1.	Record Nr.	UNINA9910791244803321
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	Titolo	Dances with spiders [[electronic resource]] : crisis, celebrity and celebration in southern Italy / / Karen Ludtke
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Berghahn Books, 2009
	ISBN	1-282-62739-2
		9786612627392
		1-84545-875-3
	Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (272 p.)
	Collana	Epistemologies of healing ; ; v. 4
	Disciplina	793.319457
	Soggetti	Tarantella - Italy - Salentina Peninsula
		Tarantism - Italy - Salentina Peninsula
		Medical anthropology - Italy - Salentina Peninsula
		Salentina Peninsula (Italy) Social life and customs
		Salentina Peninsula (Italy) Folklore
	Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
	Formato	Materiale a stampa
	Livello bibliografico	Monografia
	Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
	Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 221-238), filmography (p. 239), and index.
	Nota di contenuto	Title page-Dances with Spiders; Contents; List of Illustrations; Acknowledgements; Preface; Introduction; Part I-Past and Present Spider Webs; CH 1-Seeking St Paul; CH 2-Webs through Time; Part II-The Spider's Cult Today; CH 3-Curing Myths and fictive cures; CH 4-Ads and antidotes; CH 5-Sensing Identities and Well-being; Part III-From Ritual to Limelight; CH 6-Spider WoMen transfixed; CH 7-Tarantula threads and showbiz airs; CH 8-Spider WoMen transformed; Part IV-Conclusion; CH 9-Dancing Beyond Spiders; Epilogue; Bibliography; Filmography; Index
	Sommario/riassunto	For centuries, the rite of the tarantula was the only cure for those 'bitten' or 'possessed' by the mythic Apulian spider. Its victims had to dance to the local tarantella or 'pizzica' for days on end. Today, the pizzica has returned to the limelight, bringing to the forefront issues of performance, gender, identity and well-being. This book explores how and why the pizzica has boomed in the Salento and elsewhere and asks whether this current popu- larity has anything to do with the historic