

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910808650703321
Autore	Weissman David
Titolo	Spinoza's dream : on nature and meaning / / David Weissman
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin, [Germany] ; ; Boston, [Massachusetts] : , : De Gruyter, , 2016 ©2016
ISBN	3-11-047925-7 3-11-047981-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (202 p.)
Collana	Categories, , 2198-1868 ; ; Volume 7
Disciplina	110
Soggetti	Philosophy of nature Meaning (Philosophy)
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Acknowledgment -- Contents -- Introduction -- 1. Nature -- 2. Silent Conditions -- 3. Existence Proofs -- 4. Other Ontologies -- 5. Meaning, value, and truth -- 6. Practical Life -- 7. Mental functions -- 8. Last thoughts -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Meaning (significance) and nature are this book's principal topics. They seem an odd couple, like raisins and numbers, though they elide when meanings of a global sort—ideologies and religions, for example—promote ontologies that subordinate nature. Setting one against the other makes reality contentious. It signifies workmates and a coal face to miners, gluons to physicists, prayer and redemption to priests. Are there many realities, or many perspectives on one? The answer I prefer is the comprehensive naturalism anticipated by Aristotle and Spinoza: "natura naturans, natura naturata." Nature naturing is an array of mutually conditioning material processes in spacetime. Each structure or event—storm clouds forming, nature natured—is self-differentiating, self-stabilizing, and sometimes self-disassembling; each alters or transforms a pre-existing state of affairs. This surmise anticipated discoveries and analyses to which neither thinker had access, though physics and biology confirm their hypothesis beyond reasonable doubt. Hence the question this book considers: Is reality divided:nature vrs. lived experience? Or is experience, with all its meanings and values, the

complex expression of natural processes?
