1. Record Nr. UNINA9910789298703321 Autore Bruni John Titolo Scientific Americans: the making of popular science and evolution in early-twentieth-century U.S. literature and culture / / John Bruni Pubbl/distr/stampa Cardiff: .: University of Wales Press, . [2014] ©2014 **ISBN** 1-78316-018-7 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (258 p.) Collana Intersections in literature and science Disciplina 810.90052 American literature - 20th century - History and criticism Soggetti Authors, American - 20th century American literature - 20th century Science - United States - History Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Cover; ToC; List of illustrations; 1 Popular Science, Evolution and Global Nota di contenuto Information Management; Acknowledgements; Introduction; I. Reconstructing the social and scientific: II. Scientific and cultural narratives of expansion; III. Information and control systems; IV. Historicizing science; 2 Dirty Naturalism and the Regime of Thermodynamic Self-Organization; I. Social regulation and the power of art; II. Self-organization and energy flows; III. Ecocriticism and thermodynamics; IV. Social work and moral parasites; 3 The Ecology of Empire; I. The Call of the Wild and the national frontier II. Wild Fang and the ideology of domestication III. The multiplicity of animal bodies; III. 'Constitutional restlessness' and 'something not ourselves'; IV. Ghosts of American citizens; V. Where to draw the line? Biological kinshipand legal discourse; 4 After the Flood: Performance and Nation; I. Managing life; II. Business morality and Western water policy; IV. Systems of art: perception and communication; V. Pure fiction; I. Evolution as historical process; II. Thermodynamics and citizenship; III. The new American as techno-subject; IV. Beyond

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Sommario/riassunto

The book challenges narrow readings of evolution as 'social Darwinism' by looking at evolutionary theory through the interrelated perspectives of science, North American naturalist literature, and popular journalism.