

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9911011817703321
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Titolo	Disorder, Affect, and Modernist Literature : Empathy After Entropy // by Matthew Phillips
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer Nature Switzerland : , : Imprint : Palgrave Macmillan, , 2025
ISBN	9783031924637
Edizione	[1st ed. 2025.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (99 pages)
Collana	Palgrave Studies in Affect Theory and Literary Criticism, , 2634-632X
Disciplina	809.9112
Soggetti	Literature, Modern - 20th century Literature - History and criticism Literature - Philosophy Twentieth-Century Literature Literary Criticism Literary Theory
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Chapter 1 "Lower and Lower, and Down": Entropy, Empathy, and Art in Stephen Crane's "The Open Boat" -- Chapter 2 "Dreams of Leaves Decaying for a Vernal Stalk": Entropy and Empathy in Jean Toomer's "Withered Skin of Berries" -- Chapter 3 "Things Must Spoil": Necessary Entropy in Virginia Woolf's <i>To The Lighthouse</i> -- Chapter 4 Darkening Entropy and Empathy in Eugene O'Neill's <i>Long Day's Journey into Night</i> -- Chapter 5 Epilogue.
Sommario/riassunto	Modernist literature is defined by entropic characteristics. Its common themes include fragmentation, uncertainty, distrust, and misunderstanding. Alongside these themes, however, exists a desire to rebuild, to distill elements of past constructs into something that can provide stability in the chaotic present. Historically, modernist studies has focused on the former, without ample attention given to how entropic circumstances alter human emotion and affect. This book offers a new way of conceptualizing the modernist experience of alienation, disorder, and system deterioration as not merely negative, but productive in facilitating new structures of feeling and social

adhesion. It pushes extant literary evaluations of entropy into a new realm by interrogating the human cost of entropic circumstances, and shows that we can use the process of entropy as a metaphorical lens through which to further understand the human connections and shared experiences reflected in modernist literature. Matthew Phillips is a Lecturer at UNC Greensboro, USA, where he has designed and taught courses on "Empathy and Imagination" and "Quarantine Literature". Matthew's existing and forthcoming publications exhibit a wide-ranging research portfolio. Most recently, he has used the scientific principal of entropy as a metaphorical lens to study the phenomenon of the entropy/empathy paradigm, arguing that in works by Jean Toomer and Virginia Woolf, as well as in those temporally bookending modernism by Stephen Crane and Eugene O'Neill, an accumulation of entropy unpredictably results in an increase in empathic potential. Matthew has also published on Evelyn Waugh and Richard Hakluyt in an article that interrogates divergent depictions of empathy and religion in their respective work.

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