

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910166954103321
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Titolo	The metamorphosis of autism : a history of child development in Britain // Bonnie Evans
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Manchester University Press, 2017 Manchester, England : , : Manchester University Press, , 2017 ©2017
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (512 pages) : illustrations; digital file(s)
Collana	Social Histories of Medicine
Disciplina	616.8588200941
Soggetti	Autism - Great Britain - History Autistic children - Great Britain Autism in children - Great Britain - History Child development - Great Britain - History - 20th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: perceiving, describing and modelling child development --part I. The first autism: the observation and description of child development before 1959 --1. The first autism --2. The first autism controversies --3. Inside the Maudsley Child Psychotic Clinic in the 1950s --part II. How autism became autism --4. The transformation of social life and the transformation of autism in the 1960s --5. How do you measure a social impairment? --6. Epidemiology, epidemics and autism as a global health crisis --Conclusion --Abbreviations for Archives and Government Acts --Bibliography --Index.
Sommario/riassunto	What is autism and where has it come from? Increased diagnostic rates, the rise of the 'neurodiversity' movement, and growing autism journalism, have recently fuelled autism's fame and controversy. The metamorphosis of autism is the first book to explain our fascination with autism by linking it to a longer history of childhood development. Drawing from a staggering array of primary sources, Bonnie Evans traces autism back to its origins in the early twentieth century and explains why the idea of autism has always been controversial and why it experienced a 'metamorphosis' in the 1960s and 1970s. Evans argues

that changes in the way that we observe, understand and think about child development have fuelled reported increases in autism and led to current debates about neurodiversity. She explains how 'the first autism' of the early twentieth century spawned a new industry of child psychology focused on ego development and human relations. It was only after the closure of 'mental deficiency' institutions in the late 1950s that autism took on new meanings as an epidemiological entity. This enabled the 'metamorphosis' of autism and turned it into the phenomenon that we all know today. Evans takes the reader on a journey of discovery from the ill-managed wards of 'mental deficiency' hospitals, to high powered debates in the houses of parliament, and beyond. The study explains how children's rights and psychological models of autism have always been inextricably linked, and why this should make us reconsider how we think about autism. This book will appeal to a wide market of scholars and others interested in autism, neurodiversity and how this relates to wider theories of children's psychological development.
