Nearly fifty years ago, in 1968, William Baumol\(^1\) commented that “few topics in our discipline rival the social rate of discount as a subject exhibiting simultaneously a very considerable degree of knowledge and a very substantial level of ignorance.” This book aims to reduce the level of ignorance about the social discount rate, presenting recent advances in the field. Ultimately, the objective is to help build a consensus around the way society should value the future.

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