

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910458964303321
Autore	Humphrey Nicholas
Titolo	Soul Dust : The Magic of Consciousness / / Nicholas Humphrey
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, NJ : , : Princeton University Press, , [2011] ©2011
ISBN	1-283-00132-2 9786613001320 1-4008-3807-X
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (256 p.)
Disciplina	126
Soggetti	Consciousness 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 (pages 217-238) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Invitation -- Prelude -- 1. Coming-to Explained -- Part One -- 2. Being "Like Something" -- 3. Sentition -- 4. Looping the Loop -- Part two -- 5. So What? -- 6. Being There -- 7. The Enchanted World -- 8. So That Is Who I Am! -- 9. Being Number One -- Part Three -- 10. Entering the Soul Niche -- 11. Dangerous Territory -- 12. Cheating Death -- Envoi -- Acknowledgments -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	How is consciousness possible? What biological purpose does it serve? And why do we value it so highly? In Soul Dust, the psychologist Nicholas Humphrey, a leading figure in consciousness research, proposes a startling new theory. Consciousness, he argues, is nothing less than a magical-mystery show that we stage for ourselves inside our own heads. This self-made show lights up the world for us and makes us feel special and transcendent. Thus consciousness paves the way for spirituality, and allows us, as human beings, to reap the rewards, and anxieties, of living in what Humphrey calls the "soul niche." Tightly argued, intellectually gripping, and a joy to read, Soul Dust provides answers to the deepest questions. It shows how the problem of consciousness merges with questions that obsess us all-- how life should be lived and the fear of death. Resting firmly on

neuroscience and evolutionary theory, and drawing a wealth of insights from philosophy and literature, *Soul Dust* is an uncompromising yet life-affirming work--one that never loses sight of the majesty and wonder of consciousness.
