

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910822960303321
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Titolo	Post-war British women novelists and the canon / Nick Turner
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; New York, : Continuum, 2010
ISBN	1-4725-4270-3 1-282-59075-8 9786612590757 1-4411-7888-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (202 p.)
Collana	Continuum literary studies series
Disciplina	823.914099287
Soggetti	English fiction - 20th century - History and criticism English fiction - Women authors - History and criticism Canon (Literature)
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 (pages [166]-186) and index
Nota di contenuto	Preface -- Introduction: The Field of Modern Women Writers -- 1. Theories of the Canon -- 2. Iris Murdoch -- 3. Anita Brookner -- 4. Ruth Rendell -- 5. Emma Tennant -- Conclusion: The Contemporary Scene -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	With the increasing number of books on contemporary fiction, there is a need for a work that examines whom we value, and why. These questions lie at the heart of this book which, by focusing on four novelists, literary and popular, interrogates the canon over the last fifty years. The argument unfolds to demonstrate that academic trends increasingly control canonicity, as do the demands of genre, the increasing commercialisation of literature, and the power of the literary prize. Turner argues that literary excellence, demonstrated by style and imaginative power, is often missing in many works that have become modern classics and makes a case for the value of the 'universal' in literature. Written in a jargon-free style, with reference to many supporting writers, the book raises a number of significant cultural questions about the arts, fashions and literary reputations, of interest to readers in contemporary literary studies.

