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Titolo	Queering the color line : race and the invention of homosexuality in American culture // Siobhan Somerville
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [221]-247) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Scientific Racism and the Invention of the Homosexual Body -- The Queer Career of Jim Crow: Racial and Sexual Transformation in Early Cinema -- Inverting the Tragic Mulatta Tradition: Race and Homosexuality in Pauline E. Hopkins's Fiction -- Double Lives on the Color Line: "Perverse" Desire in The Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man -- "Queer to Myself As I Am to You": Jean Toomer, Racial Disidentification, and Queer Reading.
Sommario/riassunto	"Queering the Color Line transforms previous understandings of how homosexuality was "invented" as a category of identity in the United States beginning in the late nineteenth century. Analyzing a range of sources, including sexology texts, early cinema, and African American literature, Siobhan B. Somerville argues that the emerging understanding of homosexuality depended on the context of the black/white "color line," the dominant system of racial distinction during this period. This book thus critiques and revises tendencies to treat race and sexuality as unrelated categories of analysis, showing instead that race has historically been central to the cultural production

of homosexuality. At about the same time that the 1896 Supreme Court Plessy v. Ferguson decision hardened the racialized boundary between black and white, prominent trials were drawing the public's attention to emerging categories of sexual identity. Somerville argues that these concurrent developments were not merely parallel but in fact inextricably interrelated and that the discourses of racial and sexual "deviance" were used to reinforce each other's terms. She provides original readings of such texts as Havelock Ellis's late nineteenth-century work on "sexual inversion," the 1914 film *A Florida Enchantment*, the novels of Pauline E. Hopkins, James Weldon Johnson's *Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man*, and Jean Toomer's fiction and autobiographical writings, including *Cane*. Through her analyses of these texts and her archival research, Somerville contributes to the growing body of scholarship that focuses on discovering the intersections of gender, race, and sexuality." -- Publisher's description.

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