

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910172243903321
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Titolo	Science and social science : an introduction // Malcolm Williams
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York, : Routledge, 2000
ISBN	1-134-64781-6 1-280-32984-X 0-203-26000-7 0-203-04784-2 9780203260007 9786610329847
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (184 pages)
Disciplina	300/.1
Soggetti	Social sciences - Methodology Science - Methodology Social sciences - Philosophy Science - Philosophy
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. [154]-167) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Where Did Science Come From? -- Science and Its Method -- Social Science as Science -- Against Science -- Against Science in Social Science -- Science, Objectivity and Ethics -- New Science and New Social Science -- Conclusion: The Science of Social Science.
Sommario/riassunto	Is social science really a science at all, and if so in what sense? This is the first question that any course on the philosophy of the social sciences must tackle. In this brief introduction, Malcolm Williams gives students the grounding that will enable them to discuss the issues involved with confidence. He looks at: * The historical development of natural science and its distinctive methodology * the case in favour of an objective science of the social which follows the same rules * The arguments of social constructionists, interpretative sociologists and others against objec