1. Record Nr. UNINA9910815237503321 Autore Seitler Dana **Titolo** Atavistic tendencies [[electronic resource]]: the culture of science in American modernity / / Dana Seitler Minneapolis, : University of Minnesota Press, c2008 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 0-8166-6642-3 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (326 p.) Disciplina 810.9/36 Soggetti Literature and science - United States - History - 19th century Literature and science - United States - History - 20th century American literature - 19th century - History and criticism American literature - 20th century - History and criticism Atavism - History - 19th century Atavism - History - 20th century Biology - United States - History - 19th century Biology - United States - History - 20th century Eugenics in literature Human reproduction in literature Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Includes bibliographical references (p. 243-283) and index. Nota di bibliografia Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction: Down on All Fours; 1 Nota di contenuto Freud's Menagerie: Our Atavistic Sense of Self; 2 Late Modern Morphologies: Scientific Empiricism and Photographic Representation; 3 "Wolf-wolf!": Narrating the Science of Desire: 4 Atavistic Time: Tarzan, Dr. Fu Manchu, and the Serial Dime Novel: 5 Unnatural Selection: Mothers, Eugenic Feminism, and Regeneration Narratives; 6 An Atavistic Embrace: Ape, Gorilla, Wolf, Man; Coda: Being-Now, Being-Then: Notes: Index Sommario/riassunto The post-Darwinian theory of atavism forecasted obstacles to human progress in the reappearance of throwback physical or cultural traits after several generations of absence. In this original and stimulating

work, Dana Seitler explores the ways in which modernity itself is an atavism, shaping a historical and theoretical account of its dramatic rise

and impact on Western culture and imagination. Examining late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century science, fiction, and photography, Seitler discovers how modern thought oriented itself around this paradigm of obsolescence and return-one that s