

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910298461603321
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Titolo	Adsorption, Aggregation and Structure Formation in Systems of Charged Particles : From Colloidal to Supracolloidal Assembly // by Bhuvnesh Bharti
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2014
ISBN	3-319-07737-6
Edizione	[1st ed. 2014.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (155 p.)
Collana	Springer Theses, Recognizing Outstanding Ph.D. Research, , 2190-5053
Disciplina	539.721
Soggetti	Physical chemistry Nanotechnology Amorphous substances Complex fluids Physical Chemistry Soft and Granular Matter, Complex Fluids and Microfluidics
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 at the end of each chapters.
Nota di contenuto	From the Contents: Introduction -- Methods -- Theory and Modeling -- Surfactant Adsorption and Aggregate Structure at Silica Nanoparticles -- Formation of Cylindrical Micelles in Tubular Nanopores.
Sommario/riassunto	This thesis presents studies on the interaction of soft materials like surfactants and proteins with hard silica nanomaterials. Due to its interdisciplinary nature it combines concepts from the fields of physical chemistry, nanoscience and materials science, yielding to fundamental insights into the structure-directing forces operating at the nano-scale. It is shown that the morphology of surfactant micellar aggregates adsorbed at the surface of nanoparticles and inside tubular nanopores can be tuned on demand by the co-adsorption of a surface modifier. The interaction of globular proteins with silica nanoparticles is dominated by electrostatic interactions and can be controlled by pH and ionic strength, while the bridging of nanoparticles by adsorbed

protein molecules leads to large-scale hybrid aggregates of protein with the nanoparticles. Concepts emerging from the role of electrostatic interactions in the hetero-aggregation of nanoparticles with protein molecules are used for the co-assembly of charged microbeads into linear clusters and chains of controllable length.
