

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910784316003321
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Titolo	The rights of others : aliens, residents and citizens // Seyla Benhabib [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2004
ISBN	1-107-16062-6 1-139-93113-X 1-280-75002-2 0-511-79079-1 0-511-26527-1 0-511-26599-9 0-511-26372-4 0-511-31763-8 0-511-26455-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 250 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	The Seeley lectures ; ; 5
Disciplina	323.3/291
Soggetti	Political rights Internationalism Citizenship Emigration and immigration Noncitizens - Civil rights Refugees - Civil rights Immigrants - Civil rights
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 222-238) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half-title; Series-title; Title; Copyright; Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction; 1 On hospitality: rereading Kant's cosmopolitan right; 2 "The right to have rights": Hannah Arendt on the contradictions of the nation-state; 3 The Law of Peoples, distributive justice, and migrations; 4 Transformations of citizenship: the European Union; 5 Democratic iterations: the local, the national, and the global; Conclusion: cosmopolitan federalism; Bibliography; Index

Sommario/riassunto

The Rights of Others examines the boundaries of political community by focusing on political membership - the principles and practices for incorporating aliens and strangers, immigrants and newcomers, refugees and asylum seekers into existing polities. Boundaries define some as members, others as aliens. But when state sovereignty is becoming frayed, and national citizenship is unravelling, definitions of political membership become much less clear. Indeed few issues in world politics today are more important, or more troubling. In her Seeley Lectures, the distinguished political theorist Seyla Benhabib makes a powerful plea, echoing Immanuel Kant, for moral universalism and cosmopolitan federalism. She advocates not open but porous boundaries, recognising both the admittance rights of refugees and asylum seekers, but also the regulatory rights of democracies. The Rights of Others is a major intervention in contemporary political theory, of interest to large numbers of students and specialists in politics, law, philosophy and international relations.
