

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910172213003321
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Titolo	Politics of life itself : biomedicine, power, and subjectivity in the twenty-first century / / Nikolas Rose
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, : Princeton University Press, c2007
ISBN	9781400827503 1400827507 9781282458291 1282458299 9786612458293 6612458291
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (371 pages)
Collana	Information series
Disciplina	174/.957
Soggetti	Bioethics Medical innovations - Social aspects Bioethique Medecine - Innovations - Aspect social Genomica Politieke aspecten Ethische aspecten
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 (p. [305]-339) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Acronyms -- Introduction -- Chapter 1. Biopolitics in the Twenty-First Century -- Chapter 2. Politics and Life -- Chapter 3. An Emergent Form of Life? -- Chapter 4. At Genetic Risk -- Chapter 5. Biological Citizens -- Chapter 6. Race in the Age of Genomic Medicine -- Chapter 7. Neurochemical Selves -- Chapter 8. The Biology of Control -- Afterword. Somatic Ethics and the Spirit of Biocapital -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	For centuries, medicine aimed to treat abnormalities. But today normality itself is open to medical modification. Equipped with a new molecular understanding of bodies and minds, and new techniques for manipulating basic life processes at the level of molecules, cells, and

genes, medicine now seeks to manage human vital processes. The Politics of Life Itself offers a much-needed examination of recent developments in the life sciences and biomedicine that have led to the widespread politicization of medicine, human life, and biotechnology. Avoiding the hype of popular science and the pessimism of most social science, Nikolas Rose analyzes contemporary molecular biopolitics, examining developments in genomics, neuroscience, pharmacology, and psychopharmacology and the ways they have affected racial politics, crime control, and psychiatry. Rose analyzes the transformation of biomedicine from the practice of healing to the government of life; the new emphasis on treating disease susceptibilities rather than disease; the shift in our understanding of the patient; the emergence of new forms of medical activism; the rise of biocapital; and the mutations in biopower. He concludes that these developments have profound consequences for who we think we are, and who we want to be.
