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Altri autori (Persone)	BarneyRichard A CampbellTimothy C ChakravortyMrinalini FordJames Edward GoldsteinAmanda Jo MachereyPierre MannAnnika MaroubyChristian MontagWarren PackhamCatherine SerranoJoseph
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Adam Smith's Political Economy: Nature, Vitalism, and Bioeconomic Life -- five. Vitalism's Revolution: John Thelwall, Life, and the Economy of Radical Politics -- six. Writing Generation: Revolutionary Bodies and the Poetics of Political Economy -- seven. William Blake and the Time of Ontogeny -- eight. Concerning Hunger: Empire Aesthetics in the Present Moment -- nine. The Hero Takes a Fall: Gravity, Comedy, and Darwin's Entangled Bank -- Acknowledgments -- Contributors -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

Systems of Life offers a wide-ranging reevaluation of the emergence of biopolitics in Europe from the mid-eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth century. In staging an encounter among literature, political economy, and the still emergent sciences of life in that historical moment, the essays collected here reopen the question of how concepts of animal, vegetable, and human life, among other biological registers, had an impact on the Enlightenment project of thinking politics and economics as a joint enterprise. The volume's contributors consider politics, economics, and the biological as distinct, semi-autonomous spheres whose various combinations required inventive, sometimes incomplete, acts of conceptual mediation, philosophical negotiation, disciplinary intervention, or aesthetic representation.
