

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910785283003321
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Titolo	The artificial ear [[electronic resource] ] : cochlear implants and the culture of deafness // Stuart Blume
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Brunswick, N.J., : Rutgers University Press, c2010
ISBN	0-8135-4911-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (239 p.)
Disciplina	617.8/8220592
Soggetti	Cochlear implants - Social aspects Cochlear implants - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Chapter 1. The Promise of New Medical Technology -- Chapter 2. The Making of the Cochlear Implant -- Chapter 3. The Cochlear Implant and the Deaf Community -- Chapter 4. The Globalization of a Controversial Technology -- Chapter 5. Implantation Politics in the Netherlands -- Chapter 6. Contexts of Uncertainty: Parental Decision Making -- Chapter 7. Politics and Medical Progress -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	When it was first developed, the cochlear implant was hailed as a "miracle cure" for deafness. That relatively few deaf adults seemed to want it was puzzling. The technology was then modified for use with deaf children, 90 percent of whom have hearing parents. Then, controversy struck as the Deaf community overwhelmingly protested the use of the device and procedure. For them, the cochlear implant was not viewed in the context of medical progress and advances in the physiology of hearing, but instead represented the historic oppression of deaf people and of sign languages. Part ethnography and part historical study, The Artificial Ear is based on interviews with researchers who were pivotal in the early development and implementation of the new technology. Through an analysis of the scientific and clinical literature, Stuart Blume reconstructs the history of artificial hearing from its conceptual origins in the 1930's, to the first attempt at cochlear implantation in Paris in the 1950's, and to the widespread clinical application of the "bionic ear" since the 1980's.

