Record Nr. UNINA9910826541603321 Autore Schweik Susan M (Susan Marie), <1956-> Titolo The ugly laws: disability in public / / Susan M. Schweik Pubbl/distr/stampa New York,: New York University, c2009 **ISBN** 0-8147-0887-0 0-8147-4088-X 1-4416-2291-8 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (446 p.) Collana The history of disability Disciplina 346.7301/3 Soggetti People with disabilities - Legal status, laws, etc - United States -History Beggars - Legal status, laws, etc - United States - History Discrimination against people with disabilities - Law and legislation -United States - History People with disabilities - United States - History Beggars - United States - History 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 (p. 351-404) and index. Nota di contenuto Producing the unsightly -- Getting ugly -- The law in context -- The law in language -- Dissimulations -- Gender, sexuality, and the ugly law -- Immigration, ethnicity, and the ugly law -- Race, segregation, and the ugly law -- The right to the city -- Rehabilitating the unsightly -- All about ugly laws (for ten cents). In the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, municipallaws Sommario/riassunto targeting "unsightly beggars" sprang up in cities across America. Seeming to criminalize disability and thus offering a visceral example of discrimination, these "ugly laws" have become a sort of shorthand for oppression in disability studies, law, and the arts. In this watershed study of the ugly laws, Susan M. Schweik uncovers the murky history behind the laws, situating the varied legislation in its historical context and exploring in detail what the laws meant. Illustrating how the laws join the history of the disabled and the poor, Schweik not only gives the reader a deeper understanding of the ugly laws and the cities where

they were generated, she locates the laws at a crucial intersection of

evolving and unstable concepts of race, nation, sex, class, and gender. Moreover, she explores the history of resistance to the ordinances, using the often harrowing life stories of those most affected by their passage. Moving to the laws' more recent history, Schweik analyzes the shifting cultural memory of the ugly laws, examining how they have been used—and misused—by academics, activists, artists, lawyers, and legislators.