

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910810807303321
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Titolo	The uses of the past from Heidegger to Rorty : doing philosophy historically // Robert Piercey
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, UK ; ; New York, : Cambridge University Press, 2009
ISBN	1-107-19139-4 9786612058639 0-511-57625-0 0-511-50851-4 0-511-50492-6 0-511-50917-0 0-511-50706-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 221 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	190.9/04
Soggetti	Philosophy, Modern - 20th century Philosophy - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 24 Feb 2016).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 212-218) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: The uses of the past -- 1. Doing philosophy historically -- 2. The role of narrative -- 3. Defending the historical thesis -- 4. The critical approach: MacIntyre -- 5. The diagnostic approach: Heidegger -- 6. The synthetic approach: Ricoeur.
Sommario/riassunto	In this book Robert Piercey asks how it is possible to do philosophy by studying the thinkers of the past. He develops his answer through readings of Martin Heidegger, Richard Rorty, Paul Ricoeur, Alasdair MacIntyre and other historically-minded philosophers. Piercey shows that what is distinctive about these figures is a concern with philosophical pictures - extremely general conceptions of what the world is like - rather than specific theories. He offers a comprehensive and illuminating exploration of the way in which these thinkers use narrative to evaluate and criticise these pictures. The result is a powerful and original account of how philosophers use the past.