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Nota di contenuto	Introduction; Kristina Engelhard -- Part I The Concept of Potentiality in the History of Philosophy - Aristotle -- 1 Potentiality in Aristotle's Metaphysics; Anna Marmodoro -- 2 Potentiality in Aristotle's Physics and Biology; Stephen Makin -- 3 Potentiality in Aristotle's Psychology and Ethics; Frans A. J. de Haas -- Part II The Concept of Potentiality in the History of Philosophy - Medieval Philosophy -- 4 Potentiality in Classical Arabic Thought; Taneli Kukkonen -- 5 Potentiality in the Late Middle Ages -- the Latin Tradition; Stephan Schmid -- Part III The Concept of Potentiality in the History of Philosophy - Early Modern Philosophy -- 6 Potentiality in Rationalism; Michael-Thomas Liske -- 7 Potentiality in British Empiricism; Katia Saporiti -- Part IV The Metaphysics of Potentials -- 8 Real Potential; Jennifer McKittrick -- 9 Powers and Potentiality; Stephen Mumford / Rani Lill Anjum -- 10 From Potentiality to Possibility; Barbara Vetter -- Part V Potentiality in Specific Fields of Philosophy -- 11 Potentialities in the Philosophy of Mind; Frank Hofmann -- 12 Potentiality in Bioethics; Marco Stier -- Part

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Hendry / Paul Needham -- 15 Potentiality in Biology; Andreas
Hüttemann / Marie I. Kaiser -- About the Contributors.

Sommario/riassunto

This volume congregates articles of leading philosophers about potentials and potentiality in all areas of philosophy and the empirical sciences in which they play a relevant role. It is the first encompassing collection of articles on the metaphysics of potentials and potentiality. Potentials play an important role not only in our everyday understanding of objects, persons and systems but also in the sciences. An example is the potential to become an adult human person. Moreover, the attribution of potentials involves crucial ethical problems. Bioethics makes references to the theoretical concept "potential" without being able to clarify its meaning. However, despite its relevance it has not been made subject of philosophical investigation. Mostly, potentials are regarded as a subspecies of dispositions. Whilst dispositions are a flourishing field of research, potentials as such have not come into focus. Potentials like dispositions are modal properties. But already a first glance at the metaphysics of potentials shows that concerning their ascription potentials are more problematic than dispositions since "potential" means that an entity has the potential to acquire a property in the future. Therefore, potentials involve a time structure of the entities in question that is much more complex than those of dispositions. This handbook brings this important concept into focus in its various aspects for the first time. It covers the history of the concept as well as contemporary systematic problems and will be of special interest for philosophers in the fields of general metaphysics, philosophy of science and ethics, especially bioethics. It will also be of interest to scientists and persons concerned with bioethical problems.
