

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910965485803321
Autore	Childs Donald J.
Titolo	Modernism and eugenics : Woolf, Eliot, Yeats, and the culture of degeneration // Donald J. Childs
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2001
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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (vii, 266 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	820.9/112/09041
Soggetti	English literature - 20th century - History and criticism Modernism (Literature) - Great Britain Degeneration in literature Eugenics in literature Race in literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
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Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Virginia Woolf's hereditary taint -- Boers, whores, and Mongols in Mrs. Dalloway -- Body and biology in A room of one's own -- Eliot on biology and birthrates -- To breed or not to breed: the Eliots' question -- Fatal fertility in The waste land -- The late eugenics of W.B. Yeats -- Yeats and stirpiculture -- Yeats and The sexual question.
Sommario/riassunto	In Modernism and Eugenics, first published in 2001, Donald Childs shows how Virginia Woolf, T. S. Eliot and W. B. Yeats believed in eugenics, the science of race improvement and adapted this scientific discourse to the language and purposes of the modern imagination. Childs traces the impact of the eugenics movement on such modernist works as Mrs Dalloway, A Room of One's Own, The Waste Land and

Yeats's late poetry and early plays. The language of eugenics moves, he claims, between public discourse and personal perspectives. It informs Woolf's theorization of woman's imagination; in Eliot's poetry, it pictures as a nightmare the myriad contemporary eugenical threats to humankind's biological and cultural future. And for Yeats, it becomes integral to his engagement with the occult and his commitment to Irish Nationalism. This is an interesting study of a controversial theme which reveals the centrality of eugenics in the life and work of several major modernist writers.

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