

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996483169903316
Titolo	Engaged Humanities : Rethinking Art, Culture, and Public Life // ed. by Renée Vall, Amanda Kluveld, Aagje Swinnen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam : , : Amsterdam University Press, , [2022] ©2022
ISBN	90-485-5040-8
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (362 p.)
Disciplina	001.2
Soggetti	Humanities - 21st century ART / History / Contemporary (1945-)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
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Sommario/riassunto

What is the role of the humanities at the start of 21st century? In the last few decades, the various disciplines of the humanities (history, linguistics, literary studies, art history, media studies) have encountered a broad range of challenges, related to the future of print culture, to shifts in funding strategies, and to the changing contours of culture and society. Several publications have addressed these challenges as well as potential responses on a theoretical level. This coedited volume opts for a different strategy and presents accessible case studies that demonstrate what humanities scholars contribute to concrete and pressing social debates about topics including adoption, dementia, hacking, and conservation. These “engaged” forms of humanities research reveal the continued importance of thinking and rethinking the nature of art, culture, and public life.
