

1. Record Nr.	UNINA990009252880403321
Titolo	Database Programming Languages [Risorsa elettronica] : 10th International Workshop, DBPL 2005, Trondheim, Norway, August 28-29, 2005, Revised Selected Papers / edited by Gavin Bierman, Christoph Koch
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin ; Heidelberg : Springer, 2005
ISBN	9783540314455
Collana	Lecture Notes in Computer Science , 0302-9743 ; 3774
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Risorsa elettronica
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
2. Record Nr.	UNINA9910213823303321
Autore	Katz Steven T.
Titolo	The Essential Agus : The Writings of Jacob B. Agus / / Steven T. Katz
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, NY : , : New York University Press, , [1997] ©1997
ISBN	9780814763551 0814763553
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (590 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	Katz Steven T. <1944->
Disciplina	296.3
Soggetti	Jewish philosophy Judaism Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index. "Bibliography of the works of Jacob B. Agus": p. 566-573.
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Sommario/riassunto

Rabbi Jacob Agus' (1911-1986) intellectual production spanned nearly a half century and covered an enormous historical and conceptual range, from the biblical to the modern era. Best known as an important Jewish scholar, he also held important rabbinic, teaching, and public positions. Although born and raised within an orthodox setting, Agus was strongly influenced by American liberalism and his work displayed modernizing sympathies, reservations about nationalism--including some forms of Zionism--and often severe criticisms of kabbalah. Agus crafted a unique, quite American, modernizing vision that ardently sought to remain in touch with the wellsprings of the rabbinic tradition while remaining open to the intellectual and moral currents of his own time. The Essential Agus brings together a sampling of Agus' most important published and unpublished material in one easily accessible volume. It will be an invaluable resource for students and researchers seeking to experience Agus' intellectual legacy.
