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Nota di contenuto	Notes on Contributors -- 1. Introduction: Regulating Relationships? -- FATEMEH EBTEHAJ -- Part 1: Who is Kin and what does it mean to be Kin in Contemporary British Society? -- 2. 'Close Marriage' in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Middle Strata -- LEONORE DAVIDOFF -- 3. Status Anxiety? : The Rush for Family Recognition -- ANDREW BAINHAM -- 4. DNA Testing and Kinship: Paternity, Genealogy and the Search for the 'Truth' of Genetic Origins -- TABITHA FREEMAN and MARTIN RICHARDS -- Part 2: Kin Care of children and adolescents -- 5. Children and Their Changing Families: Obligations, Responsibilities, and Benefits -- JAN PRYOR -- 6. Substitute Care of Children by Members of Their Extended Families and Social Networks: An Overview -- JOAN HUNT -- 7. Recognising Carers for hat they do - Legal Problems and Solutions for the Kinship Care of Children -- JUDITH MASSON and BRIDGET LINDLEY -- 8. Restorative Practices: Repairing Harm through Kith and Kin -- LORRAINE GELSTHORPE with LAYLA SKINNS -- Part 3: Kin Contact and Care of Elderly People -- 9. Gender and Kinship in Contemporary Britain -- JANE NOLAN and JACQUELINE

SCOTT -- 10. Kin Availability, Contact and Support Exchanges between Adult Children and their Parents in Great Britain -- EMILY GRUNDY and MICHAEL MURPHY -- 11. Maintenance of the Elderly and Legal Signalling - Kinship and State -- MIKA OLDHAM -- Part 4: Migrant Communities and Transnational kinship -- 12. The Impact of Migration on Care: Iranian Experiences -- FATEMEH EBTEHAJ -- 13. Family Care and Transnational Kinship: British-Pakistani Experiences -- KAVERI HARRISS and ALISON SHAW -- 14. Kinship, Infertility and New Reproductive Technologies: A British-Pakistani Muslim Perspective -- NAZALIE IQBAL and ROBERT SIMPSON -- Afterword -- 15. Kinship as "Family" in Contemporary Britain -- JANET FINCH -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

This book is the fifth in the Cambridge Socio-Legal Group series and it concerns the evolving notions and practices of kinship in contemporary Britain and the interrelationship of kinship, law and social policy. Assembling contributions from scholars in a range of disciplines, it examines social, legal, cultural and psychological questions related to kinship. Rising rates of divorce and of alternative modes of partnership have raised questions about the care and well-being of children, while increasing longevity and mobility, together with lower birth rates and changes in our economic circumstances, have led to a reconsideration of duties and responsibilities towards the care of elderly people. In addition, globalisation trends and international flows of migrants and refugees have confronted us with alternative constructions of kinship and with the challenges of maintaining kinship ties transnationally. Finally, new developments in genetics research and the growing use of assisted reproductive technologies may raise questions about our notions of kinship and of kin rights and responsibilities. The book explores these changes from various perspectives and draws on theoretical and empirical data to describe practices of kinship in contemporary Britain
