

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910463720903321
Autore	Morgan Jennifer L (Jennifer Lyle)
Titolo	Laboring women [[electronic resource] ] : reproduction and gender in New World slavery // Jennifer L. Morgan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2004
ISBN	0-8122-1873-6 1-283-89761-X 0-8122-0637-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource : illustrations, maps
Collana	Early American Studies
Disciplina	306.3/62/082097
Soggetti	Women slaves - North America - Social conditions Women slaves - West Indies, British - Social conditions Sex role - North America - History Sex role - West Indies, British - History Human reproduction - Social aspects - North America - History Human reproduction - Social aspects - West Indies, British - History Slavery - North America - History Slavery - West Indies, British - History Electronic books. North America Race relations West Indies, British Race relations
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [251]-271) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Note on Sources -- Introduction -- Chapter 1. "Some Could Suckle over Their Shoulder": Male Travelers, Female Bodies, and the Gendering of Racial Ideology -- Chapter 2. "The Number of Women Doeth Much Disparayes the Whole Cargoe": The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and West African Gender Roles -- Chapter 3. "The Breedings Shall Goe with Their Mothers": Gender and Evolving Practices of Slave ownership in the English American Colonies -- Chapter 4. "Hannah and Hir Children": Reproduction and Creolization Among Enslaved Women -- Chapter 5. "Women's Sweat": Gender and Agricultural Labor in the Atlantic World -- Chapter 6

---

Sommario/riassunto

When black women were brought from Africa to the New World as slave laborers, their value was determined by their ability to work as well as their potential to bear children, who by law would become the enslaved property of the mother's master. In *Laboring Women: Reproduction and Gender in New World Slavery*, Jennifer L. Morgan examines for the first time how African women's labor in both senses became intertwined in the English colonies. Beginning with the ideological foundations of racial slavery in early modern Europe, *Laboring Women* traverses the Atlantic, exploring the social and cultural lives of women in West Africa, slaveowners' expectations for reproductive labor, and women's lives as workers and mothers under colonial slavery. Challenging conventional wisdom, Morgan reveals how expectations regarding gender and reproduction were central to racial ideologies, the organization of slave labor, and the nature of slave community and resistance. Taking into consideration the heritage of Africans prior to enslavement and the cultural logic of values and practices recreated under the duress of slavery, she examines how women's gender identity was defined by their shared experiences as agricultural laborers and mothers, and shows how, given these distinctions, their situation differed considerably from that of enslaved men. Telling her story through the arc of African women's actual lives—from West Africa, to the experience of the Middle Passage, to life on the plantations—she offers a thoughtful look at the ways women's reproductive experience shaped their roles in communities and helped them resist some of the more egregious effects of slave life. Presenting a highly original, theoretically grounded view of reproduction and labor as the twin pillars of female exploitation in slavery, *Laboring Women* is a distinctive contribution to the literature of slavery and the history of women.

---