Record Nr.	UNINA9910819979803321
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Titolo	Biopolitics : An Advanced Introduction / / Thomas Lemke, Monica J. Casper, Lisa Jean Moore
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, NY : , : New York University Press, , [2011] ©2011
ISBN	0-8147-5337-X 0-8147-5299-3
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (160 p.)
Collana	Biopolitics ; ; 5
Disciplina	320.01
Soggetti	
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	Front matter Contents Foreword Preface Introduction 1. Life as the Basis of Politics 2. Life as an Object of Politics 3. The Government of Living Beings: Michel Foucault 4. Sovereign Power and Bare Life: Giorgio Agamben 5. Capitalism and the Living Multitude: Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri 6. The Disappearance and Transformation of Politics 7. The End and Reinvention of Nature 8. Vital Politics and Bioeconomy 9. Prospect: An Analytics of Biopolitics Notes References Index About the Author
Sommario/riassunto	The biological features of human beings are now measured, observed, and understood in ways never before thought possible, defining norms, establishing standards, and determining average values of human life. While the notion of "biopolitics" has been linked to everything from rational decision-making and the democratic organization of social life to eugenics and racism, Thomas Lemke offers the very first systematic overview of the history of the notion of biopolitics, exploring its relevance in contemporary theoretical debates and providing a much needed primer on the topic. Lemke explains that life has become an independent, objective and measurable factor as well as a collective reality that can be separated from concrete living beings and the singularity of individual experience. He shows how our understanding of the processes of life, the organizing of populations and the need to

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"govern" individuals and collectives lead to practices of correction, exclusion, normalization, and disciplining. In this lucidly written book, Lemke outlines the stakes and the debates surrounding biopolitics, providing a systematic overview of the history of the notion and making clear its relevance for sociological and contemporary theoretical debates.