

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910779092403321
Autore	Wake Naoko
Titolo	Private practices [[electronic resource] ] : Harry Stack Sullivan, the science of homosexuality, and American liberalism / / Naoko Wake
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Brunswick, N.J., : Rutgers University Press, 2011
ISBN	1-283-86424-X 0-8135-5107-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (281 p.)
Disciplina	616.890092 B
Soggetti	Gay psychiatrists - United States Homosexuality - United States - History - 20th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Updated version of author's doctoral thesis--Indiana University, 2005.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	A man, a doctor, and his patients -- Illness within a hospital and without -- Life history for science and subjectivity -- Homosexuality : the stepchild of interwar liberalism -- The military, psychiatry, and "unfit" soldiers -- "One-man" liberalism goes to the world.
Sommario/riassunto	Private Practices examines the relationship between science, sexuality, gender, race, and culture in the making of modern America between 1920 and 1950, when contradictions among liberal intellectuals affected the rise of U.S. conservatism. Naoko Wake focuses on neo-Freudian, gay psychiatrist Harry Stack Sullivan, founder of the interpersonal theory of mental illness. She explores medical and social scientists' conflicted approach to homosexuality, particularly the views of scientists who themselves lived closeted lives. Wake discovers that there was a gap--often dramatic, frequently subtle--between these scientists' "public" understanding of homosexuality (as a "disease") and their personal, private perception (which questioned such a stigmatizing view). This breach revealed a modern culture in which self-awareness and open-mindedness became traits of "mature" gender and sexual identities. Scientists considered individuals of society lacking these traits to be "immature," creating an unequal relationship between practitioners and their subjects. In assessing how

these dynamics--the disparity between public and private views of homosexuality and the uneven relationship between scientists and their subjects--worked to shape each other, *Private Practices* highlights the limits of the scientific approach to subjectivity and illuminates its strange career--sexual subjectivity in particular--in modern U.S. culture.

---