood and Mixture -- 3. The Barrier of Good Taste -- 4. Combating Abolitionism with the Species Argument -- 5. Making "Miscegenation" -- Epilogue: "Miscegenation" Today -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index -- Acknowledgments
Sommario/riassunto	In the years between the Revolution and the Civil War, as the question of black political rights was debated more and more vociferously, descriptions and pictorial representations of whites coupling with blacks proliferated in the North. Novelists, short-story writers, poets, journalists, and political cartoonists imagined that political equality would be followed by widespread inter-racial sex and marriage. Legally possible yet socially unthinkable, this "amalgamation" of the races

would manifest itself in the perverse union of "whites" with "blacks," the latter figured as ugly, animal-like, and foul-smelling. In *Miscegenation*, Elise Lemire reads these literary and visual depictions for what they can tell us about the connection between the racialization of desire and the social construction of race. Previous studies of the prohibition of interracial sex and marriage in the U.S. have focused on either the slave South or the post-Reconstruction period. Looking instead to the North, and to such texts as the Federalist poetry about Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings, James Fenimore Cooper's *Last of the Mohicans*, Edgar Allan Poe's "Murders in the Rue Morgue," and the 1863 pamphlet in which the word "miscegenation" was first used, Lemire examines the steps by which whiteness became a sexual category and same-race desire came to seem a biological imperative.
