

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910154306503321
Autore	Hughes William <1964->
Titolo	That devil's trick : hypnotism and the Victorian popular imagination
Pubbl/distr/stampa	[Place of publication not identified], : Manchester University Press, 2015
ISBN	1-5261-0197-1
Disciplina	154.7094109034
Soggetti	Hypnotism - History - 19th century - Great Britain Hypnotism - Social aspects - 19th century - Great Britain Mesmerism - History Hypnotism in literature Mesmerism in literature Hypnosis Literature Imagination History, 19th Century Social Perception Cognition Psychotherapy Mind-Body Therapies History, Modern 1601- Perception Humanities Mental Processes Complementary Therapies History Behavioral Disciplines and Activities Psychological Phenomena and Processes Therapeutics Psychiatry and Psychology Analytical, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Techniques and Equipment Parapsychology & Occult Sciences Social Sciences
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa

**Livello bibliografico****Monografia****Note generali**

Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph

**Nota di contenuto**

Preamble: Animal magnetism - a farce? -- The epoch of Mesmer -- Medical magnetism -- Surgical hypnotism -- Conclusion: 'This is that devil's trick - hypnotism!'

**Sommario/riassunto**

That Devil's Trick is the first study of nineteenth-century hypnotism based primarily on the popular - rather than medical - appreciation of the subject. Drawing on the reports of mesmerists, hypnotists, quack doctors and serious physicians printed in popular newspapers from the early years of the nineteenth century to the Victorian fin de siecle, the book provides an insight into how Continental mesmerism was first understood in Britain, how a number of distinctively British varieties of mesmerism developed, and how these were continually debated in medical, moral and legal terms. This is no dry history of medicine, however. It opens and closes with two vignettes of how mesmerists were depicted on stage at the eighteenth- and nineteenth century fins des siecles, and its contents are highly relevant to the study of the many authors - Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Bram Stoker and Conan Doyle among them - whose fiction was informed by the imagery of hypnotism and mesmerism. Its contents are enlivened by liberal quotation from the often scandalous observations of those who watched or participated in mesmeric seances, these being regarded at times as salacious exhibitions likely to undermine the morality of the nation. That Devil's Trick will be an essential resource for anybody working with the popular and literary culture of the nineteenth century. Its unique contents allow it to bridge the disciplinary boundaries of literary criticism and broader Victorian studies, the breath and liveliness of its coverage also making it an important work for medical historians and the general reader. --Provided by publisher.