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Autore	Littler Jo <1972->
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Nota di contenuto	part, I Genealogies / Jo Littler -- chapter Introduction -- Ladders and snakes / Jo Littler -- chapter 1 Meritocracy's genealogies in social theory / Jo Littler -- chapter 2 Rising up -- Gender, ethnicity, class and the meritocratic deficit / Jo Littler -- chapter 3 Meritocratic feeling -- The movement of meritocracy in political rhetoric / Jo Littler -- part, II Popular parables / Jo Littler -- chapter 4 Just like us? -- Normcore plutocrats and the popularisation of elitism / Jo Littler -- chapter 5 #Damsplaining and the unbearable whiteness of merit / Jo Littler -- chapter 6 Desperate success -- Managing the mumpreneur / Jo Littler -- chapter Conclusion -- Beyond neoliberal meritocracy / Jo Littler.
Sommario/riassunto	In this book Jo Littler argues that meritocracy is the key cultural means of legitimation for contemporary neoliberal culture - and that whilst it promises opportunity, it in fact creates new forms of social division. Against Meritocracy is split into two parts. Part I explores the genealogies of meritocracy within social theory, political discourse and working cultures. It traces the dramatic U-turn in meritocracy's meaning, from socialist slur to a contemporary ideal of how a society should be organised. Part II uses a series of case studies to analyse the

cultural pull of popular 'parables of progress', from reality TV to the super-rich and celebrity CEOs, from social media controversies to the rise of the 'mumpreneur'. Paying special attention to the role of gender, 'race' and class, this book provides new conceptualisations of the meaning of meritocracy in contemporary culture and society.

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