

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910162715003321
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Titolo	Synthetic : How Life Got Made // Sophia Roosth
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago : , : University of Chicago Press, , [2017] ©2017
ISBN	0-226-44063-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource : illustrations (black and white)
Classificazione	BK 8200
Disciplina	660/.6509
Soggetti	Biotechnology Synthetic biology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Previously issued in print: 2017.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Introduction: Analysis: Synthesis -- Interlude 1: Plastic Fantastic -- 1. Life by Design: Evolution and Creation Tales in Synthetic Biology -- Interlude 2: From Still Life to More Intense Life -- 2. The Synthetic Kingdom: Transgenic Kinship in the Postgenomic Era -- Interlude 3: "To Make an Eye, a Hair, a Leaf" -- 3. The Rebirth of the Author: New Life in Legal and Economic Circuits -- Interlude 4: Much More than Human -- 4. Biotechnical Agnosticism: Fragmented Life and Labor among the Machines -- Interlude 5: What Comes Before -- 5. Life Makes Itself at Home: The Rise of Biohacking as Political Action -- Interlude 6: Life Embryonic and Prophetic -- 6. Latter-Day Lazarus: Biological Salvage and Species Revival -- Conclusion -- Appendix: A Note on Method -- Acknowledgments -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In the final years of the twentieth century, émigrés from engineering and computer science devoted themselves to biology and resolved that if the aim of biology is to understand life, then making life would yield better theories than experimentation. Armed with the latest biotechnology techniques, these scientists treated biological media as elements for design and manufacture: viruses named for computers, bacterial genomes encoding passages from James Joyce, chimeric yeast buckling under the metabolic strain of genes harvested from wormwood, petunias, and microbes from Icelandic thermal pools. In

Synthetic: How Life Got Made, cultural anthropologist Sophia Roosth reveals how synthetic biologists make new living things in order to understand better how life works. The first book-length ethnographic study of this discipline, Synthetic documents the social, cultural, rhetorical, economic, and imaginative transformations biology has undergone in the post-genomic age. Roosth traces this new science from its origins at MIT to start-ups, laboratories, conferences, and hackers' garages across the United States-even to contemporary efforts to resurrect extinct species. Her careful research reveals that rather than opening up a limitless new field, these biologists' own experimental tactics circularly determine the biological features, theories, and limits they fasten upon. Exploring the life sciences emblematic of our time, Synthetic tells the origin story of the astonishing claim that biological making fosters biological knowing.

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