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Autore	Byers William
Titolo	The blind spot [[electronic resource]] : science and the crisis of uncertainty / / William Byers
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, : Princeton University Press, c2011
ISBN	1-283-00150-0 9786613001504 1-4008-3815-0
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (334 p.)
Disciplina	500
Soggetti	Science - Social aspects Uncertainty (Information theory)
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface: The Revelation of Uncertainty -- 1. The Blind Spot -- 2. The Blind Spot Revealed -- 3. Certainty or Wonder? -- 4. A World in Crisis! -- 5. Ambiguity -- 6. Self-Reference: The Human Element in Science -- 7. The Mystery of Number -- 8. Science as the Ambiguous Search for Unity -- 9. The Still Point -- 10. Conclusion: Living in a World of Uncertainty -- Acknowledgments -- Notes -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In today's unpredictable and chaotic world, we look to science to provide certainty and answers--and often blame it when things go wrong. The Blind Spot reveals why our faith in scientific certainty is a dangerous illusion, and how only by embracing science's inherent ambiguities and paradoxes can we truly appreciate its beauty and harness its potential. Crackling with insights into our most perplexing contemporary dilemmas, from climate change to the global financial meltdown, this book challenges our most sacredly held beliefs about science, technology, and progress. At the same time, it shows how the secret to better science can be found where we least expect it--in the uncertain, the ambiguous, and the inevitably unpredictable. William Byers explains why the subjective element in scientific inquiry is in fact what makes it so dynamic, and deftly balances the need for certainty

and rigor in science with the equally important need for creativity, freedom, and downright wonder. Drawing on an array of fascinating examples--from Wall Street's overreliance on algorithms to provide certainty in uncertain markets, to undecidable problems in mathematics and computer science, to Georg Cantor's paradoxical but true assertion about infinity--Byers demonstrates how we can and must learn from the existence of blind spots in our scientific and mathematical understanding. The Blind Spot offers an entirely new way of thinking about science, one that highlights its strengths and limitations, its unrealized promise, and, above all, its unavoidable ambiguity. It also points to a more sophisticated approach to the most intractable problems of our time.

2. Record Nr.	UNINA9910309749603321
Autore	Heberer Thomas
Titolo	Doing Business in Rural China : Liangshan's New Ethnic Entrepreneurs / / Thomas Heberer
Pubbl/distr/stampa	University of Washington Press, 2012 Seattle : , : University of Washington Press, , 2007 ©2007
ISBN	9780295804095 0295804092
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (282 p.)
Collana	Studies on Ethnic Groups in China Studies on ethnic groups in China
Disciplina	330.951/38
Soggetti	Ethnic groups - China - Liangshan Xian (Sichuan Sheng) Entrepreneurship - China - Liangshan Xian (Sichuan Sheng) Businessmen - China - Liangshan Xian (Sichuan Sheng) Liangshan Xian (Sichuan Sheng, China) Social conditions Liangshan Xian (Sichuan Sheng, China) Ethnic relations Liangshan Xian (Sichuan Sheng, China) Economic conditions
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. 223-258) and index.

Introduction : Liangshan and its entrepreneurs -- Nuosu traditional culture and social change -- The Liangshan economic setting and private entrepreneurs -- Private sector development in nine Liangshan counties -- Comparative profiles of Nuosu and Han entrepreneurs -- The effect of entrepreneurs on local politics -- Entrepreneurs and social change -- Entrepreneurs and ethnic relations -- Entrepreneurs and ethnic identity -- Conclusion : the influence of Nuosu entrepreneurs.

Longlisted for the 2009 ICAS Book Award Mountainous Liangshan Prefecture, on the southern border of Sichuan Province, is one of China's most remote regions. Although Liangshan's majority ethnic group, the Nuosu (now classified by the Chinese government as part of the Yi ethnic group), practiced a subsistence economy and were, by Chinese standards, extremely poor, their traditional society was stratified into endogamous castes, the most powerful of which owned slaves. With the incorporation of Liangshan into China's new socialist society in the mid-twentieth century, the Nuosu were required to abolish slavery and what the Chinese government considered to be superstitious religious practices. When Han Chinese moved into the area, competing with Nuosu for limited resources and introducing new cultural and economic challenges, some Nuosu took advantage of China's new economic policies in the 1980s to begin private businesses. In *Doing Business in Rural China*, Thomas Heberer tells the stories of individual entrepreneurs and presents a wealth of economic data gleaned from extensive fieldwork in Liangshan. He documents and analyzes the phenomenal growth during the last two decades of Nuosu-run businesses, comparing these with Han-run businesses and asking how ethnicity affects the new market-oriented economic structure and how economics in turn affects Nuosu culture and society. He finds that Nuosu entrepreneurs have effected significant change in local economic structures and social institutions and have financed major social and economic development projects. This economic development has prompted Nuosu entrepreneurs to establish business, political, and social relationships beyond the traditional social confines of the clan, while also fostering awareness and celebration of ethnicity.

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