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Nota di contenuto

Cover; THE 'IMPROPER' FEMININE: The Women's Sensation Novel and the New Woman Writing; Copyright; Contents; Introductory note; Part I The 'Improper' Feminine; 1 Gender and writing, writing and gender; 2 The subject of Woman; 3 The subject of Woman and the subject of women's fiction; 4 Fiction and the feminine: a gendered critical discourse; 5 Fiction, the feminine and the sensation novel; 6 Representation and the feminine: engendering fiction in the 1890's; Part II The Sentimental and Sensational Sixties: The Limits of the Proper Feminine 7 Historicising genre (1): the cultural moment of the woman's sensation novel 8 Surveillance and control: women, the family and the law; 9 Spectating the Social Evil: fallen and other women; 10 Reviewing the subject of women: the sensation novel and the 'Girl of the Period'; 11 Historicising genre (2): sensation fiction, women's genres and popular narrative forms; 12 Mary Elizabeth Braddon: the secret histories of women; 13 Ellen Wood: secret skeletons in the family, and the spectacle of women's suffering; Part III Breaking the Bounds: The Improper Feminine and the Fiction of the New Woman 14 The New Woman 15 The New Woman writing and some marriage questions; 16 Writing difference differently; 17 Feeling, motherhood and True Womanhood; 18 Woman's 'affectability' and the literature of hysteria; 19 Writing women: writing woman; 20 New Woman: new writing; Conclusion: reading out women's writing; Notes; Works referred to; Index

Sommario/riassunto

The women's sensation novel of the 1860's and the New Woman fiction of the 1890's were two major examples of a perceived feminine invasion of fiction which caused a critical furor in their day. Both genres, with their shocking, 'fast' heroines, fired the popular imagination by putting female sexuality on the literary agenda and undermining the 'proper feminine' ideal to which nineteenth-century women and fictional heroines were supposed to aspire. By exploring in impressive depth and breadth the material and discursive conditions in which these novels were produced, *The 'Improper'*