Record Nr. UNINA9910807147703321 Autore Black Shameem <1976-> Titolo Fiction across borders: imagining the lives of others in late-twentiethcentury novels / / Shameem Black New York, : Columbia University Press, c2010 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-283-26099-9 9786613260994 0-231-52061-1 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (348 p.) Disciplina 810.9/920693 American fiction - Minority authors - History and criticism Soggetti American fiction - 20th century - History and criticism Commonwealth fiction (English) - History and criticism Other (Philosophy) in literature Difference (Philosophy) in literature Ethics in literature Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (p. [299]-318) and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction. Toward an Ethics of Border- Crossing Fiction -- 1 Crowded Self and Crowded Style -- 2 Everyday Sentiment -- 3 Ethnic Reversals -- 4 Middle Grounds -- 5 Challenging Language -- 6 Sacrificing the Self --Postscript -- Appendix -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index Sommario/riassunto Theorists of Orientalism and postcolonialism argue that novelists betray political and cultural anxieties when characterizing "the Other." Shameem Black takes a different stance. Turning a fresh eye toward several key contemporary novelists, she reveals how "border-crossing" fiction represents socially diverse groups without resorting to stereotype, idealization, or other forms of imaginative constraint. Focusing on the work of J. M. Coetzee, Amitav Ghosh, Jeffrey Eugenides, Ruth Ozeki, Charles Johnson, Gish Jen, and Rupa Bajwa, Black introduces an interpretative lens that captures the ways in which

these authors envision an ethics of representing social difference. They not only offer sympathetic portrayals of the lives of others but also

detail the processes of imagining social difference. Whether depicting the multilingual worlds of South and Southeast Asia, the exportation of American culture abroad, or the racial tension of postapartheid South Africa, these transcultural representations explore social and political hierarchies in constructive ways. Boldly confronting the orthodoxies of recent literary criticism, Fiction Across Borders builds upon such seminal works as Edward Said's Orientalism and offers a provocative new study of the late twentieth-century novel.