

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910956574703321
Autore	Shonkwiler Alison
Titolo	The Financial Imaginary : Economic Mystification and the Limits of Realist Fiction // Alison Shonkwiler
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Minneapolis, Minnesota ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Minnesota Press, , 2017 ©2017
ISBN	1-4529-5392-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (200 pages)
Disciplina	813.009/3553
Soggetti	Economics and literature - United States - History - 20th century Capitalism and literature - United States - History - 20th century Realism in literature Finance in literature Money in literature American fiction - 20th century - History and criticism Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Representing financial abstraction in fiction -- Virtue unrewarded: financial character in the economic novel -- Reaganomic realisms: real estate, character, and crisis in Jane Smiley's Good faith -- Epic compensations: corporate totality in Frank Norris's The octopus and Richard Powers's Gain -- Financial sublime: virtual capitalism in Don DeLillo's Cosmopolis -- Liquid realisms: global asymmetry and mediation in Teddy Wayne's Kapitoil and Mohsin Hamid's How to get filthy rich in raising Asia -- Epilogue: Literary realism and finance capital.
Sommario/riassunto	As the world has been reshaped since the 1970s by neoliberalism and globalization, increasing financial abstraction has presented a new political urgency for contemporary writers. Globalized finance, the return to Gilded Age levels of inequality, and the emergence of new technologies pose a similar challenge to the one faced by American social realists a century ago: making the virtualization of capitalism

legible within the conventions of the realist novel. In *The Financial Imaginary*, Alison Shonkwiler reads texts by Richard Powers, Don DeLillo, Jane Smiley, Teddy Wayne, and Mohsin Hamid to examine how fiction confronts the formal and representational mystifications of the economic. As Shonkwiler shows, these contemporary writers navigate the social, moral, and class preoccupations of American "economic fiction" (as shaped by such writers as William Dean Howells, Henry James, Frank Norris, and Theodore Dreiser), even as they probe the novel's inadequacies to tell the story of an increasingly abstract world system. Drawing a connection from historical and theoretical accounts of financialization to the formal contours of contemporary fiction, *The Financial Imaginary* examines the persistent yet vexed relationship between financial representation and the demands of literary realism. It argues that the novel is essential to understanding our relation to the mystifications of abstraction past and present.

---