

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910959914203321
Autore	Hammond Debora <1951->
Titolo	The science of synthesis : exploring the social implications of general systems theory // Debora Hammond
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Boulder, : University Press of Colorado, c2003
ISBN	1-280-50127-8 9786610501274 0-87081-797-3
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (333 p.)
Disciplina	003
Soggetti	System theory - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 279-295) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Figures and Tables -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- Prologue: The Quest for Peace in a Nuclear World -- 1: The Behavioral Sciences in Postwar America -- Part I: The Sources of Systems Thinking -- 2: The Science of Life: Organization in Living Systems -- 3: Engineering, Management, and the Military-Industrial Complex -- 4: Cybernetics and Information Theory: Feedback and Homeostasis -- 5: Ecology and Social Theory: Structure, Function, and Evolution -- Part II: The Founders of General Systems Research -- 6: Ludwig von Bertalanffy (1901-1972): General Systems Theory -- 7: The Chicago Behavioral Science Committee -- 8: Kenneth Boulding (1910-1993): Economics, Ecology, and Peace -- Part III: Evolution and Evaluation -- 9: The Society for General Systems Research: Establishment and Development -- Epilogue -- Bibliography -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	Debora Hammond's The Science of Synthesis explores the development of general systems theory and the individuals who gathered together around that idea to form the Society for General Systems Research. In examining the life and work of the SGSR's five founding members- Ludwig von Bertalanffy, Kenneth Boulding, Ralph Gerard, James Grier Miller, and Anatol Rapoport-Hammond traces the emergence of systems ideas across a broad range of disciplines in the mid-twentieth century. A metaphor and a framework, the systems concept as

articulated by its earliest proponents highlights relationship and interconnectedness among the biological, ecological, social, psychological, and technological dimensions of our increasingly complex lives. Seeking to transcend the reductionism and mechanism of classical science-which they saw as limited by its focus on the discrete, component parts of reality-the general systems community hoped to complement this analytic approach with a more holistic approach. As one of many systems traditions, the general systems group was specifically interested in fostering collaboration and integration between different disciplinary perspectives. The Science of Synthesis documents a unique episode in the history of modern thought, one that remains relevant today. This book will be of interest to historians of science, system theorists, and scholars in such fields as cybernetics and system dynamics.
