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Titolo	The progressive poetics of confusion in the French Enlightenment // John C. O'Neal
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Soggetti	Enlightenment - France Philosophy, French - 18th century French literature - 18th century - History and criticism Complexity (Philosophy) Ambiguity France Intellectual life 18th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
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Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 215-226) and index.
Nota di contenuto	The subversive use of confusion in Marivaux's theater -- Cultivating the reader's critical mind in Crebillon's Les egarements du coeur et de l'esprit -- Telling, reading (or listening), and knowing : interpolated narrative in Voltaire and Diderot -- Diderot and the Enlightenment's poetics of confusion in the Lettre sur les aveugles -- Blurring the boundaries between mind and body : Rousseau and the philosophes on the soul -- Society's confusion in the Lettre a d'Alembert sur les spectacles and the question of Rousseau's modernity -- Gender confusion -- Understanding and interpreting confusion : Philippe Pinel and the invention of psychiatry -- Sade's Justine : a response to the Enlightenment's poetics of confusion.
Sommario/riassunto	Drawing largely on the etymological meaning of the word 'confusion' as the action of mixing or blending, John C. O'Neal traces the development of a progressive poetics of confusion in the French Enlightenment. This project, he claims, aimed to reject dogmatic thinking in all of its forms and to recognize the need to embrace complexity. Eighteenth-century thinkers used the notion of confusion

in a progressive way to reorganize social classes, literary forms, metaphysical substances, scientific methods, and cultural categories such as taste and gender.
