

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910966414303321
Autore	Bracken Christopher
Titolo	Magical criticism : the recourse of savage philosophy / / Christopher Bracken
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, c2007
ISBN	9786611959180 9781281959188 1281959189 9780226069920 0226069923
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (278 p.)
Disciplina	301.01
Soggetti	Semiotics Magical thinking Philosophy and civilization Ethnophilosophy - History
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 (p. 241-255) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction : what are savages for? -- Discourse is now -- The new barbarism -- The mana type -- Commodity totemism -- Allegories of the sun, specters of excess -- Coda : the Solaris hypothesis.
Sommario/riassunto	During the Enlightenment, Western scholars racialized ideas, deeming knowledge based on reality superior to that based on ideality. Scholars labeled inquiries into ideality, such as animism and soul-migration, "savage philosophy," a clear indicator of the racism motivating the distinction between the real and the ideal. In their view, the savage philosopher mistakes connections between signs for connections between real objects and believes that discourse can have physical effects-in other words, they believe in magic. Christopher Bracken's Magical Criticism brings the unacknowledged history of this racialization to light and shows how, even as we have rejected ethnocentric notions of "the savage," they remain active today in everything from attacks on postmodernism to Native American land disputes. Here Bracken reveals that many of the most influential

Western thinkers dabbled in savage philosophy, from Marx, Nietzsche, and Proust, to Freud, C. S. Peirce, and Walter Benjamin. For Bracken, this recourse to savage philosophy presents an opportunity to reclaim a magical criticism that can explain the very real effects created by the discourse of historians, anthropologists, philosophers, the media, and governments.

---