

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910811016103321
Autore	Riskin Jessica
Titolo	Science in the age of sensibility : the sentimental empiricists of the French enlightenment // Jessica Riskin
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, 2002
ISBN	1-282-93288-8 9786612932885 0-226-72085-3
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (355 p.)
Classificazione	TB 2360
Disciplina	509.44/09/033
Soggetti	Science - France - History - 18th century Enlightenment - France Sensitivity (Personality trait)
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. [289]-321) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Acknowledgments -- Abbreviations -- Chapter One. Introduction: Sensibility and Enlightenment Science -- Chapter Two. The Blind and the Mathematically Inclined -- Chapter Three. Poor Richard's Leyden Jar -- Chapter Four. From Electricity to Economy -- Chapter Five. The Lawyer and the Lightning Rod -- Chapter Six. The Mesmerism Investigation and the Crisis of Sensibilist Science -- Chapter Seven. Languages of Science and Revolution -- Chapter Eight. Conclusion: The Legacy of the Sentimental Empiricists -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Empiricism today implies the dispassionate scrutiny of facts. But Jessica Riskin finds that in the French Enlightenment, empiricism was intimately bound up with sensibility. In what she calls a "sentimental empiricism," natural knowledge was taken to rest on a blend of experience and emotion. Riskin argues that sentimental empiricism brought together ideas and institutions, practices and politics. She shows, for instance, how the study of blindness, led by ideas about the mental and moral role of vision and by cataract surgeries, shaped the first school for the blind; how Benjamin Franklin's electrical physics, ascribing desires to nature, engaged French economic reformers; and

how the question of the role of language in science and social life linked disputes over Antoine Lavoisier's new chemical names to the founding of France's modern system of civic education. Recasting the Age of Reason by stressing its conjunction with the Age of Sensibility, Riskin offers an entirely new perspective on the development of modern science and the history of the Enlightenment.

---