

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910815909603321
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Titolo	Doubt and skepticism in antiquity and the Renaissance // Michelle Zerba
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, [UK] ; ; New York, : Cambridge University Press, 2012
ISBN	1-139-54034-3 1-107-23204-X 1-139-17588-2 1-283-52219-5 1-139-52755-X 9786613834645 1-139-52635-9 1-139-53221-9 1-139-53102-6 1-139-52874-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (x, 260 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	121/.509
Soggetti	Belief and doubt - History Skepticism - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Part 1: "Farewell the tranquil mind" : tragic doubt in Homer's Iliad, Sophocles' Philoctetes, and Shakespeare's Othello. Achilles' doubt and heroism-at-one-remove in Homer's Iliad ; Moral doubt and the claims of pity in Sophocles' Philoctetes ; "Do as if for surety" : doubt and delusions of certainty in Shakespeare's Othello -- Part 2: Comic skepticism and polytropic strategies in Homer's Odyssey, Aristophanes' Women of the Thesmophoria, and Shakespeare's As you like it. Wandering Odysseus, Pyrrhonist Penelope, and the return from alienation ; Skeptical inversions of gender and genre in Aristophanes' Women of the Thesmophoria and Shakespeare's As you like it -- Part 3: Skepticism, politics, and rhetoric in the works of Cicero, Machiavelli, and Montaigne. Skeptical constructions of identity in Roman and

Renaissance humanism : the useful, the sublime, and the primitivist ; Academic skepticism and Cicero's Republican politics ; A Ciceronian Machiavelli ; Montaigne's Pyrrhonist politics.

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### Sommario/riassunto

This book is an interdisciplinary study of the forms and uses of doubt in works by Homer, Sophocles, Aristophanes, Cicero, Machiavelli, Shakespeare and Montaigne. Based on close analysis of literary and philosophical texts by these important authors, Michelle Zerba argues that doubt is a defining experience in antiquity and the Renaissance, one that constantly challenges the limits of thought and representation. The wide-ranging discussion considers issues that run the gamut from tragic loss to comic bombast, from psychological collapse to skeptical dexterity and from solitary reflection to political improvisation in civic contexts and puts Greek and Roman treatments of doubt into dialogue not only with sixteenth-century texts but with contemporary works as well. Using the past to engage questions of vital concern to our time, Zerba demonstrates that although doubt sometimes has destructive consequences, it can also be conducive to tolerance, discovery and conversation across sociopolitical boundaries.

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