1. Record Nr. UNINA9910826798503321 Autore Rabins Peter V. Titolo The why of things: causality in science, medicine, and life // Peter V. Rabins; jacket design, Marc J. Cohen Pubbl/distr/stampa New York: .: Columbia University Press. . 2013 ©2013 **ISBN** 0-231-53545-7 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (297 p.) Disciplina 122 Soggetti Causation Science - Philosophy Life sciences - Philosophy Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Monografia Livello bibliografico Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- 1. Historical Overview: The Four Approaches to Causality -- 2. The Three-Facet Model: An Overview -- 3. The Answer Is Either "No" Or "Yes": Causality as a Categorical Concept -- 4. Probabilities, Odds, and Risks: Predispositions and Provocations as Causes -- 5. A Third Model of Causality: The Emergent, Nonlinear Approach -- 6. Empirical: The Physical Sciences -- 7. Empirical: The Biological Sciences -- 8. Empirical: Epidemiology -- 9. Narrative Truth: The Empathic Method --10. Cause in the Ecclesiastic Tradition -- 11. Seeking the Why of Things: The Model Applied -- References -- Index Why was there a meltdown at the Fukushima power plant? Why do some Sommario/riassunto people get cancer and not others? Why is global warming happening? Why does one person get depressed in the face of life's vicissitudes while another finds resilience? Questions like these-questions of causality-form the basis of modern scientific inquiry, posing profound intellectual and methodological challenges for researchers in the physical, natural, biomedical, and social sciences. In this

groundbreaking book, noted psychiatrist and author Peter Rabins offers a conceptual framework for analyzing daunting questions of causality. Navigating a lively intellectual voyage between the shoals of strict

reductionism and relativism, Rabins maps a three-facet model of causality and applies it to a variety of questions in science, medicine, economics, and more. Throughout this book, Rabins situates his argument within relevant scientific contexts, such as quantum mechanics, cybernetics, chaos theory, and epigenetics. A renowned communicator of complex concepts and scientific ideas, Rabins helps readers stretch their minds beyond the realm of popular literary tipping points, blinks, and freakonomic explanations of the world.