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**Sommario/riassunto**

"Interactions aims to encourage the development of the widest possible scholarly community both in terms of geographical location and intellectual scope in the fields of media, communication and cultural studies"--Publisher's description.

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Autore Akoh Jacob A

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Altri autori (Persone) BarrasVincent  
Beck-GernsheimElisabeth  
BoudamoussiSamira El  
BrushBarbara L  
Budiani-SaberiDebra  
CapronAlexander M  
ColumbSeán  
CourtineJean-Jacques  
DovloDelanyo  
ElgerBernice S  
FrydmanRené  
GarraudOlivier  
GoyensPhilippe  
HurstSamia A  
KelleyEdward  
LefrèreJean-Jacques  
Mahdavi-MazdehMitra  
MahílloBeatriz  
MartinDominique  
MatesanzRafael  
MauronAlex  
MburuSheila  
MohapatraSeema  
NadimpallySarojini  
NahavandiFirouzeh  
NguyenVinh-Kim  
NoëlLuc  
OsselaerJean-Claude  
PirnayJean-Paul  
PocockNicola Suyin

RainhornJean-Daniel  
SamamaEtti  
SndorJudit  
Scheper-HughesNancy  
ShalevCarmel  
SteinerPhilippe  
TissotJean-Daniel  
El BoudamoussiSamira

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<b>Sommario/riassunto</b>	<p>Thanks to recent progress in biotechnology, surrogacy, transplantation of organs and tissues, blood products or stem-cell and gamete banks are now widely used throughout the world. These techniques improve the health and well-being of some human beings using products or functions that come from the body of others. Growth in demand and absence of an appropriate international legal framework have led to the development of a lucrative global trade in which victims are often people living in insecure conditions who have no other ways to survive than to rent or sell part of their body. This growing market, in which parts of the human body are bought and sold with little respect for the human person, displays a kind of dehumanization that looks like a new form of slavery. This book is the result of a collective and multidisciplinary reflection organized by a group of international researchers working in the field of medicine and social sciences. It helps better understand how the emergence of new health industries may contribute to the development of a global medical tourism. It opens new avenues for reflection on technologies that are based on appropriation of parts of the body of others for health purposes, a type of practice that can be metaphorically compared to cannibalism. Are these the first steps towards a proletariat of men- and women-objects</p>

considered as a reservoir of products of human origin needed to improve the health or well-being of the better-off? The book raises the issue of the uncontrolled use of medical advances that can sometimes reach the anticipations of dystopian literature and science fiction.

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