

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910827341603321
Autore	Egan Jim <1961->
Titolo	Authorizing experience [[electronic resource]] : refigurations of the body politic in seventeenth-century New England writing // Jim Egan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, N.J., : Princeton University Press, c1999
ISBN	1-282-75368-1 9786612753688 1-4008-2302-1 1-4008-1144-9
Edizione	[Core Textbook]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (193 p.)
Disciplina	810.9/358
Soggetti	American literature - Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775 - History and criticism Rhetoric - Political aspects - New England - History - 17th century Politics and literature - New England - History - 17th century Literature and society - New England - History - 17th century American literature - New England - History and criticism Authority in literature Colonies in literature New England Intellectual life 17th century
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. [161]-178) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- CONTENTS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- Introduction: INVERTING AMERICAN EXPERIENCE -- Chapter One: HOW THE ENGLISH BODY BECOMES THAT OF THE ENGLISH NATION -- Chapter Two: THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE -- Chapter Three: A BODY THAT WORKS -- Chapter Four: DISCIPLINE AND DISINFECT -- Chapter Five: THE INSIGNIFICANCE OF EXPERIENCE -- Chapter Six: A NATIONAL EXPERIENCE -- NOTES -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	The emphasis on practical experience over ideology is viewed by many historians as a profoundly American characteristic, one that provides a model for exploring the colonial challenge to European belief systems and the creation of a unique culture. Here Jim Egan offers an

unprecedented look at how early modern American writers helped make this notion of experience so powerful that we now take it as a given rather than as the product of hard-fought rhetorical battles waged over ways of imagining one's relationship to a larger social community. In order to show how our modern notion of experience emerges from a historical change that experience itself could not have brought about, he turns to works by seventeenth-century writers in New England and reveals the ways in which they authorized experience, ultimately producing a rhetoric distinctive to the colonies and supportive of colonialism. Writers such as John Smith, William Wood, John Winthrop, Anne Bradstreet, Benjamin Tompson, and William Hubbard were sensitive to the challenge experiential authority posed to established social hierarchies. Egan argues that they used experience to authorize a supplementary status system that would at once enhance England's economic, political, and spiritual status and provide a new basis for regulating English and native populations. These writers were assuaging fears over how exposure to alien environments threatened actual English bodies and also the imaginary body that authorized English monarchy and allowed English subjects to think of themselves as a nation. By reimagining the English nation, these supporters of English colonialism helped create a modern way of imagining national identity and individual subject formation.
