

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910961820603321
Autore	Xygalatas Demetres
Titolo	The burning saints : cognition and culture in the fire-walking rituals of the Anastenaria / / Dimitris Xygalatas
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bristol, CT, : Equinox, 2012 Bristol, CT : , : Equinox, , 2012
ISBN	1-317-54374-2 1-138-10821-9 1-84465-770-1 1-315-72871-0 1-317-54375-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 253 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Religion, cognition and culture
Disciplina	264/.019495099
Soggetti	Anastenaria Fire walking - Greece Rites and ceremonies - Greece Greece Religious life and customs
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 02 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 205-238) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Tradition in the making -- The ethnographic setting -- Fire-walking in Agia Eleni -- Knowledge and revelation among the Anastenaria -- Ritual and mind -- Costly rituals -- Arousal, emotion and motivation -- Physiology of high-arousal rituals -- Putting it all together.
Sommario/riassunto	The Anastenaria are Orthodox Christians in Northern Greece who observe a unique annual ritual cycle focused on two festivals, dedicated to Saint Constantine and Saint Helen. The festivals involve processions, music, dancing, animal sacrifices, and culminate in an electrifying fire-walking ritual. Carrying the sacred icons of the saints, participants dance over hot coals as the saint moves them. The Burning Saints presents an analysis of these rituals and the psychology behind them. Based on long-term fieldwork, The Burning Saints traces the historical development and sociocultural context of the Greek fire-walking rituals. As a cognitive ethnography, the book aims to identify the

social, psychological and neurobiological factors which may be involved and to explore the role of emotional and physiological arousal in the performance of such ritual. A study of participation, experience and meaning, *The Burning Saints* presents a highly original analysis of how mental processes can shape social and religious behaviour.

---