

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790344503321
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Titolo	The economics of freedom : theory, measurement, and policy implications / / Sebastiano Bavetta, Pietro Navarra [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2012
ISBN	1-107-23079-9 1-139-50631-5 1-280-77407-X 9786613684844 1-139-51779-1 1-139-08473-9 1-139-51521-7 1-139-51429-6 1-139-51686-8 1-139-51872-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xvi, 205 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Classificazione	BUS039000
Disciplina	330
Soggetti	Economics - Political aspects Liberty - Economic aspects Autonomy - Economic aspects
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- Part I. Concepts and Tools: 2. Choice and freedom; 3. Measuring autonomy freedom; 4. The empirical measure of autonomy -- Part II. Autonomy Freedom and the Welfare State: 5. Why redistribute?; 6. Autonomy freedom and redistribution; 7. Autonomy freedom and welfare spending; 8. Choice, freedom, and the good society.
Sommario/riassunto	What is freedom? Can we measure it? Does it affect policy? This book develops an original measure of freedom called 'Autonomy Freedom', consistent with J. S. Mill's view of autonomy, and applies it to issues in policy and political design. The work pursues three aims. First, it

extends classical liberalism beyond exclusive reliance on negative freedom so as to take autonomous behavior explicitly into account. Second, it grounds on firm conceptual foundations a new standard in the measurement of freedom that can be fruitfully coupled with existing gauges. Third, it shows empirically that individual preferences for redistribution and cross-country differences in welfare spending in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries are driven by the degree of 'autonomy freedom' that individuals enjoy. By means of an interdisciplinary approach and a sophisticated econometric methodology, the book takes an explicit stand in defense of freedom and sets the basis for a liberalism based upon people's actions and institutions.

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