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	Nota di contenuto	I. Origins. Schutz in Vienna, 1899-1938 -- Gurwitsch in Germany and France, 1901-38 -- Schutz and Gurwitsch in America, 1940-80 -- Maurice Merleau-Ponty, 1908-61 -- II. Pierre Bourdieu. Evolution of an intellectual social project. The 1950s -- The 1960s -- The 1970s -- The 1980s -- The 1990s.
	Sommario/riassunto	By analysing the work of Schutz, Gurwitsch, Merleau-Ponty and Bourdieu, the book considers the historical development, influenced by social context, of competing philosophies of social science. Through detailed scrutiny of key texts, it examines the relations between phenomenology, Gestalt psychology, and empirical social science in the first half of the twentieth century, and then explores the way in which Bourdieu responded to this legacy by gradually advocating a form of reflexive social scientific investigation which would remain faithful to primary experience without disowning accumulated intellectualism. It asks whether the Bourdieu 'paradigm' retains value beyond the specifically French conditions of its production. It offers an analysis of the development of Bourdieu's thought and practice which constitutes

an invitation to readers generally to reassess the value of the western tradition of the social function of the detached intellectual for mass democratic