Record Nr. UNINA9910811040503321 Autore Hansen Thomas Blom <1958-> Titolo Melancholia of freedom: social life in an Indian township in South Africa / / Thomas Blom Hansen Princeton,: Princeton University Press, 2012 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-4008-4261-1 9786613589873 1-280-49464-6 Edizione [Course Book] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (373 p.) Disciplina 305.891/41068455 East Indians - South Africa - Durban Soggetti Chatsworth (Durban, South Africa) Race relations Chatsworth (Durban, South Africa) Social conditions Chatsworth (Durban, South Africa) Religion Durban (South Africa) Race relations Durban (South Africa) Social conditions Durban (South Africa) Religion Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Introduction: Under the gaze: freedom and race after apartheid --Ethnicity by fiat: the remaking of Indian life in South Africa --Domesticity and cultural intimacy -- Charous and Ravans: a story of mutual nonrecognition -- Autonomy, freedom, and political speech --Movement, sound, and body in the postapartheid city -- The unwieldy fetish: Desi fantasies, roots tourism, and diasporic desires -- Global Hindus and pure Muslims: universalist aspirations and territorialized lives -- The saved and the backsliders: the Charou soul and the instability of belief -- Postscript: Melancholia in the time of the "African personality". Sommario/riassunto The end of apartheid in 1994 signaled a moment of freedom and a promise of a nonracial future. With this promise came an injunction: define yourself as you truly are, as an individual, and as a community. Almost two decades later it is clear that it was less the prospect of that

future than the habits and horizons of anxious life in racially defined

enclaves that determined postapartheid freedom. In this book, Thomas Blom Hansen offers an in-depth analysis of the uncertainties, dreams, and anxieties that have accompanied postapartheid freedoms in Chatsworth, a formerly Indian township in Durban. Exploring five decades of township life, Hansen tells the stories of ordinary Indians whose lives were racialized and framed by the township, and how these residents domesticated and inhabited this urban space and its institutions, during apartheid and after. Hansen demonstrates the complex and ambivalent nature of ordinary township life. While the ideology of apartheid was widely rejected, its practical institutions, from urban planning to houses, schools, and religious spaces, were embraced in order to remake the community. Hansen describes how the racial segmentation of South African society still informs daily life, notions of race, personhood, morality, and religious ethics. He also demonstrates the force of global religious imaginings that promise a universal and inclusive community amid uncertain lives and futures in the postapartheid nation-state.