

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910816893203321
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Titolo	The autonomous animal [[electronic resource]] : self-governance and the modern subject // Claire E. Rasmussen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Minneapolis, : University of Minnesota Press, c2011
ISBN	1-4529-4675-2 0-8166-7847-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (229 p.)
Disciplina	320.1/5
Soggetti	Autonomy Self-determination, National
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction: Conceiving a Human Being; 1. The Choice of Law: Autonomy between Norm and Creation; 2. Mature Subjects: Physical Education and the Political Child; 3. Intoxicated Citizens: America's Drug War and the Body Politic; 4. Man Is a Political Animal: Self-Discipline and Its Beastly Other; 5. Fit to Be Tied: Exercise Fads and Our Addiction to Autonomy; Conclusion: Freedom and Self-Governance; Notes; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Autonomy is a vital concept in much of modern theory, defining the Subject as capable of self-governance. Democratic theory relies on the concept of autonomy to provide justification for participatory government and the normative goal of democratic governance, which is to protect the ability of the individual to self-govern. Offering the first examination of the concept of autonomy from a postfoundationalist perspective, ""The Autonomous Animal ""analyzes how the ideal of self-governance has shaped everyday life. Claire E. Rasmussen begins by considering the academic terrain of autonomy, then