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Collana	Ashgate new critical thinking in religion, theology, and biblical studies
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Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [185]-203) and index. Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Constructing and deconstructing dichotomies -- Debate, polemic and dialogue -- Religio and superstitio -- Ceremonies of light and dark -- Gods and demons.
Sommario/riassunto	This book explores the construction of Christian identity in fourth and fifth centuries through inventing, fabricating and sharpening binary oppositions. Such oppositions, for example Christians - pagans; truth - falsehood; the one true god - the multitude of demons; the right religion - superstition, served to create and reinforce the Christian self-identity. The author examines how the Christian argumentation against pagans was intertwined with self-perception and self-affirmation