Record Nr. UNINA9910816436903321 Autore Bennett Alice <1982-> Titolo Contemporary fictions of attention: reading and distraction in the twenty-first century / / Alice Bennett London:,: Bloomsbury Publishing,, 2019 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-4742-8260-1 1-4742-8262-8 1-4742-8263-6 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (182 pages) Disciplina 809.3/051 Soggetti American fiction - 21st century - History and criticism Attention Books and reading - Psychological aspects Distraction (Psychology) English fiction - 21st century - History and criticism Fiction - 21st century - History and criticism Literature and technology Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Fictions of attention -- 'Focus, people!' (David Foster Wallace) --Present-mindedness (Joshua Cohen) -- The distraction of both (Ali Smith) -- Amputated attention (Tom McCarthy) -- Beginning to mind (Zadie Smith) -- Reading absorption (Ben Lerner). Sommario/riassunto "With the supposed shortening of our attention spans, what future is there for fiction in the age of the internet? Contemporary Fictions of Attention rejects this discourse of distraction-crisis which suggests that the future of reading is in peril, and instead finds that contemporary writers construct 'fictions of attention' that find some value in states or moments of inattention. Through discussion of work by a diverse selection of writers, including Joshua Cohen, Ben Lerner, Tom McCarthy, Ali Smith, Zadie Smith, and David Foster Wallace, this book identifies how fiction prompts readers to become peripherally

aware of their own attention. Contemporary Fictions of Attention

locates a common interest in attention within 21st-century fiction and connects this interest to a series of debates surrounding ethics, temporality, the everyday, boredom, work, and self-discipline in contemporary culture."--Bloomsbury Publishing.