Record Nr. UNINA9910956349003321 Autore Mialet Helene **Titolo** Hawking incorporated: Stephen Hawking and the anthropology of the knowing subject / / Helene Mialet Chicago,: University of Chicago Press, 2012 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 9786613676658 9781280699672 1280699671 9780226522296 0226522296 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (278 p.) Disciplina 530.092 Soggetti Communication in science Mind and body People with disabilities in science Physicists - Great Britain Self-help devices for people with disabilities 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 and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- I. The Assistants and the Machines -- II. The Students -- III. The Diagrams --IV. The Media -- V. The Reading Haw king's Presence. An Interview with a Self-Effacing Man -- VI. At the Beginning of Forever. Archiving Hawking -- VII. The Thinker. Hawking meets Hawking -- Conclusion-A Recurring Question. From Exemplum to Cipher -- Epilog -- Notes --Bibliography -- Index Sommario/riassunto These days, the idea of the cyborg is less the stuff of science fiction and more a reality, as we are all, in one way or another, constantly connected, extended, wired, and dispersed in and through technology. One wonders where the individual, the person, the human, and the body are-or, alternatively, where they stop. These are the kinds of

questions Hélène Mialet explores in this fascinating volume, as she focuses on a man who is permanently attached to assemblages of

machines, devices, and collectivities of people: Stephen Hawking. Drawing on an extensive and in-depth series of interviews with Hawking, his assistants and colleagues, physicists, engineers, writers, journalists, archivists, and artists, Mialet reconstructs the human, material, and machine-based networks that enable Hawking to live and work. She reveals how Hawking-who is often portrayed as the most singular, individual, rational, and bodiless of all-is in fact not only incorporated, materialized, and distributed in a complex nexus of machines and human beings like everyone else, but even more so. Each chapter focuses on a description of the functioning and coordination of different elements or media that create his presence, agency, identity, and competencies. Attentive to Hawking's daily activities, including his lecturing and scientific writing, Mialet's ethnographic analysis powerfully reassesses the notion of scientific genius and its associations with human singularity. This book will fascinate anyone interested in Stephen Hawking or an extraordinary life in science.