

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910824312603321
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Titolo	Community at risk : biodefense and the collective search for security // Thomas D. Beamish
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Stanford, California : , : Stanford Business Books, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	0-8047-9465-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (276 p.)
Collana	High Reliability and Crisis Management
Disciplina	363.325/360973
Soggetti	Risk management - Political aspects - United States Biosecurity - United States - Public opinion Biological laboratories - United States - Public opinion Bioterrorism - Prevention - Research - Public opinion Public opinion - United States Local government - United States
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	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Chapter 1. Conceptual Footings of Risk and Governance -- Chapter 2. Risk Communication, Local Civics, and Discourse -- Chapter 3. Davis, California -- Chapter 4. Roxbury, Massachusetts -- Chapter 5. Galveston, Texas -- Conclusion. The Civic Politics of Risk -- Appendix. Research Strategy -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In 2001, following the events of September 11 and the Anthrax attacks, the United States government began an aggressive campaign to secure the nation against biological catastrophe. Its agenda included building National Biocontainment Laboratories (NBLs), secure facilities intended for research on biodefense applications, at participating universities around the country. In <i>Community at Risk</i> , Thomas D. Beamish examines the civic response to local universities' plans to develop NBLs in three communities: Roxbury, MA; Davis, CA; and Galveston, TX. At a time when the country's anxiety over its security had peaked, reactions to the biolabs ranged from vocal public opposition to acceptance and embrace. He argues that these divergent responses can be accounted

for by the civic conventions, relations, and virtues specific to each locale. Together, these elements clustered, providing a foundation for public dialogue. In contrast to conventional micro- and macro-level accounts of how risk is perceived and managed, Beamish's analysis of each case reveals the pivotal role played by meso-level contexts and political dynamics. *Community at Risk* provides a new framework for understanding risk disputes and their prevalence in American civic life.
