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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	1 Conceptualizing Discretion (Tony Evans, Peter Hupe) -- Part I. Discretion in Context -- 2 Discretion in Context: An Introduction (Peter Hupe, Tony Evans) -- 3 Discretion and Blame Avoidance (Christopher Hood) -- 4 Discretion in the Surveillance State (Mark Hardy) -- 5 Discretion in the Welfare State (Evelyn Brodtkin) -- 6 Discretion and Welfare Rights in a British Context (Michael Hill) -- 7 Discretion and Empowerment (Greg Marston, Danielle Davidson) -- Part II. Perspectives on Discretion -- 8 Perspectives on Discretion: An Introduction (Tony Evans, Peter Hupe) -- 9 Discretion from a Legal Perspective (Peter

Mascini) -- 10 Discretion from an Economic Perspective (Dirk Wolfson) -- 11 Discretion from a Psychological Perspective (Lars Tummers, Victor Bekkers) -- 12 Discretion from a Sociological Perspective (Zachary Oberfield) -- 13 Discretion from a Critical Perspective (Hannah Jobling) -- Part III. Discretion in Governance -- 14 Discretion in Governance: An Introduction (Peter Hupe, Tony Evans).-15 Discretion and Bureaucracy (Paul du Gay, Kirstine Zinck Pedersen) -- 16 Discretion in the Policy Process (Peter Hupe, Michael Hill) -- 17 Discretion and Street-Level Practice (Hendrik Wagenaar) -- 18 Organized Discretion (Suzanne Rutz, Antoinette de Bont) -- 19 Managerial Discretion (Catherine Needham) -- 20 Automated Discretion (Stavros Zouridis, Marlies van Eck, Mark Bovens) -- Part IV. Practising Freedom and Control -- 21 Practising Freedom and Control: An Introduction (Tony Evans, Peter Hupe) -- 22 Expertise and the Space for Discretion (Michael Luntley) -- 23 Discretion and Professional Work (Tony Evans) -- 24 The Art of Discretion (Tony Evans) -- 25 Discretion as Ethical Practice (Gideon Calder) -- 26 Controlled Freedom: Dealing with Discretion (Peter Hupe, Tony Evans).

## Sommario/riassunto

'This is an essential compendium for scholars and practitioners who seek to understand the role of discretion as a fundamental element of laws, rules, and social norms. Scholarly perspectives and practical insights are enriched through consideration of the exercise, limits, and abuse of discretion in governing, organizations, and professional practice. The distinguished set of authors makes this an impressive undertaking.' –Peter J. May, Donald R. Matthews Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of Washington, USA 'This volume addresses some of the very important practice dilemmas for professionals in our time. It provides a road map for navigating the contours of working the spaces between the restrictions of rules and the responsiveness to people in shifting contexts. It gives us hope and ways to move forward. A must-read for every professional.' –Jan Fook, Professor and Chair, Department of Social Work, University of Vermont, USA Looking at discretion broadly as the exercise of controlled freedom, this edited volume introduces insights from a range of social sciences perspectives. Traditionally, discussions of discretion have drawn on legal notions of the appropriate exercise of legitimate authority specified by legislators. However, empirical and theoretical studies in the social sciences have extended our understanding of discretion, moving us beyond a narrow legal view. Contributors from a range of disciplines explore the idea of discretion and related notions of freedom and control across social and political practices and in different contexts. As this complex and important topic is discussed and examined, both total control and unconstrained freedom appear to be illusions. Tony Evans is Professor of Social Work at Royal Holloway, University of London, UK. His research interests focus on professional practice and policy work in adult social care. Peter Hupe is Visiting Professor at the Public Governance Institute, KU Leuven, Belgium. He is also Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the College of Social Sciences, University of Birmingham, UK. His research focuses on the theoretical-empirical study of public policy processes, particularly policy implementation and street-level bureaucracy.