

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910967189303321
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Titolo	Academic charisma and the origins of the research university // William Clark
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, 2007, c2006
ISBN	9786611959371 9781281959379 1281959375 9780226109237 0226109232
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (669 p.)
Classificazione	DM 1000
Disciplina	378.409033 378.43 378/.4/09033
Soggetti	Education, Higher - History - 18th century Education, Higher - History - 19th century Universities and colleges - History - 18th century Universities and colleges - History - 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Originally published: 2006.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 567-623) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- 1. Charisma and Rationalization -- 2. The Lecture Catalogue -- 3. The Lecture and the Disputation -- 4. The Examination -- 5. The Research Seminar -- 6. The Doctor of Philosophy -- 7. The Appointment of a Professor -- 8. The Library Catalogue -- 9. Academic Babble and Ministerial Machinations -- 10. Ministerial Hearing and Academic Commodification -- 11. Academic Voices and the Ghost in the Machine -- 12. The Research University and Beyond -- Appendix 1 -- Appendix 2 -- Appendix 3. Philology-Pedagogy Academic Seminars, Societies, and Institutes -- Appendix 4. Dissertationes Eruditorum -- Appendix 5. Doctoral Graduates and Dissertations in Arts and Philosophy Faculties -- Appendix 6. List of Universities in the German Cultural Space -- Notes -- Abbreviations -- Bibliography -- Illustration Credits -- Acknowledgments -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

Tracing the transformation of early modern academics into modern researchers from the Renaissance to Romanticism, Academic Charisma and the Origins of the Research University uses the history of the university and reframes the "Protestant Ethic" to reconsider the conditions of knowledge production in the modern world. William Clark argues that the research university—which originated in German Protestant lands and spread globally in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries—developed in response to market forces and bureaucracy, producing a new kind of academic whose goal was to establish originality and achieve fame through publication. With an astonishing wealth of research, Academic Charisma and the Origins of the Research University investigates the origins and evolving fixtures of academic life: the lecture catalogue, the library catalog, the grading system, the conduct of oral and written exams, the roles of conversation and the writing of research papers in seminars, the writing and oral defense of the doctoral dissertation, the ethos of "lecturing with applause" and "publish or perish," and the role of reviews and rumor. This is a grand, ambitious book that should be required reading for every academic.
