

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910826408303321
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Titolo	Women's literary feminism in twentieth-century China [[electronic resource] /] / by Amy D. Dooling
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, N.Y., : Palgrave Macmillan, 2005
ISBN	1-281-36374-X 9786611363741 1-4039-7827-1
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (X, 273 pages)
Disciplina	895.1/099287/0904
Soggetti	Chinese literature - Women authors - History and criticism Chinese literature - 20th century - History and criticism Feminism in literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [245]-263) and index.
Sommario/riassunto	This is a critical inquiry into the connections between emergent feminist ideologies in China and the production of 'modern' women's writing from the demise of the last imperial dynasty to the founding of the PRC. It accentuates both well-known and under-represented literary voices who intervened in the gender debates of their generation as well as contextualises the strategies used in imagining alternative stories of female experience and potential. It asks two questions: first, how did the advent of enlightened views of gender relations and sexuality influence literary practices of 'new women' in terms of narrative forms and strategies, readership, and publication venues? Second, how do these representations attest to the way these female intellectuals engaged and expanded social and political concerns from the personal to the national?