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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Eroticism, violence, and sacrifice -- Excess, time, and the pure gift -- Genealogy, power, and discourse -- Hermeneutics, comparison, and difference -- The problematic nature of representational thinking -- Responding to the postmodern challenge.
Sommario/riassunto	The use of postmodern thought to approach the study of religion threatens to call into question the values and representational mode of thinking typical of the field. Religious studies with a radical scepticism grounded in an embrace of decadence by postmodern thinkers has the potential to undermine, subvert, and distort the study of religion, making it difficult to understand the subject if such an approach is uncritically adopted by scholars seeking new ways to study it.