

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790868903321
Autore	Craig Layne Parish
Titolo	When sex changed : birth control politics and literature between the world wars / / Layne Parish Craig
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Brunswick, New Jersey : , : Rutgers University Press, , [2013] ©2013
ISBN	0-8135-6212-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (219 p.)
Collana	The American Literatures Initiative
Disciplina	810.9/9287
Soggetti	American literature - 20th century - History and criticism English literature - 20th century - History and criticism Women and literature Birth control in literature Feminism and literature Eugenics in literature Birth control - Social aspects - United States Birth control - Social aspects - Great Britain
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Setting motherhood free -- The thing you are!: the woman rebel in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's Herland saga -- Six sons at Eton: birth control and the medical model in Joyce and Woolf -- That means children to me: the birth control review in Harlem -- Unbridled lust and calamitous error: religion, eugenics, and contraception in 1930s family sagas -- She takes good care that the matter will end there: the artist's douche bag in three guineas and if I forget thee, Jerusalem -- Conclusion: Birth control's narrative afterlives.
Sommario/riassunto	In <i>When Sex Changed</i> , Layne Parish Craig analyzes the ways literary texts responded to the political, economic, sexual, and social values put forward by the birth control movements of the 1910's to the 1930's in the United States and Great Britain. Discussion of contraception and related topics (including feminism, religion, and eugenics) changed the way that writers depicted women, marriage, and family life. Tracing this

shift, Craig compares disparate responses to the birth control controversy, from early skepticism by mainstream feminists, reflected in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *Herland*, to concern about the movement's race and class implications suggested in Nella Larsen's *Quicksand*, to enthusiastic speculation about contraception's political implications, as in Virginia Woolf's *Three Guineas*. While these texts emphasized birth control's potential to transform marriage and family life and emancipate women from the "slavery" of constant childbearing, birth control advocates also used less-than-liberatory language that excluded the poor, the mentally ill, non-whites, and others. Ultimately, Craig argues, the debates that began in these early political and literary texts-texts that document both the birth control movement's idealism and its exclusionary rhetoric-helped shape the complex legacy of family planning and women's rights with which the United States and the United Kingdom still struggle.
