

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910454859703321
Autore	Dreger Alice Domurat
Titolo	Hermaphrodites and the medical invention of sex [[electronic resource] /] / Alice Domurat Dreger
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, MA, : Harvard University Press, 1998
ISBN	0-674-03433-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiii, 268 p.) : ill
Disciplina	616.694
Soggetti	Intersexuality - Treatment - France - History - 19th century Intersexuality - Treatment - Great Britain - History - 19th century Intersexuality - Treatment - France - History - 20th century Intersexuality - Treatment - Great Britain - History - 20th century Intersexuality - Treatment - United States Intersexuality - Psychological aspects Sex (Psychology) Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [203]-261) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- ILLUSTRATIONS -- Acknowledgments -- PROLOGUE "But My Good Woman) You Are a Man!" -- CHAPTER 1 Doubtful Sex -- CHAPTER 2 Doubtful Status -- CHAPTER 3 In Search of the Veritable Vulva -- CHAPTER 4 Hermaphrodites in Love -- CHAPTER 5 The Age of Gonads -- EPILOGUE Categorical Imperatives -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Punctuated with remarkable case studies, this book explores extraordinary encounters between hermaphrodites--people born with "ambiguous" sexual anatomy--and the medical and scientific professionals who grappled with them. Alice Dreger focuses on events in France and Britain in the late nineteenth century, a moment of great tension for questions of sex roles. While feminists, homosexuals, and anthropological explorers openly questioned the natures and purposes of the two sexes, anatomical hermaphrodites suggested a deeper question: just how many human sexes are there? Ultimately hermaphrodites led doctors and scientists to another surprisingly

difficult question: what is sex, really? *Hermaphrodites and the Medical Invention of Sex* takes us inside the doctors' chambers to see how and why medical and scientific men constructed sex, gender, and sexuality as they did, and especially how the material conformation of hermaphroditic bodies--when combined with social exigencies--forced peculiar constructions. Throughout the book Dreger indicates how this history can help us to understand present-day conceptualizations of sex, gender, and sexuality. This leads to an epilogue, where the author discusses and questions the protocols employed today in the treatment of intersexuals (people born hermaphroditic). Given the history she has recounted, should these protocols be reconsidered and revised? A meticulously researched account of a fascinating problem in the history of medicine, this book will compel the attention of historians, physicians, medical ethicists, intersexuals themselves, and anyone interested in the meanings and foundations of sexual identity.
