

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910811191803321
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Titolo	Profession of conscience : the making and meaning of life-sciences liberalism // Robert Hunt Sprinkle
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, N.J., : Princeton University Press, c1994
ISBN	1-282-75215-4 9786612752155 1-4008-2158-4 1-4008-1348-4
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (268 p.)
Disciplina	174/.957
Soggetti	Life sciences - Social aspects Life sciences - Political aspects Bioethics
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. [215]-245) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- CONTENTS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- I. A History of Convictions -- II. From First Problems to the Edge of Modernity -- III. From the Scientific Attitude to the Universalist Sentiment -- IV. From the Scientific Revolution to the Liberal Expectation -- V. From Nonliberal Alternatives to the Liberal Reestablishment -- VI. From Altruism to Activism -- VII. Life-Sciences Liberalism in Abstract and Competition -- VIII. Protecting the State -- IX. Pursuing the National Political Advantage -- X. Aggrandizing the Corporation -- XI. Privatizing the Common Inheritance of Humankind -- XII. Advancing the Public Health -- XIII. Groping in the Light -- NOTES -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	What happens to a profession that loses the memory of its moral independence? And what happens then to those reliant on its honor, its advocacy, its initiative? In an era of biotechnological adventure, medical audacity, ecological disruption, fiscal strain, and financial temptation, these are urgent questions for all life scientists and for all they serve . Profession of Conscience is an exposition, analysis, and application of a political-ethical tradition in, of, and for the life sciences, from molecular genetics to clinical medicine to environmental biology. The

goal is avoidance of the fate of physics--the previous "super science"-- whose technological transformations several generations ago so enhanced its political and economic value to governments, societies, and corporations that it lost control of its own conduct. Profession of Conscience discovers within the life sciences a long-evolving profession-specific standard for political action and activism, tracing it from conception in Hellenic and Roman imperial times, through birth and baptism in the Scientific Revolution, then through a naïvely optimistic adolescence in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and finally into a self-conscious maturity, solemnized at the Nuremberg Trials but tested ever more subtly since, even down to the present day. The protagonist is a set of ideas. The product is "life-sciences liberalism."

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