

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910786765103321
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Titolo	The transmission of affect / / Teresa Brennan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca, New York : , : Cornell University Press, , 2004 ©2004
ISBN	0-8014-7136-2 1-322-52241-3 0-8014-7137-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (242 p.)
Classificazione	CP 3200
Disciplina	152.4
Soggetti	Affect (Psychology) - Social aspects
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 -- Foreword / Teachout, Woden -- CHAPTER ONE. Introduction -- CHAPTER TWO. The Transmission of Affect in the Clinic -- CHAPTER THREE. Transmission in Groups -- CHAPTER FOUR. The New Paradigm -- CHAPTER FIVE. The Sealing of the Heart -- CHAPTER SIX. The Education of the Senses -- CHAPTER SEVEN. Interpreting the Flesh -- Notes -- Works Cited -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The idea that one can soak up someone else's depression or anxiety or sense the tension in a room is familiar. Indeed, phrases that capture this notion abound in the popular vernacular: "negative energy," "dumping," "you could cut the tension with a knife." The Transmission of Affect deals with the belief that the emotions and energies of one person or group can be absorbed by or can enter directly into another. The ability to borrow or share states of mind, once historically and culturally assumed, is now pathologized, as Teresa Brennan shows in relation to affective transfer in psychiatric clinics and the prevalence of psychogenic illness in contemporary life. To neglect the mechanism by which affect is transmitted, the author claims, has serious consequences for science and medical research. Brennan's theory of affect is based on constant communication between individuals and their physical and social environments. Her important book details the relationships among affect, energy, and "new maladies of the soul,"

including attention deficit disorder, chronic fatigue syndrome, codependency, and fibromyalgia.
