Record Nr. UNINA9910787430403321 Autore Wirth Christa Titolo Memories of belonging: descendants of Italian migrants to the United States, 1884-present / / by Christa Wirth Pubbl/distr/stampa Leiden, Netherlands;; Boston, [Massachusetts]:,: Brill,, 2015 ©2015 **ISBN** 90-04-28457-5 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (420 p.) Studies in Global Social History, , 1874-6705; ; Volume 17 Collana Studies in Global Migration History: Volume 5 Disciplina 973/.0451 Soggetti Italian Americans - Massachusetts - Worcester - History Italian Americans - Ethnic identity Italian Americans - History United States Emigration and immigration History Italy Emigration and immigration History Worcester (Mass.) Ethnic relations Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese Materiale a stampa **Formato** Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Preliminary Material -- Introduction -- Oral History Methodology and Nota di contenuto Networks of Memory -- Transnational Migration Networks: The Paese in the Rising Global Economy -- Memories of Everyday Life I: Hard Work and Family Life -- Memories of Everyday Life II: Rural, Urban, and Suburban Environments -- Memories of Italianness: Pride, Prejudice, and Consumption -- Memories of Elvira and Giovanni Soloperto: In the Shadows of Memory and Dantes Divine Comedy -- Memories of the American Dream: Migration, Assimilation, and the Homeland --Conclusion -- Epilogue: Italian Americans as the Poster Children of the Immigrant Paradigm? -- Appendix -- Bibliography -- Index. Sommario/riassunto Memories of Belonging is a three-generation oral-history study of the offspring of southern Italians who migrated to Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1913. Supplemented with the interviewees' private documents and working from U.S. and Italian archives, Christa Wirth

> documents a century of transatlantic migration, assimilation, and latergeneration self-identification. Her research reveals how memories of

migration, everyday life, and ethnicity are passed down through the generations, altered, and contested while constituting family identities. The fact that not all descendants of Italian migrants moved into the U.S. middle class, combined with their continued use of hyphenated identities, points to a history of lived ethnicity and societal exclusion. Moreover, this book demonstrates the extent of forgetting that is required in order to construct an ethnic identity.