

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910823390903321
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Titolo	The body and shame : phenomenology, feminism, and the socially shaped body // Luna Dolezal
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Lanham, Maryland : , : Lexington Books, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	1-4985-1358-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (207 p.)
Disciplina	306.4613
Soggetti	Body image - Social aspects Human body (Philosophy) Shame
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	""Contents""; ""Acknowledgments""; ""Introduction""; ""1 Shame and Philosophy""; ""2 Phenomenology of the Body and Shame""; ""3 Shame and the Socially Shaped Body""; ""4 The Politics of Shame""; ""5 Body Shame and Female Experience""; ""6 The Case of Cosmetic Surgery""; ""Conclusion""; ""Bibliography""; ""Index""; ""About the Author""
Sommario/riassunto	Every woman - indeed every member of an oppressed group - will find this topic resonant. Dolezal argues that, while 'acute' body shame is necessary to socialization (what Norbert Elias called 'the civilising process'), 'chronic' body shame is undermining; its destructive potential is exemplified in the case of cosmetic surgery. Dolezal skilfully weaves together social theory (Elias, Foucault, Goffman) with phenomenology (Sartre, Merleau-Ponty) to outline a theory of the socially shaped body that will be required reading for feminists and social theorists alike.