

1. Record Nr.	UNIORUON00066790
Titolo	Al-Hilal / Collana di letteratura araba contemporanea diretta da Clelia Sarnelli Cerqua
Lingua di pubblicazione	Non definito
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Collezione
2. Record Nr.	UNINA9910659491603321
Autore	Buzay Emmanuel
Titolo	Contemporary French and Francophone Futuristic Novels : The Longing to be Written and its Refusal / / by Emmanuel Buzay
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Palgrave Macmillan, , 2022
ISBN	9783031166280 9783031166273
Edizione	[1st ed. 2022.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (249 pages)
Collana	Studies in Global Science Fiction, , 2569-8834
Disciplina	758.980938762074 843.0876209
Soggetti	Literature, Modern - 20th century Literature, Modern - 21st century European literature Fiction Communication in science Ethnology - Europe Culture Science - Social aspects Contemporary Literature European Literature Fiction Literature Science Communication European Culture Posthumanism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa

**Livello bibliografico****Nota di bibliografia****Nota di contenuto****Monografia**

Includes bibliography and index.

1 Introduction -- Bibliography.-2 Reading the Enigmatic Worlds of Futuristic Novels -- Looking for Clues: The Investigations Entrusted to the Reader.-The Broader Scope of the Books of Nature and the World.-The Figure of the Last Man -- Bibliography.-3 Modalities and Fictional Storyworlds in Futuristic Novels.-Dissonant Minds of Fictional Storyworlds -- Dualities and Modal Structures of Fictional Storyworlds: Knowledge, Duty, and Ability.-Differences in Actions of Fictional Minds as Readers.-Bibliography -- 4 The Idea of the Book and Its Symbolism in Times of Change.-Metaphors of the Closed Symbolism of the Book.-Metaphors and Metalepses of the Open Symbolism of the Book -- Metamorphoses and Human Mutations: The Relationship to Insect Animalism.-Bibliography.-5 Regaining Humanity by Learning from Escapes and Detours -- The Metaphysical Manhunt.-Traces and Memories in Information and Knowledge Societies of the Future.-The Trial of Walking -- Bibliography.-6 Encounters with Bodies and Narratives: A Matrix of Contemporary Philosophical Quests.-The Value of Speech and Literature Under the Threat of Violence in Amélie Nothomb -- Writing and Walking the Wilderness as a Scribe in Alain Damasio -- Shifting Determinism with the Reminiscent Body of an Artificial Intelligence in Romain Lucaleau.-Bibliography -- 7 Conclusion.-Bibliography.

**Sommario/riassunto**

"Emmanuel Buzay's thesis, centered around the notion of writing and the question of the book, is fascinating. A whole new way of understanding anticipation novels opens up when we consider them as metafiction. A particularly original and promising approach." — Alexandre Gefen, Director of Research, Institut des Sciences Humaines et Sociales du CNRS, France "Emmanuel Buzay's absorbing book explores the overlap of literature and technology in contemporary French and Francophone works of science fiction and other future-oriented novels. The current tug-of-war between technophilia and technophobia provides the background before which Buzay's arguments unfold, endowing them with an urgency that many scholarly books on contemporary literature do not have." —Christy Wampole, Professor, Princeton University This book sheds a new light on the metafictional aspects of futuristic and science fiction novels, at the crossroads of information and media studies, possible worlds theories applied to cognitive narratology, questions related to the criticism of post-humanity, and, more broadly, contemporary French and Francophone literature. It examines the fictional minds of characters and their conceptions of resistance to the anticipated worlds they inhabit, particularly in novels by Pierre Bordage, Marie Darrieussecq, Michel Houellebecq, Amin Maalouf, Jean-Christophe Rufin, Antoine Volodine, and Élisabeth Vonarburg. It also explores how corporal postures serve as a matrix for philosophical quests in novels by Amélie Nothomb, Alain Damasio, and Romain Lucaleau. More specifically, from the fictional readers' points of view, it provides a critical approach to the mythologies of writing, in the wake of the French philosophical tales by authors including Cyrano de Bergerac and Voltaire, to question the traditionally expressed formulations of the mythologies of writing, that is, of the metaphors of the book (the book of life, nature, and the world), to rethink the idea of a humanity within its limits. Emmanuel Buzay is Assistant Professor of French and Francophone Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA. His research interests include contemporary French and Francophone literature, literatures of

the imagination (science fiction, anticipatory novels, and fantasy), memory studies, and narrative and semiotic studies of film and video games.

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