Record Nr. UNINA9910917189503321 Autore Hofhuis Steije Titolo The Evolutionary History of Witch-hunting: A Qualitative Darwinian Approach / / by Steije Hofhuis Pubbl/distr/stampa Cham:,: Springer Nature Switzerland:,: Imprint: Palgrave Macmillan, , 2024 **ISBN** 9783031669361 9783031669354 Edizione [1st ed. 2024.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (384 pages) Disciplina 133.43094 Europe - History - 1492-Soggetti Intellectual life - History Science - History Civilization - History History of Early Modern Europe Intellectual History History of Science **Cultural History** Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia 1. Introduction -- 2. Foundations -- 3. Functions -- 4. The Theory --Nota di contenuto 5. Witch-hunts -- 6. Explanations -- 7. Cases -- 8. Reflections -- 9. Conclusion. Sommario/riassunto Why did early modern Europeans hunt for witches? Were these persecutions a shrewd tool to oppress women or the poor, or were they just a way of making money? Or were witch-hunters primarily driven by a genuine belief in witchcraft? The witches' sabbath, the diabolical pact, and the nightly flight were elements in the early modern concept of witchcraft that seem to have been intelligently designed to trigger persistent witch persecutions. But in contrast to what many past historical scholars presumed, witch-hunts were not based on intelligent design. So how to explain them? This book proposes a new model: Darwinian cultural evolution. It contends that witch-hunting's apparent

design emerged from a hidden evolutionary process in which cultural

variants which accidentally unleashed larger persecutions were cumulatively preserved. Witch-hunting did not so much evolve to serve human interests but to ensure its own 'selfish' reproduction. Historians have often compared witch persecutions to the outbreaks of contagious disease, but only as a figure of speech. But shouldn't we take the similarities more seriously? This book argues that witch-hunting was a cultural 'virus' that spread at the expense of its human hosts, and thus bridges the gap between qualitative history and the burgeoning field of Darwinian cultural evolution. Steile Hofhuis is a historian and works as a postdoctoral researcher at the Berlin Social Science Center, Germany.

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Autore Lippi-Green Rosina

Titolo Language ideology and language change in early modern German: a

sociolinguistic study of the consonantal system of Nuremberg / /

Rosina Lippi-Green

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Sommario/riassunto

This quantitative study, based on a computerized corpus of texts written by five men in early 16th-century Nuremberg, employs multivariate GLM statistical procedures to analyze the way linguistic, social and stylistic factors work individually and in interaction to influence variation observed in the texts. Over 70,000 tokens of variable consonants sets were analyzed, using network analysis as an alternate approach to quantification of relevant social identities, which allowed focus on individual behavior without discarding the analysis of group behaviors. The study provides evidence that conso

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