Record Nr. UNINA9910823525503321 Autore Douglas Kate <1974-> Titolo Contesting childhood [[electronic resource]]: autobiography, trauma, and memory / / Kate Douglas New Brunswick, N.J., : Rutgers University Press, c2010 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-282-56239-8 9786612562396 0-8135-4915-9 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (237 p.) The Rutgers series in childhood studies Collana Disciplina 305.2309 Soggetti Autobiographical memory Memory - Social aspects Collective memory Psychic trauma Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Creating childhood: autobiography and cultural memory -- Consuming childhood: buying and selling the autobiographical child -- Authoring childhood: the road to recovery and redemption -- Scripts for remembering: childhoods and nostalgia -- Scripts for remembering: traumatic childhoods -- Ethics: writing about child abuse, writing about abusive parents -- The ethics of reading: witnessing traumatic childhoods -- Writing childhood in the twenty-first century. Sommario/riassunto The late 1990's and early 2000's witnessed a surge in the publication and popularity of autobiographical writings about childhood. Linking literary and cultural studies. Contesting Childhood draws on a varied selection of works from a diverse range of authorsù from first-time to experienced writers. Kate Douglas explores Australian accounts of the Stolen Generation, contemporary American and British narratives of abuse, the bestselling memoirs of Andrea Ashworth, Augusten Burroughs, Robert Drewe, Mary Karr, Frank McCourt, Dave Pelzer, and Lorna Sage, among many others. Drawing on trauma and memory

studies and theories of authorship and readership, Contesting

Childhood offers commentary on the triumphs, trials, and tribulations

that have shaped this genre. Douglas examines the content of the narratives and the limits of their representations, as well as some of the ways in which autobiographies of youth have become politically important and influential. This study enables readers to discover how stories configure childhood within cultural memory and the public sphere.