

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910493739803321
Autore	Spieler Sophie <p>Sophie Spieler, Freie Universität Berlin, Deutschland</p>
Titolo	The Wealthy, the Brilliant, the Few : Elite Education in Contemporary American Discourse / Sophie Spieler
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bielefeld, : transcript Verlag, 2021
ISBN	9783839457290 3839457297
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (276 p.)
Collana	American Culture Studies
Disciplina	970.980
Soggetti	Social Stratification Distinction Meritocracy Campus Novels Capital Princeton Elite Education Class Discourse Analysis Neoliberalism Ivy League Curtis Sittenfeld Literature Education America American Studies Cultural Studies Cultural Theory Literary Studies
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter 1 Contents 5 Acknowledgements 7 Introduction 9

1. Introductory Remarks	21	2. Starting Points: Eliteness and Education in American Culture	21	3. 'Very Important, Very Powerful, or Very Prominent': Eliteness in America	29	4. 'Excellence and Equity': Merit as the Price of Admission	50	5. 'A Touchy Subject'? Class and Elite Education	58	6. Concluding Remarks	67
1. Introductory Remarks	69	2. Mapping the Critical Landscape	73	3. Progressivist Critiques	83	4. Conservative Critiques	95	5. Concluding Remarks	110	1. Introductory Remarks	113
2. Elite College Admissions: A Discourse of Impossibility and Pathology	118	3. A Meritocracy of Affect	123	4. Epistemological Frames: Diversity, the Good Life, Community	135	5. Concluding Remarks	170	1. Introductory Remarks	175	2. Exposition: Fiction in the Discourse of Elite Education	178
3. Prep in the Discourse: Publicity, 'Preppiness', and the Neoliberal Imagination	186	4. Diversity, Class, Mobility: Prep's Cultural Work	211	5. Concluding Remarks	242	Conclusion	249	Works Cited	257		

Sommario/riassunto

How does the US make sense of its elite educational system, given that it seems to be at odds with core American values, such as equality of opportunity or upward mobility? Sophie Spieler explores scholarly and journalistic investigations, self-representational texts, and fictional narratives revolving around the Ivy League and its peers in order to understand elite education and its peculiar position in American cultural discourse. Among the book's most surprising and groundbreaking insights is the tenacity and adaptability of meritocratic ideology across all three sub-discourses, despite its fundamental incompatibility with the American educational system.