

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910460398603321
Autore	Pickering Andrew
Titolo	The mangle of practice [[electronic resource]] : time, agency, and science / / Andrew Pickering
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, 1995
ISBN	1-283-05849-9 9786613058492 0-226-66825-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (297 p.)
Classificazione	UB 6000
Disciplina	501
Soggetti	Science - Philosophy Science - Social aspects 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. 253-273) and index.
Nota di contenuto	pt. 1. Instantiations -- pt. 2. Articulations.
Sommario/riassunto	This ambitious book by one of the most original and provocative thinkers in science studies offers a sophisticated new understanding of the nature of scientific, mathematical, and engineering practice and the production of scientific knowledge. Andrew Pickering offers a new approach to the unpredictable nature of change in science, taking into account the extraordinary number of factors-social, technological, conceptual, and natural-that interact to affect the creation of scientific knowledge. In his view, machines, instruments, facts, theories, conceptual and mathematical structures, disciplined practices, and human beings are in constantly shifting relationships with one another-"mangled" together in unforeseeable ways that are shaped by the contingencies of culture, time, and place. Situating material as well as human agency in their larger cultural context, Pickering uses case studies to show how this picture of the open, changeable nature of science advances a richer understanding of scientific work both past and present. Pickering examines in detail the building of the bubble chamber in particle physics, the search for the quark, the construction of the quaternion system in mathematics, and the introduction of

computer-controlled machine tools in industry. He uses these examples to address the most basic elements of scientific practice-the development of experimental apparatus, the production of facts, the development of theory, and the interrelation of machines and social organization.
