Record Nr. UNINA9910809658903321 Autore Rowe John Carlos Titolo The other Henry James / / John Carlos Rowe Durham [NC]:,: Duke University Press,, 1998 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 0-8223-9853-2 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (257 p.) Collana **New Americanists** 813/.4 Disciplina 813.4 Soggetti Literature and society - United States - History Literature and society - Great Britain - History Social classes in literature Homosexuality and literature Social ethics in literature Children in literature Sex role in literature Women in literature Gay people in literature Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Monografia Livello bibliografico Note generali Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (pages 199-232) and index. Nota di contenuto Introduction: Henry James and critical theory -- Swept away: Henry James, Margaret Fuller, and "The last of the Valerii" -- A phantom of the opera: Christopher Newman's unconscious in The American --Acting lessons: racial, sexual, and aesthetic politics in The tragic muse -- Textual preference: James's literary defenses against sexuality in "The middle years" and "The death of the lion" -- The portrait of a small boy as a young girl: gender trouble in What Maisie knew --Spectral mechanics: gender, sexuality, and work in In the cage --Conclusion: Henry James and the art of teaching. Sommario/riassunto In The Other Henry James, John Carlos Rowe offers a new vision of Henry James as a social critic whose later works can now be read as rich with homoerotic suggestiveness. Drawing from recent work in queer and feminist theory, Rowe argues that the most fruitful approach to

James today is one that ignores the elitist portrait of the formalist

master in favor of the writer as a vulnerable critic of his own confused and repressive historical moment. Rowe traces a particular development in James's work, showing how in his early writings James criticized women's rights, same-sex relations, and other social and political trends now identified with modern culture; how he ambivalently explored these aspects of modernity in his writings of the 1880s; and, later, how he increasingly identified with such modernity in his heretofore largely ignored or marginally treated fiction of the 1890s. Building on recent scholarship that has shown James to be more anxious about gender roles, more conflicted, and more marginal a figure than previously thought. Rowe argues that James—through his treatment of women, children, and gays—indicts the values and conventions of the bourgeoisie. He shows how James confronts social changes in gender roles, sexual preferences, national affiliations, and racial and ethnic identifications in such important novels as The American, The Tragic Muse, What Maisie Knew, and In the Cage, and in such neglected short fiction as "The Last of the Valerii," "The Death of the Lion," and "The Middle Years." Positioning James's work within an interpretive context that pits the social and political anxieties of his day against the imperatives of an aesthetic ideology, The Other Henry James will engage scholars, students, and teachers of American literature and culture, gay literature, and queer theory.