Record Nr. UNINA9910484030003321 Autore Drucker Donna J Titolo The machines of sex research: technology and the politics of identity, 1945-1985 / / Donna J. Drucker New York, : Springer, 2014 Pubbl/distr/stampa 94-007-7064-2 **ISBN** Edizione [1st ed. 2014.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (104 p.) SpringerBriefs in history of science and technology, , 2211-4564 Collana Disciplina 306.7072 Soggetti Sexology - Research 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. Nota di contenuto Acknowledgements -- Chapter 1: The Machines of Sex Research --Chapter 2: The Penile Strain Gauge and Aversion Therapy: Measuring and Fixing the Sexual Body -- Chapter 3: The Couples Laboratory and the Penis-Camera: Seeking the Source of Orgasm -- Chapter 4: The Vaginal Photoplethysmograph and Devices for Women: Gauging Female Arousal -- Conclusion: The Future of Human Sex Research Technologies. Sommario/riassunto The Machines of Sex Research describes how researchers worldwide integrated technology into studies of human sexuality in the postwar era. The machines they invented made new ways of seeing bodies possible. Some researchers who studied men used machines like penile strain gauges to police "deviant" male sexuality; others used less painful devices like penis-cameras to study women's sexual responses and map the physiology of their arousal and orgasm. While researchers used the findings from their technological innovations to propose their own views of how people should view their bodies and should manage their sexual lives, their readers interpreted their findings to enact their own visions of sexuality. Drucker shows how the use of machines in sex research provided some of the intellectual underpinnings of the sexual revolution and the women's and gay rights movements, and in turn how the sex research community developed new machines for

investigations that would enhance sexual happiness rather than constrict it. The Machines of Sex Research is a key read for those interested in the intersections between human sexuality, technology.

and twentieth-century social movements. Describes the little-known history of the machines of human sex research in the postwar era Shows how researchers worldwide invented and used machines to study human sexuality and the body in new ways, and how they used and improved each other's designs Relates the relationship between the machines of sex research to Cold War sexualities and gender and sexual liberation movements.