1. Record Nr. UNISALENTO991003136489707536

Autore Spencer, Herbert <1820-1903>

Titolo Introduzione alla scienza sociale / Herbert Spencer

Pubbl/distr/stampa Milano: Fratelli Bocca, [194?]

Edizione [4. ed. italiana sulla 9. ed. inglese ricorretta e aumentata]

Descrizione fisica VI, 390 p.; 24 cm.

Collana Biblioteca di scienze moderne 15

Disciplina 301

Lingua di pubblicazione Italiano

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Record Nr. UNINA9910967004203321

Autore Kline Wendy <1968->

Titolo Bodies of knowledge: sexuality, reproduction, and women's health in

the second wave / / Wendy Kline

Pubbl/distr/stampa Chicago;; London,: University of Chicago Press, 2010

ISBN 9786612894725

9781282894723 1282894722 9780226443072 0226443078

Edizione [1st ed.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (218 p.)

Disciplina 306.7082/09045

Soggetti Women - Sexual behavior

Women's health services Reproductive health

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Description based upon print version of record.

Nota di bibliografia

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Includes bibliographical references and index.

Nota di contenuto

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Pelvic Instruction Controversy of the 1970's -- 3. Learning from the Uterus Out: Abortion and Women's Health Activism in Chicago -- 4. Bodies of Evidence: Depo-Provera and the Public Board of Inquiry -- 5. Choices in Childbirth: A Modern Midwife's Tale -- Epilogue: Daughters

of Feminism -- Notes -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

Throughout the 1970's and '80's, women argued that unless they gained access to information about their own bodies, there would be no equality. In Bodies of Knowledge, Wendy Kline considers the ways in which ordinary women worked to position the female body at the center of women's liberation. As Kline shows, the struggle to attain this knowledge unified women but also divided them-according to race, class, sexuality, or level of professionalization. Each of the five chapters of Bodies of Knowledge examines a distinct moment or setting of the women's movement in order to give life to the ideas, expectations, and pitfalls encountered by the advocates of women's health: the making of Our Bodies, Ourselves (1973); the conflicts surrounding the training and practice of women's pelvic exams; the emergence of abortion as a feminist issue; the battles over contraceptive regulation at the 1983 Depo-Provera FDA hearings; and the rise of the profession of midwifery. Including an epilogue that considers the experiences of the daughters of 1970's feminists, Bodies of Knowledge is an important contribution to the study of the bodies-that marked the lives-of feminism's second wave.