

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910452166503321
Autore	Atran Scott <1952->
Titolo	The native mind and the cultural construction of nature [[electronic resource] /] / Scott Atran and Douglas Medin
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Mass., : MIT Press, c2008
ISBN	0-262-26034-4 0-262-26741-1 1-282-09937-X 9786612099373 1-4356-3174-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (343 p.)
Collana	Life and mind
Altri autori (Persone)	MedinDouglas L
Disciplina	306.4/2
Soggetti	Cognition and culture Electronic books.
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. [291]-320) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; 1 Introduction; 2 Universals and Devolution: General Claims; 3 Study Populations, Methods, and Models; 4 Devolution and Relative Expertise; 5 Development of Folk biological Cognition; 6 Culture as a Notional, Not Natural, Kind; 7 Folk ecology and the Spirit of the Commons: Garden Experiments in Mesoamerica; 8 Cultural Epidemiology; 9 Mental Models and Intergroup Conflict in North America; 10 Conclusions and Projections; Notes; References; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Surveys show that our growing concern over protecting the environment is accompanied by a diminishing sense of human contact with nature. Many people have little commonsense knowledge about nature - are unable, for example, to identify local plants and trees or describe how these plants and animals interact. Researchers report dwindling knowledge of nature even in smaller, nonindustrialized societies. In <i>The Native Mind and the Cultural Construction of Nature</i> , Scott Atran and Douglas Medin trace the cognitive consequences of this loss of knowledge. Drawing on nearly two decades of cross-cultural and developmental research, they examine the relationship between how people think about the natural world and how they act on it and

how these two phenomena are affected by cultural differences. These studies, which involve a series of targeted comparisons among cultural groups living in the same environment and engaged in the same activities, reveal critical universal aspects of mind as well as equally critical cultural differences. Atran and Medin find that, despite a base of universal processes, the cultural differences in understandings of nature are associated with significant differences in environmental decision making as well as intergroup conflict and stereotyping stemming from these differences. The book includes two intensive case studies, one focusing on agro-forestry among Maya Indians and Spanish speakers in Mexico and Guatemala and the other on resource conflict between Native-American and European-American fishermen in Wisconsin. *The Native Mind and the Cultural Construction of Nature* offers new perspectives on general theories of human categorization, reasoning, decision making, and cognitive development.
