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Nota di contenuto

Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- FIGURES -- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -- ABBREVIATIONS -- Introduction: Modernism and the Anthropocene -- 1 The Matter of Politics in the Novels of James Joyce -- 2 James Joyce and the Revenge of Gaia -- 3 The Beastly Writing of Djuna Barnes -- 4 Sex, Nature and Animal Life in Djuna Barnes's *Ryder* -- 5 The Sympathetic Climate of Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* -- 6 The Disturbing Future of Virginia Woolf's Late Writing -- Fallout: Modernism in the Nuclear Anthropocene -- Bibliography -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

Provides the first book-length analysis of modernism and the Anthropocene. Provides new and comparative readings of James Joyce, Djuna Barnes and Virginia Woolf, demonstrating how ecocriticism and posthumanism can open up new ways of understanding modernism. Includes new discoveries from Djuna Barnes's archive that expand how we perceive her writing. Contributes to the turn in modernist studies towards the synthesis of historicism and theory, examining modernist fiction in the context of early-twentieth century scientific, environmental, and socio-political developments, while also bringing modernism into dialogue with contemporary theory. The Modernist Anthropocene examines how modernist writers forged new and innovative ways of responding to rapidly changing planetary conditions and emergent ideas about nonhuman life, environmental change and the human species. Drawing on ecocritical analysis, posthumanist theory, archival research and environmental history, this book resituates key works of modernist fiction within the ecological moment of the early twentieth century, a period in which new configurations of the relationship between human life and the natural world were migrating between the sciences, philosophy and literary culture. The author makes the case that the early twentieth century is pivotal in our understanding of the Anthropocene both as a planetary epoch and a critical concept. In doing so, he positions James Joyce, Djuna Barnes and Virginia Woolf as theorists of the modernist Anthropocene, showing how their oeuvres are shaped by, and actively respond to, changing ideas about the nonhuman that continue to reverberate today.