

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9911008974903321
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Titolo	Shifting perspectives : East German autobiographical narratives before and after the end of the GDR // Dennis Tate
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Suffolk : , : Boydell & Brewer, , 2007
ISBN	1-282-15058-8 9786612150586 1-57113-704-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (267 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Studies in German literature, linguistics, and culture
Classificazione	GN 1522
Disciplina	830.9/943109045
Soggetti	German prose literature - Germany (East) - History and criticism German prose literature - 20th century - History and criticism Autobiographical fiction, German - Germany (East) Autobiographical memory in literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 02 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [237]-258) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Autobiographical writing in the East German context and beyond -- Brigitte Reimann: the constraints of first-person fiction -- Franz Fuhmann: the deconstruction of an "exemplary" biography -- Stefan Heym: strategies of self-concealment in fictional and autobiographical mode -- Gunter de Bruyn: from the "lies" of fiction to the "truth" of autobiography? -- Christa Wolf: "subjective authenticity" in practice: an evolving.
Sommario/riassunto	A striking feature of today's German literature is the survival of an East German subculture characterized by its authors' self-reflexive concern with their own lives, not only in texts labeled as autobiography but also those in the more ambiguous territory of what Christa Wolf has called 'subjective authenticity.' Dennis Tate provides the first detailed account of this phenomenon: its origins in the 1930s' exile debates, its evolution during the GDR's lifespan, and its manifestations in the work of five East German authors still widely read today: Brigitte Reimann, Franz Fuhmann, Stefan Heym, Gunter de Bruyn, and Christa Wolf. Tate shows how the preoccupation with self arose from the unusually turbulent circumstances in which this generation has lived. Having

succumbed early to the temptation to simplify their life stories for misguided educational purposes, these authors have repeatedly reconstructed their personal and political identities as their perspectives on the past have shifted. Tate shows the importance of viewing their autobiographical writing as a multilayered historical process, exposing problems with canonical accounts of East German literature and enabling texts published under GDR censorship to be properly appreciated for the first time. Dennis Tate is Professor of German Studies at the University of Bath, UK.
