

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910793104003321
Autore	Hunter James Davison <1955->
Titolo	Science and the good : the tragic quest for the foundations of morality // James Davison Hunter, Paul Nedelisky
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven ; , : Yale University Press : , : Templeton Press, , [2018] ©2018
ISBN	0-300-24040-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (256 p.) : 10 b-w illus
Collana	Foundational questions in science
Disciplina	174.95
Soggetti	Science - Moral and ethical aspects Right and wrong Ethics, Evolutionary
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Preface. The Argument, in Brief -- Part I. Introduction -- Part II. The Historical Quest -- Part III. The Quest Thus Far -- Part IV. Enduring Quandries -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Why efforts to create a scientific basis of morality are neither scientific nor moral In this illuminating book, James Davison Hunter and Paul Nedelisky trace the origins and development of the centuries-long, passionate, but ultimately failed quest to discover a scientific foundation for morality. The "new moral science" led by such figures as E. O. Wilson, Patricia Churchland, Sam Harris, Jonathan Haidt, and Joshua Greene is only the newest manifestation of that quest. Though claims for its accomplishments are often wildly exaggerated, this new iteration has been no more successful than its predecessors. But rather than giving up in the face of this failure, the new moral science has taken a surprising turn. Whereas earlier efforts sought to demonstrate what is right and wrong, the new moral scientists have concluded, ironically, that right and wrong don't actually exist. Their (perhaps unwitting) moral nihilism turns the science of morality into a social engineering project. If there is nothing moral for science to discover, the science of morality becomes, at best, a feeble program to achieve

arbitrary societal goals. Concise and rigorously argued, *Science and the Good* is a definitive critique of a would-be science that has gained extraordinary influence in public discourse today and an exposé of that project's darker turn.
