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Titolo	Natural reflections [[electronic resource]] : human cognition at the nexus of science and religion // Barbara Herrnstein Smith
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven [Conn.], : Yale University Press, c2009
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Collana	The Terry lectures
Disciplina	201/.65
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Note generali	Book is adapted from the Dwight H. Terry Lectures delivered at Yale University in 2006.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 179-191) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Prophecies, predictions, and human cognition -- Cognitive machinery and explanatory ambitions : the new naturalism -- "The gods seem here to stay" : naturalism, rationalism, and the persistence of belief -- Deep reading : the new natural theology -- Reflections : science and religion, natural and unnatural.
Sommario/riassunto	In this important and original book, eminent scholar Barbara Herenstein Smith describes, assesses, and reflects upon a set of contemporary intellectual projects involving science, religion, and human cognition. One, which Smith calls "the New Naturalism", is the effort to explain religion on the basis of cognitive science. Another, which she calls "the New Natural Theology", is the attempt to reconcile natural-scientific accounts of the world with traditional religious belief. These two projects, she suggests, are in many ways mirror images -- or "natural reflections" - of each other. Examining these and related efforts from the perspective of a constructivist-pragmatist epistemology, Smith argues that crucial aspects of belief - religious and other - that remain elusive or invisible under dominant rationalist and computational models are illuminated by views of human cognition that stress its dynamic, embodied, and interactive features. She also demonstrates how constructivist understandings of the formation and stabilization of knowledge - scientific and other - alert us to similarities in the springs of science and religion that are elsewhere seen largely in terms of

difference and contrast. In *Natural Reflections*, Smith develops a sophisticated approach to issues often framed only polemically. Recognizing science and religion as complex, distinct domains of human practice, she also insists on their significant historical connections and cognitive continuities and offers important new modes of engagement with each of them--Jacket.
