

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910784307903321
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Titolo	Spectacles of truth in classical Greek philosophy : theoria in its cultural context / / Andrea Wilson Nightingale [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2004
ISBN	1-107-15058-2 1-280-54109-1 0-511-21497-9 0-511-21676-9 0-511-21139-2 0-511-31549-X 0-511-48256-6 0-511-21316-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (x, 311 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	184
Soggetti	Philosophy, Ancient Truth Knowledge, Theory of
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 269-299) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction : theorizing the ancient theorists -- Theoria as a cultural practice -- Inventing philosophic theoria -- The fable of philosophy in Plato's Republic -- Theorizing the beautiful body : from Plato to Philip of Opus -- "Useless" knowledge : Aristotle's rethinking of theoria -- Epilogue : "broken knowledge"? : theoria and wonder.
Sommario/riassunto	In fourth-century Greece (BCE), the debate over the nature of philosophy generated a novel claim: that the highest form of wisdom is theoria, the rational 'vision' of metaphysical truths (the 'spectator theory of knowledge'). This 2004 book offers an original analysis of the construction of 'theoretical' philosophy in fourth-century Greece. In the effort to conceptualise and legitimise theoretical philosophy, the philosophers turned to a venerable cultural practice: theoria (state pilgrimage). In this practice, an individual journeyed abroad as an

official witness of sacralized spectacles. This book examines the philosophic appropriation and transformation of *theoria*, and analyses the competing conceptions of theoretical wisdom in fourth-century philosophy. By tracing the link between traditional and philosophic *theoria*, this book locates the creation of theoretical philosophy in its historical context, analysing *theoria* as a cultural and an intellectual practice. It develops a new, interdisciplinary approach, drawing on philosophy, history and literary studies.
