Record Nr. UNINA9910454920303321 Autore Ellenzweig Sarah **Titolo** The fringes of belief [[electronic resource]]: English literature, ancient heresy, and the politics of freethinking, 1660-1760 / / Sarah Ellenzweig Stanford, Calif., : Stanford University Press, c2008 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 0-8047-6979-6 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (255 p.) Disciplina 820.9/382 Soggetti English literature - 18th century - History and criticism English literature - Early modern, 1500-1700 - History and criticism Free thought in literature Christianity and literature - England - History - 17th century Christianity and literature - England - History - 18th century Free thought - England - History - 17th century Free thought - England - History - 18th century Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (p. [209]-227) and index. Nota di contenuto Introduction: literary culture, the classical past, and the rise of Restoration freethinking -- Libertine precursors. Rochester, Blount, and the faith of unbelief -- Behn, Fontenelle, and the cheats of revealed religion -- Skepticism and piety. Swift's Tale of a tub and the anthropology of religion -- Suspending disbelief: Swift, credulity, and the pious fraud -- Conclusion: Pope's "Essay on man" and the afterlife of English freethinking. Sommario/riassunto A literary study of freethinking and religious skepticism in the English Enlightenment. Ellenzweig argues that a literature of English freethinking has been overlooked because it unexpectedly supported aspects of institutional religion. She analyzes works by, among others,

John Wilmot, Aphra Behn, Swift and Pope.