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Autore	Joe Deville Michael Guggenheim, Zuzana Hrdli?ková
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Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction: The practices and infrastructures of comparison / Joe Deville, Michael Guggenheim and Zuzana Hrdlickova -- 2. Comparative research: Beyond linear-causal explanation / Monika Krause -- 3. Cross comparison: Comparisons across architectural displays of colonial power / Alice Santiago Faria -- 4. Same, same but different: Provoking relations, assembling the comparator / Joe Deville, Michael Guggenheim and Zuzana Hrdlickova -- 5. Pulling oneself out of the traps of comparison: An autoethnography of a European project / Madeleine Akrich and Vololona Rabeharisoa -- 6. Frame against the grain: Asymmetries, interference and the politics of EU comparison / Tereza Stockelova -- 7. Lateral comparisons / Christopher Gad and Casper Bruun Jensen -- 8. Comparative tinkering with care moves / Peter Lutz -- 9. Comparing comparisons: On rankings and accounting in hospitals and universities / Sarah de Rijcke, Iris Wallenburg, Paul Wouters and Roland Bal -- 10. Steve Jobs, terrorists, gentlemen and punks: Tracing the strange comparisons of biohackers / Morgan Meyer -- 11. Afterword: Spaces of comparison and conceptualisation / Jennifer Robinson

Sommario/riassunto

This book compares things, objects, concepts, and ideas. It is also about the practical acts of doing comparison. Comparison is not something that exists in the world, but a particular kind of activity. Agents of various kinds compare by placing things next to one another, by using software programs and other tools, and by simply looking in certain ways. Comparing like this is an everyday practice. But in the social sciences, comparing often becomes more burdensome, more complex, and more questions are asked of it. How, then, do social scientists compare? What role do funders, their tools, and databases play in social scientific comparisons? Which sorts of objects do they choose to compare and how do they decide which comparisons are meaningful? Doing comparison in the social sciences, it emerges, is a practice weighed down by a history in which comparison was seen as problematic. As it plays out in the present, this history encounters a range of other agents also involved in doing comparison who may challenge the comparisons of social scientists themselves. This book introduces these questions through a varied range of reports, auto-ethnographies, and theoretical interventions that compare and analyse these different and often intersecting comparisons. Its goal is to begin a move away from the critique of comparison and towards a better comparative practice, guided not by abstract principles, but a deeper understanding of the challenges of practising comparison.
