A lively and engaging guide to vital habits of mind that can help you think more deeply, write more effectively, and learn more joyfully

How to Think like Shakespeare

How to Think like Shakespeare offers an enlightening and entertaining guide to the craft of thought—one that demonstrates what we’ve lost in education today, and how we might begin to recover it. In fourteen brief, lively chapters that draw from Shakespeare’s world and works, and from other writers past and present, Scott Newstok distills vital habits of mind that can help you think more deeply, write more effectively, and learn more joyfully, in school or beyond.

Written in a friendly, conversational tone and brimming with insights, How to Think like Shakespeare enacts the thrill of thinking on every page, reviving timeless—and timely—ways to stretch your mind and hone your words.

“How to Think like Shakespeare is a witty and wise incitement to shape our minds in old ways that will be new to almost all of us.”
—Alan Jacobs, author of How to Think: A Survival Guide for a World at Odds

Scott Newstok is professor of English and founding director of the Pearce Shakespeare Endowment at Rhodes College. A parent and an award-winning teacher, he is the author of Quoting Death in Early Modern England and the editor of several other books.
An invitation to readers from every walk of life to rediscover the impractical splendors of a life of learning

Lost in Thought

In an overloaded, superficial, technological world, in which almost everything and everybody is judged by its usefulness, where can we turn for escape, lasting pleasure, contemplation, or connection to others? Drawing on inspiring examples, from Socrates and Augustine to Malcolm X and Elena Ferrante, and from films to Hitz’s own experiences as someone who walked away from elite university life in search of greater fulfillment, Lost in Thought is a passionate and timely reminder that a rich life is a life rich in thought.

Today, when even the humanities are often defended only for their economic or political usefulness, Hitz says our intellectual lives are valuable not despite but because of their practical uselessness. And while anyone can have an intellectual life, she encourages academics in particular to get back in touch with the desire to learn for its own sake, and calls on universities to return to the person-to-person transmission of the habits of mind and heart that bring out the best in us.

Zena Hitz is a Tutor in the great books program at St. John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland. She has a PhD in ancient philosophy from Princeton University and studies and teaches across the liberal arts. Website zenahitz.net Twitter @zenahitz

Hardback 9780691178714 $22.95
ebook 9780691189239

“Lost in Thought is a moving declaration of faith in the intellectual act at a time when everything we do seems to conspire against it.”
—Alberto Manguel, author of Packing My Library
Simple but powerful strategies for increasing your success by improving your thinking

The 5 Elements of Effective Thinking

The 5 Elements of Effective Thinking presents practical, lively, and inspiring ways for you to become more successful through better thinking. Filled with engaging examples that unlock truths about thinking in every walk of life, this book is written for all who want to reach their fullest potential. To share thinking stories, go to: 5elementsofthinking.wordpress.com

“Think ... fail ... question ... understand ... change ... learn: in their powerful new book, Burger and Starbird show students, teachers, and everyone else how to harness the genius of learning. The 5 Elements argues that the door to knowledge is not opened by a magical test. Instead, the key is for each of us to boldly embrace a willingness to fail while organizing persistent approaches to thinking. Even more than helping one master content, this book can lead to a satisfying and rewarding life of the mind.”
—Dennis Van Roekel, former president of the National Education Association

Edward Burger, president of Southwestern University, and Michael Starbird, University Distinguished Teaching Professor of Mathematics at The University of Texas at Austin, are devoted to educating students and lifelong learners.

2012. 168 pages. 1 line illus. Hardback 9780691156668 $19.95 ebook 9781400844562

“There is undoubtedly much here that would be of practical use to professionals from all walks of life, and indeed other educators. . . . As a practical and helpful guide, particularly for students seeking to improve the quality of their thinking and learning, The Five Elements of Effective Thinking is a thought-provoking and useful manual.”
—Jonathan Gravells, Teachers College Record
How you can become better at solving real-world problems by learning creative puzzle-solving skills

Making Up Your Own Mind

We solve countless problems—big and small—every day. With so much practice, why do we often have trouble making simple decisions? In this enlightening and entertaining book, Edward Burger shows how we can become far better at solving real-world problems by learning creative puzzle-solving skills using simple, effective thinking techniques.

“Readers of this wonderful book will discover what generations of Edward Burger’s students have discovered: his ability to use puzzles to help them solve the most significant puzzle of all—how to build a meaningful life filled with creativity and the joy of learning.”

—Frederick M. Lawrence, Secretary and CEO of the Phi Beta Kappa Society and Distinguished Lecturer at Georgetown Law Center

Edward B. Burger is the president of Southwestern University, a mathematics professor, and a leading teacher on thinking, innovation, and creativity.

“We often claim that education should not just teach facts; it should help us learn how to think clearly. Making Up Your Own Mind is a book that takes that goal seriously. It is brilliantly constructed, clearly written, and fun.”

—William C. Powers Jr., former President of the University of Texas, Austin
How you can enrich your life by becoming a more skillful and engaged reader of literature

You Are What You Read

We are what we read, according to Robert DiYanni. Reading may delight us or move us; we may read for instruction or inspiration. But more than this, in reading we discover ourselves. We gain access to the lives of others, explore the limitless possibilities of human existence, develop our understanding of the world around us, and find respite from the hectic demands of everyday life. In You Are What You Read, DiYanni provides a practical guide that shows how we can increase the benefits and pleasures of reading literature by becoming more skillful and engaged readers.

DiYanni suggests that we attend first to what authors say and the way in which they say it, rather than rushing to decide what they mean. He considers the various forms of literature, from the essay to the novel, the short story to the poem, demonstrating rewarding approaches to each in sample readings of classic works. DiYanni closes with eight recommended reading practices, thoughts on the different experiences of print and digital reading, and advice on what to read and why.

Written in a clear, inviting, and natural style, You Are What You Read is an essential guide for all who want to enrich their reading—and their life.

Robert DiYanni is an instructional consultant with the Center for Faculty Advancement at New York University, where he is also an adjunct professor of humanities. His recent books include The Craft of College Teaching (Princeton) and Critical Reading Across the Curriculum.

“You Are What You Read is simply a joy. The book enlarges our imaginations, yields moments of deepest pleasure, and helps us fathom the complexities of our own lives. DiYanni provides practical strategies that guide readers to a sustained, significant appreciation of literary works. The elegant applications of reading principles combined with engaging instructional approaches make this work required reading for all current and future English instructors.”
—Linda Costanzo Cahir, Kean University
The essential survival guide for college students

Will This Be on the Test?

Getting into college takes plenty of hard work, but knowing what your professors expect of you once you get there can be even more challenging. *Will This Be on the Test?* is the essential survival guide for high-school students making the transition to college academics. In this entertaining and informative book, Dana Johnson shares wisdom and wit gleaned from her decades of experience as an award-winning teacher in the freshman classroom—lessons that will continue to serve you long after college graduation.

Johnson offers invaluable insights into how college academics differs from high school. She reveals how to maximize what you learn and develop good relationships with your professors, while explaining how you fit into the learning environment of college. Answering the questions that many new college students don’t think to ask, Johnson provides tactical tips on getting the most out of office hours, e-mailing your professor appropriately, and optimizing your performance on assignments and exams. She gives practical advice on using the syllabus to your advantage, knowing how to address your instructors, and making sure you’re not violating the academic ethics code. The book also offers invaluable advice about online courses and guidance for parents who want to help their children succeed.

“The most comprehensive, insightful, and honest guide to university life I have ever encountered. This incomparable book directly answers all the questions you’re afraid to ask and equips you with the practical skills necessary not just to succeed in college but to shine in your life beyond. Dana Johnson recognizes the floundering that first-years endure and gives students the tools they need to teach themselves how to swim.”

—Sarah, student, Boston University

*Dana T. Johnson* taught for many years at the College of William and Mary, where she twice won the Simon Prize for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics.

*Jennifer E. Price* is a biologist who has much experience teaching online as well as traditional college courses.

2019. 200 pages. 33 b/w illus.  
Paperback 9780691179537 $19.95  
Ebook 9780691189451  
Audiobook 9780691193526

Sample Syllabus

“*Will This Be on the Test?* demystifies the ‘hidden curriculum’ of college. This book is a perfect gift for any college-bound high school graduate.”

—Tara DaPra, University of Wisconsin–Green Bay
An essential handbook to the unwritten and often unspoken knowledge and skills you need to succeed in grad school

A Field Guide to Grad School

Some of the most important things you need to know in order to succeed in graduate school—like how to choose a good advisor, how to get funding for your work, and whether to celebrate or cry when a journal tells you to revise and resubmit an article—won’t be covered in any class. They are part of a hidden curriculum that you are just expected to know or somehow learn on your own—or else. In this comprehensive survival guide for grad school, Calarco walks you through the secret knowledge and skills that are essential for navigating every critical stage of the postgraduate experience. An invaluable resource for every prospective and current grad student in any discipline, *A Field Guide to Grad School* will save you grief—and help you thrive—in school and beyond.

Provides invaluable advice about how to:

- Choose and apply to a graduate program
- Stay on track in your program
- Publish and promote your work
- Get the most out of conferences
- Navigate the job market
- Balance teaching, research, service, and life

Jessica McCrory Calarco is associate professor of sociology at Indiana University and the author of *Negotiating Opportunities: How the Middle Class Secures Advantages in School*. She has written for the *Atlantic* and *Inside Higher Ed*, and her work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Time*, and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and on BBC Radio and NPR. Twitter @JessicaCalarco

“Eye-opening and informative, this book will help graduate students who feel like they have been dropped in the deep end of the pool without knowing how to swim.”

—Anthony Abraham Jack, author of *The Privileged Poor: How Elite Colleges Are Failing Disadvantaged Students*
An essential guide to recognizing bogus numbers and misleading data

**Millions, Billions, Zillions**

Numbers are often intimidating, confusing, and even deliberately deceptive—especially when they are really big. The media loves to report on millions, billions, and trillions, but frequently makes basic mistakes or presents such numbers in misleading ways. And misunderstanding numbers can have serious consequences, since they can deceive us in many of our most important decisions, including how to vote, what to buy, and whether to make a financial investment. In this short, accessible, enlightening, and entertaining book, Brian Kernighan teaches anyone—even diehard math-phobes—how to demystify the numbers that assault us every day. Giving you the simple tools you need to avoid being fooled by dubious numbers, *Millions, Billions, Zillions* is an essential survival guide for a world drowning in big—and often bad—data.

“This sophisticated, rich, and accessible book walks us through something we all need but are almost never taught: number sense. The reader is left with real skills and confidence about understanding and interpreting numbers, probabilities, graphics, and much more. Brian Kernighan has done a great service by offering tools that will help all of us become more informed citizens, patients, parents, and news consumers—and better bullshit detectors.”

—Zeynep Tufekci, contributing opinion writer for the *New York Times* and author of *Twitter and Tear Gas: The Power and Fragility of Networked Protest*

**Brian W. Kernighan** is professor of computer science at Princeton University. His many books include *Understanding the Digital World: What You Need to Know about Computers, the Internet, Privacy, and Security* (Princeton).

2020. 176 pages. 30 b/w illus.
Paperback 9780691209098 $16.95  
ebook 9780691190136
Peter Singer is described as the world's most influential philosopher. He is also one of its most controversial. The author of important books such as *Animal Liberation*, *Practical Ethics*, *Rethinking Life and Death*, and *The Life You Can Save*, he helped launch the animal rights and effective altruism movements and contributed to the development of bioethics. Now, in *Ethics in the Real World*, Singer shows that he is also a master at dissecting important current events in a few hundred words.

In this book of brief essays, he applies his controversial ways of thinking to issues like climate change, extreme poverty, animals, abortion, euthanasia, human genetic selection, sports doping, the sale of kidneys, the ethics of high-priced art, and ways of increasing happiness. In addition, he explores, in an easily accessible form, some of the deepest philosophical questions, such as whether anything really matters and what is the value of the pale blue dot that is our planet. The collection also includes some more personal reflections, like Singer's thoughts on one of his favorite activities, surfing, and an unusual suggestion for starting a family conversation over a holiday feast.

Now with a new afterword by the author, this provocative and original book will challenge—and possibly change—your beliefs about many real-world ethical questions.

Peter Singer is the Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics in the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University and Laureate Professor at the University of Melbourne. He first became well known internationally in 1975 with the publication of *Animal Liberation*. His other books include *How Are We to Live?: The Ethics of What We Eat* (with Jim Mason), and *The Most Good You Can Do*.
Why We Are Restless

We live in an age of unprecedented prosperity, yet everywhere we see signs that our pursuit of happiness has proven fruitless. Dissatisfied, we seek change for the sake of change—even if it means undermining the foundations of our common life. In Why We Are Restless, Benjamin and Jenna Storey offer a profound and beautiful reflection on the roots of this malaise and examine how we might begin to cure ourselves.

Drawing on the insights of Montaigne, Pascal, Rousseau, and Tocqueville, Why We Are Restless explores the modern vision of happiness that leads us on, and the disquiet that follows it like a lengthening shadow.

Arguing that the philosophy we have inherited, despite pretending to let us live as we please, produces remarkably homogenous and unhappy lives, Why We Are Restless makes the case that finding true contentment requires rethinking our most basic assumptions about happiness.

“In this elegantly argued and beautifully written book, Benjamin and Jenna Storey lay bare the intellectual root of our psychic distress: a shrunken view of our humanity, ignorant of the soul’s true longings. In tracing the history of the modern ‘self,’ the Storeys show the causes of our impoverished self-understanding and liberate us to choose a richer alternative. A most important book.”

—Leon R. Kass, professor emeritus, Committee on Social Thought and the College, University of Chicago

Benjamin Storey is the Jane Gage Hipp Professor of Politics and International Affairs and Director of the Tocqueville Program at Furman University. Jenna Silber Storey is Assistant Professor of Politics and International Affairs and Executive Director of the Tocqueville Program at Furman.

New Forum Books
April 2021. 272 pages.
Hardback 9780691211121 $27.95
Audiobook 9780691226880
Ebook 9780691211138

“Benjamin and Jenna Storey’s delightful Why We Are Restless belongs on the shelf of thoughtful, accessible books on human happiness like Matthew Crawford’s Shop Class as Soulcraft and Sarah Bakewell’s How to Live.”

—Mark Lilla, author of The Once and Future Liberal
A moral philosopher’s meditations on some of life’s most important questions

On Being Me

We’ve all had to puzzle over such profound matters as birth, death, regret, free will, agency, and love. How might philosophy help us think through these vital concerns? Renowned moral philosopher J. David Velleman presents a concise, accessible, and intimate exploration into subjects that we care deeply about, offering compelling insights into what it means to be human.

Each of Velleman’s short, personal chapters begins with a theme: “Being Glad I Was Born,” “Wanting to Go On,” “Fearing the End,” “Regretting What Might Have Been,” “Aspiring to Authorship,” “Making Things Happen,” and “Wanting to Be Loved.” Reflecting on how daily life presents us with thorny riddles that need working out, Velleman arrives at unexpected conclusions about survival and personal identity, the self and its future, time and morality, the rationality of regret, free will and personal efficacy, and goodness and love. He shows that we can rely on our own powers of thought to arrive at a better understanding of the most fundamental parts of ourselves.

Beautifully illustrated by New Yorker contributing artist Emily Bernstein, On Being Me invites us to approach life philosophically.

“This is a bold, stimulating reflection on what it is to be a person. Written with flair and wit, it is at once remarkably personal and universal. There is no other book out there comparable in style and ambition.”
—Susan Wolf, author of The Variety of Values: Essays on Morality, Meaning, and Love

“A lyrical and poignant meditation on our deepest problems: the self, time, death, freedom, ethics, and love. Velleman does not write to persuade, but to disclose—which is what makes this book so very persuasive.”
—Amia Srinivasan, University of Oxford

J. David Velleman is professor of philosophy and bioethics at New York University (retiring in 2020) and the Miller Research Professor of Philosophy at Johns Hopkins University. His books include How We Get Along and Self to Self.

Emily C. Bernstein is a visual artist and animator.

2020. 112 pages. 15 b/w illus.
Hardback 9780691200958 $12.95  ebook 9780691200965

Sample Syllabus
From the author of *American Philosophy: A Love Story*, a compelling introduction to the life-affirming philosophy of William James

**Sick Souls, Healthy Minds**

In 1895, William James, the father of American philosophy, delivered a lecture entitled “Is Life Worth Living?” It was no theoretical question for James, who had contemplated suicide during an existential crisis as a young man a quarter century earlier. Indeed, as John Kaag writes, “James’s entire philosophy, from beginning to end, was geared to save a life, his life”—and that’s why it just might be able to save yours, too. *Sick Souls, Healthy Minds* is an absorbing introduction to James’s life and thought that shows why the founder of pragmatism and empirical psychology can still speak so directly and profoundly to anyone struggling to make a life worth living.

“Characteristically elegant.”

“James’s ideas have rippled through the past century more powerfully than those of any other American thinker. Kaag’s little book reminds us why.”
—James T. Kloppenberg, *Washington Post*

**John Kaag**, the author of *American Philosophy: A Love Story* and *Hiking with Nietzsche*, is professor of philosophy at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. Twitter @JohnKaag

March 2021. 224 pages.
Paperback 9780691216713 $14.95  ebook 9780691200934
From an award-winning anthropologist, a lively, accessible, and irreverent introduction to the field

How to Think Like an Anthropologist

What is anthropology? What can it tell us about the world? Why, in short, does it matter? For well over a century, cultural anthropologists have circled the globe, from Papua New Guinea to California, uncovering surprising insights about how humans organize their lives and articulate their values. In the process, anthropology has done more than any other discipline to reveal what culture means and why it matters. By weaving together examples and theories from around the world, Matthew Engelke provides a lively, accessible, and at times irreverent introduction to anthropology, covering a wide range of classic and contemporary approaches, subjects, and anthropologists. Presenting memorable cases, he encourages readers to think deeply about key concepts that anthropologists use to make sense of the world. Along the way, he shows how anthropology helps us understand other cultures and points of view—but also how, in doing so, it reveals something about ourselves and our own cultures, too.

“I love what Engelke does in this book…. [He] achieves his goal with crystal-clear writing, and occasional humor, too.”
—Barbara J. King, NPR

“An excellent overview of the debates and issues that have shaped this hugely influential social science.”
—P. D. Smith, The Guardian

Matthew Engelke is an anthropologist at Columbia University, where he directs the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life.

2019. 336 pages.
Paperback 9780691193137 $16.95  

ebook 9781400889525

Not for sale in the Commonwealth and Europe
Breaking the Social Media Prism

In an era of increasing social isolation, platforms like Facebook and Twitter are among the most important tools we have to understand each other. We use social media as a mirror to decipher our place in society but, as Chris Bail explains, it functions more like a prism that distorts our identities, empowers status-seeking extremists, and renders moderates all but invisible. *Breaking the Social Media Prism* challenges common myths about echo chambers, foreign misinformation campaigns, and radicalizing algorithms, revealing that the solution to political tribalism lies deep inside ourselves.

Drawing on innovative online experiments and in-depth interviews with social media users from across the political spectrum, this book explains why stepping outside of our echo chambers can make us more polarized, not less. Bail takes you inside the minds of online extremists through vivid narratives that trace their lives on the platforms and off—detailing how they dominate public discourse at the expense of the moderate majority. Wherever you stand on the spectrum of user behavior and political opinion, he offers fresh solutions to counter political tribalism from the bottom up and the top down.

“A tour de force. *Breaking the Social Media Prism* is a must-read for anyone who wishes to understand our current political climate and engage in positive social and political change.”

—Mabel Berezin, Cornell University, author of *Illiberal Politics in Neoliberal Times: Culture, Security, and Populism in the New Europe*

Chris Bail is professor of sociology and public policy at Duke University, where he directs the Polarization Lab. He is the author of *Terrified: How Anti-Muslim Fringe Organizations Became Mainstream* (Princeton). Website chrisbail.net

Twitter @chris_bail

April 2021. 240 pages. 1 b/w illus.

Hardback 9780691203423 $24.95
ebook 9780691216508
How propaganda undermines democracy and why we need to pay attention

How Propaganda Works

Our democracy today is fraught with political campaigns, lobbyists, liberal media, and Fox News commentators, all using language to influence the way we think and reason about public issues. Even so, many of us believe that propaganda and manipulation aren’t problems for us—not in the way they were for the totalitarian societies of the mid-twentieth century. In *How Propaganda Works*, Jason Stanley demonstrates that more attention needs to be paid. He examines how propaganda operates subtly, how it undermines democracy—particularly the ideals of democratic deliberation and equality—and how it has damaged democracies of the past.

Drawing from a range of sources, including feminist theory, critical race theory, epistemology, formal semantics, educational theory, and social and cognitive psychology, he explains how the manipulative and hypocritical declaration of flawed beliefs and ideologies arises from and perpetuates inequalities in society, such as the racial injustices that commonly occur in the United States.

*How Propaganda Works* shows that an understanding of propaganda and its mechanisms is essential for the preservation and protection of liberal democracies everywhere.

“Citing examples ranging from historical racism in America to Citizens United, Stanley’s critique of propaganda and ideology will only prove more influential as public and political opinion is further polarized…. [A] useful examination of propaganda’s pervasiveness.”

—Kirkus Reviews

Jason Stanley is the Jacob Urowsky Professor of Philosophy at Yale University. He is the author of *Knowledge and Practical Interests*, *Language in Context*, and *Know How*.

2016. 376 pages.
Paperback 9780691173429 $19.95  ebook 9781400865802

“Jason Stanley’s *How Propaganda Works* is a novel and significant contribution that should revitalize political philosophy.”
—Noam Chomsky
How the new conspiracists are undermining democracy—and what can be done about it

A Lot of People Are Saying

Conspiracy theories are as old as politics. But conspiracists today have introduced something new—conspiracy without theory. And the new conspiracism has moved from the fringes to the heart of government with the election of Donald Trump. In *A Lot of People Are Saying*, Russell Muirhead and Nancy Rosenblum show how the new conspiracism differs from classic conspiracy theory, how it undermines democracy, and what needs to be done to resist it.

“Muirhead and Rosenblum have pointed out something genuinely new and disturbing…. [T]his is a book worth reading.”
—Jesse Singal, *New York Magazine’s Intelligencer*

“Timely and insightful.”
—Lee Drutman, *Washington Monthly*

How urban youth in Chicago use social media to profit from portrayals of gang violence, and the questions this raises about poverty, opportunities, and public voyeurism

Ballad of the Bullet

Amid increasing hardship and limited employment options, poor urban youth are using social media platforms to capitalize on the public’s fascination with the ghetto and gang violence. But with what consequences? Ballad of the Bullet follows the Corner Boys, thirty or so young men on Chicago’s South Side who have hitched dreams of success to the creation of “drill music” (slang for “shooting music”). Drillers disseminate this genre of hyperviolent, DIY-style gangsta rap digitally, hoping to amass millions of views and followers—and a ticket out of poverty. But in this perverse system of benefits, where online popularity can convert into offline rewards, the risks can be too great. Drawing on extensive fieldwork and countless interviews, Ballad of the Bullet looks at what happens when the digital economy and urban culture collide.

“The single best study we have on the interplay between the street and the screen, and an unforgettable account of culture and conflict in the twenty-first-century city.”
—Eric Klinenberg, author of Palaces for the People and Heat Wave

“Forrest Stuart is associate professor of sociology and director of the Ethnography Lab at Stanford University. He is a 2020 MacArthur Fellow, and the author of Down, Out, and Under Arrest. Twitter @ForrestDStuart

May 2021. 272 pages. 2 b/w illus.
Paperback 9780691206493 $16.95
ebook 9780691200088
How the financial pressures of paying for college affect the lives and well-being of middle-class families

**Indebted**

The struggle to pay for college is a defining feature of middle-class life in America. Caitlin Zaloom takes readers into homes of families throughout the nation to reveal the hidden consequences of student debt and the ways that financing college has transformed our most sacred relationships. She describes the profound moral conflicts for parents as they try to honor what they see as their highest parental duty—providing their children with opportunity—and shows how parents and students alike are forced to gamble on an investment that might not pay off. Superbly written and unflinchingly honest, *Indebted* breaks through the culture of silence surrounding the student debt crisis, exposing the unspoken costs of sending our kids to college.

“Eye-opening.”
—Dan Kois, Slate

“College affordability is one of the most urgent problems affecting opportunity in this country, and the consequences of excessive student debt are both deep and widespread. *Indebted*, which is based on groundbreaking research on the financial lives of middle-class families, provides an intimate view of how the struggle to pay for college has transformed the American experience. It’s required reading for everyone concerned about the costs of higher education—students, parents, and policymakers alike.”
—Arne Duncan, managing partner at Emerson Collective, former US Secretary of Education, and author of *How Schools Work*

**Caitlin Zaloom** is professor of social and cultural analysis at New York University. She is a founding editor of *Public Books* and the author of *Out of the Pits: Traders and Technology from Chicago to London*. Twitter @caitlinzaloom

April 2021. 280 pages. 4 b/w illus. Paperback 9780691217222 $17.95  ebook 9780691223216
What the financial diaries of working-class families reveal about economic stresses, why they happen, and what policies might reduce them

The Financial Diaries

The ideal of the American Dream seems increasingly out of reach, even for many families who are trying to do everything right. To find out why, Jonathan Morduch and Rachel Schneider followed 235 low- and middle-income families as they navigated a year of ups and downs. Through the groundbreaking US Financial Diaries project, we meet real people, from a casino dealer to a street vendor to a tax preparer, who open up their lives and reveal a world of financial uncertainty. For these families, even limited financial success requires imaginative—and often costly—coping strategies: forming saving clubs, borrowing from relatives, strategizing about skipping bills, and devising ways to keep money just out of easy reach. In The Financial Diaries, Morduch and Schneider challenge popular assumptions about how Americans earn, spend, borrow, and save. This book uncovers deeper causes of distress and inequality, starkly illustrating how changes in America have placed too much risk on the wrong shoulders. The authors describe new tools and policies—from fin tech apps that help people manage money to laws that guarantee predictable hours—that will improve stability for those who need it most.

“This powerful book should change the way we think about economic opportunity in America. It’s an urgent wake-up call and a roadmap for equally urgent reform.”
—Darren Walker, President, Ford Foundation

 Jonathan Morduch is professor of public policy and economics at the New York University Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. Rachel Schneider is the Omidyar Network Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the Aspen Institute and a senior advisor at the Center for Financial Services Innovation.

2019. 256 pages. 14 b/w illus.
Paperback 9780691183145  $16.95      ebook 9781400884599
How a fraying social fabric is fueling the outrage of rural Americans

The Left Behind

What is fueling rural America’s outrage toward the federal government? Why did rural Americans vote overwhelmingly for Donald Trump? And is there a more nuanced explanation for the growing rural-urban divide? Drawing on more than a decade of research and hundreds of interviews, Robert Wuthnow brings us into America’s small towns, farms, and rural communities to paint a rich portrait of the moral order—the interactions, loyalties, obligations, and identities—underpinning this critical segment of the nation. Wuthnow demonstrates that to truly understand rural Americans’ anger, their culture must be explored more fully, and he shows that rural America’s fury stems less from economic concerns than from the perception that Washington is distant from and yet threatening to the social fabric of small towns. Moving beyond simplistic depictions of America’s heartland, The Left Behind offers a clearer picture of how this important population will influence the nation’s political future.

“Thanks to Wuthnow’s rich observations, we are able to address and understand what truly confronts us as a nation: the triumph of mass society through mass politics in the name of the ‘little guy.’ Little did we know that such a person would also have the hands to match.”

—L. Benjamin Rolsky, Los Angeles Review of Books

Robert Wuthnow is the Gerhard R. Andlinger ’52 Professor of Social Sciences at Princeton University. His many books include Small-Town America and Remaking the Heartland (both Princeton).

2019. 208 pages.
Paperback 9780691191669 $15.95 ebook 9780691195155
The dilemmas faced by disadvantaged college students seeking upward mobility and what educators can do to help these students flourish

Moving Up without Losing Your Way

Upward mobility through higher education has been an article of faith for generations of working-class, low-income, and immigrant college students. While this path usually entails financial sacrifices and hard work, little attention has been paid to the personal compromises such students make as they enter worlds vastly different from their own. Measuring the true cost of higher education for those from disadvantaged backgrounds, this book looks at the ethical dilemmas of upward mobility—the broken ties with family and friends, and the loss of community and identity—faced by students as they strive to earn a successful place in society.

Drawing upon philosophy, social science, personal stories, and interviews, Jennifer Morton reframes the college experience, factoring in not just educational and career opportunities but also essential relationships. She urges educators to empower students with a new narrative, one that might allow them to achieve social mobility while retaining their best selves.

“An empathetic and clear-eyed analysis of the difficult choices [strivers] must make.”
—James M. Lang, Chronicle of Higher Education

“Important and accessible.”
—Choice

Jennifer M. Morton is associate professor of philosophy at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and senior fellow at the Center for Ethics and Education at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

April 2021. 192 pages.
Paperback 9780691216935 $17.95
ebook 9780691190655
Privilege

As one of the most prestigious high schools in the nation, St. Paul’s School in Concord, New Hampshire, has long been the exclusive domain of America’s wealthiest sons. But times have changed. Today, a new elite of boys and girls is being molded at St. Paul’s, one that reflects the hope of openness but also the persistence of inequality.

In *Privilege*, Shamus Khan returns to his alma mater to provide an inside look at an institution that has been the private realm of the elite for the past 150 years. He shows that St. Paul’s students continue to learn what they always have—how to embody privilege. Yet, while students once leveraged the trappings of upper-class entitlement, family connections, and high culture, current St. Paul’s students learn to succeed in a more diverse environment. To be the future leaders of a more democratic world, they must be at ease with everything from highbrow art to everyday life—from *Beowulf* to *Jaws*—and view hierarchies as ladders to scale. Through deft portrayals of the relationships among students, faculty, and staff, Khan shows how members of the new elite face the opening of society while still preserving the advantages that allow them to rule.

“*Privilege* is superb. Khan skillfully narrates from the perspective of both teacher and researcher, and the personal portraits are very well-rounded. This important book is a masterly look at a disturbing current in the formation of elite American society.”
—Richard Sennett, author of *The Corrosion of Character*

Shamus Rahman Khan is assistant professor of sociology at Columbia University. He is an alumnus and former faculty member of St. Paul’s School

The William G. Bowen Series, Princeton Studies in Cultural Sociology
2012. 248 pages.
Paperback 9780691156231 $19.95   ebook 9781400836222
A compelling book that explains why the rich underestimate the importance of luck in their success, why that hurts everyone, and what we can do about it.

Success and Luck

How important is luck in economic success? No question more reliably divides conservatives from liberals. As conservatives correctly observe, people who amass great fortunes are almost always talented and hardworking. But liberals are also correct to note that countless others have those same qualities yet never earn much. In recent years, social scientists have discovered that chance plays a much larger role in important life outcomes than most people imagine. In *Success and Luck*, bestselling author and *New York Times* economics columnist Robert Frank explores the surprising implications of those findings to show why the rich underestimate the importance of luck in success—and why that hurts everyone, even the wealthy.

“What makes *Success and Luck* different is that Frank connects the importance of luck in determining personal economic success with a set of larger policy recommendations.”
—Dr. Joshua Kim, *Inside Higher Education*

Though hard work, effort, and schooling are important factors, Frank demonstrates convincingly that pure, random luck also matters (a lot).”
—*Choice*

“Well reasoned, coherent, and compelling—Frank is one of the great writers of economics.”
—*Fortune*

Robert H. Frank is the H. J. Louis Professor of Management and Professor of Economics at Cornell University’s Johnson School of Management. He has been an Economic View columnist for the *New York Times* for more than a decade and his books include *The Winner-Take-All Society* (with Philip J. Cook), *The Economic Naturalist*, *The Darwin Economy* (Princeton), and *Principles of Economics* (with Ben S. Bernanke).

2017. 208 pages. 16 b/w illus. 2 tables.
Paperback 9780691178301 $17.95 ebook 9781400880270
From *New York Times* bestselling author and economics columnist Robert Frank, bold new ideas for creating environments that promise a brighter future

**Under the Influence**

Psychologists have long understood that social environments profoundly shape our behavior, sometimes for the better, often for the worse. But social influence is a two-way street—our environments are themselves products of our behavior. *Under the Influence* explains how to unlock the latent power of social context. It reveals how our environments encourage smoking, bullying, tax cheating, sexual predation, problem drinking, and wasteful energy use. We are building bigger houses, driving heavier cars, and engaging in a host of other activities that threaten the planet—mainly because that’s what friends and neighbors do.

In the wake of the hottest years on record, only robust measures to curb greenhouse gases promise relief from more frequent and intense storms, droughts, flooding, wildfires, and famines. Robert Frank describes how the strongest predictor of our willingness to support climate-friendly policies, install solar panels, or buy an electric car is the number of people we know who have already done so.

Most of us would agree that we need to take responsibility for our own choices, but with more supportive social environments, each of us is more likely to make choices that benefit everyone. *Under the Influence* shows how.

**Robert H. Frank** is the H. J. Louis Professor of Management and Professor of Economics at Cornell University’s Johnson Graduate School of Management. He has been an Economic View columnist for the *New York Times* for more than a decade. His many books include *The Winner-Take-All Society*, *The Economic Naturalist*, and *Success and Luck* (Princeton). Twitter @econnaturalist

“Brilliant, fun, and profound. Other people influence us a lot more than we think, which is a big problem but also a terrific opportunity. Robert Frank shows exactly why. Read this book—everyone else is going to!”

—Cass R. Sunstein, author of *On Freedom*
How beef conquered America and gave rise to the modern industrial food system

**Red Meat Republic**

By the late nineteenth century, Americans rich and poor had come to expect high-quality fresh beef with almost every meal. Beef production in the United States had gone from small-scale, localized operations to a highly centralized industry spanning the country. This book tells the remarkable story of the violent conflict over who would reap the benefits of this new industry and who would bear its heavy costs. Joshua Specht brings to life a turbulent era marked by Indian wars, Chicago labor unrest, and food riots in the streets of New York. A compelling and unfailingly enjoyable read, *Red Meat Republic* reveals the complex history of exploitation and innovation behind the food we consume today.

“A fascinating cultural exploration.”
—Rebecca Onion, *History Today*

**Joshua Specht** is assistant professor of history at the University of Notre Dame. Twitter @joshspecht

2020. 368 pages. 12 b/w illus. 2 maps.
Paperback 9780691209180 $18.95  
ebook 9780691185781

“In a signal contribution to a growing scholarship on the history of food, Specht’s *Red Meat Republic* carefully traces the emergence of the modern beef industry, following the story from cow path to slaughterhouse. A troubling, fascinating read.”
—Jill Lepore, author of *These Truths: A History of the United States*
From one of our finest writers and leading environmental thinkers, a powerful book about how the land we share divides us—and how it could unite us

This Land Is Our Land

Today, we are at a turning point as we face ecological and political crises that are rooted in conflicts over the land itself. But these problems can be solved if we draw on elements of our tradition that move us toward a new commonwealth—a community founded on the well-being of all people and the natural world. In this brief, powerful, timely, and hopeful book, Jedediah Purdy explores how we might begin to heal our fractured and contentious relationship with the land and with each other.

“This Land Is Our Land is a short book of great power by an exceptional writer and thinker. Challenging, dismaying, rigorous, inspiring, this is an urgent and important work about nature, land, and people for our Anthropocene moment.”
—Robert Macfarlane, author of Underland: A Deep Time Journey

Jedediah Purdy is a professor at Columbia Law School. His books include After Nature, A Tolerable Anarchy, Being America, and For Common Things.

April 2021. 200 pages.
Paperback 9780691216799 $14.95
ebook 9780691216805

“A profound meditation for our heedless era.”
—Elizabeth Kolbert, Pulitzer Prize–winning author of The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History
A timely defense of religious diversity and its centrality to American identity

Out of Many Faiths

America is the most religiously diverse nation on the planet. In today’s volatile climate of religious conflict and distrust, how do we affirm that the American promise is deeply intertwined with how each of us engages with people of different beliefs? Eboo Patel, former faith adviser to Barack Obama, provides answers to this timely question. In this thought-provoking book, Patel draws on his personal experience as a Muslim in America to examine the importance of religious diversity in the nation’s cultural, political, and economic life. He explores how religious language has given the United States some of its most enduring symbols and inspired its most vital civic institutions—and demonstrates how the genius of the American experiment lies in its empowerment of all people.

“In this brilliant book, an ardent Muslim American documents our long American commitment to religious pluralism—from Jefferson, Franklin, and Washington to Barack Obama—and asks what it will take for this bold experiment to thrive as we become more diverse than ever. Essential reading for today’s citizens.”
—Diana Eck, professor of religion, Harvard University, and director of the Pluralism Project

“Eboo Patel is a true hero of the interfaith movement of America and, at a critical time in our national history, he continues his active work building bridges between cultures and religions. Read him and applaud his efforts.”
—Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, American University, Washington, DC

Eboo Patel is founder and president of Interfaith Youth Core, a nonprofit organization that promotes interfaith leadership on college campuses. He is the author of Interfaith Leadership: A Primer; Sacred Ground: Pluralism, Prejudice, and the Promise of America; and Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation.

Our Compelling Interests
2019. 248 pages. 1 b/w illus.
Hardback 9780691196817 $17.95
ebook 9780691189000
The remarkable history of how college presidents shaped the struggle for racial equality

The Campus Color Line

Some of America’s most pressing civil rights issues—desegregation, equal educational and employment opportunities, housing discrimination, and free speech—have been closely intertwined with higher education institutions. It is commonly known that college students and other activists, as well as politicians, participated in the fight for and against civil rights in the middle decades of the twentieth century, historical accounts have not adequately focused on the roles that the nation’s college presidents played in the debates on racism. *The Campus Color Line* is based on archival research conducted at a range of colleges and universities across the United States.

Focusing on the period between 1948 and 1968, Eddie Cole shows how college presidents, during a time of violence and unrest, strategically, yet often silently, initiated and shaped racial policies and practices inside and outside of the educational sphere. With courage and hope, as well as malice and cruelty, college presidents positioned themselves—sometimes precariously—amid conflicting interests and demands. Black college presidents challenged racist policies as their students demonstrated in the streets against segregation, while presidents of major universities lobbied for urban renewal programs that displaced Black communities near campus. Some presidents amended campus speech practices to accommodate white supremacist speakers, even as other academic leaders developed the nation’s first affirmative action programs in higher education.

*The Campus Color Line* illuminates how the legacy of academic leaders’ actions continues to influence the unfinished struggle for Black freedom and racial equity in education and beyond.

**Eddie R. Cole** is associate professor of higher education and organizational change at the University of California, Los Angeles. Twitter @EddieRCole

2020. 376 pages.

Hardback 9780691206745  $29.95  ebook 9780691206752
How the clash between the civil rights firebrand and the father of modern conservatism continues to illuminate America’s racial divide

The Fire Is upon Us

On February 18, 1965, an overflowing crowd packed the Cambridge Union in Cambridge, England, to witness a historic televised debate between James Baldwin, the leading literary voice of the civil rights movement, and William F. Buckley Jr., a fierce critic of the movement and America’s most influential conservative intellectual. The topic was “the American dream is at the expense of the American Negro,” and no one who has seen the debate can soon forget it.

Nicholas Buccola’s The Fire Is upon Us is the first book to tell the full story of the event, the radically different paths that led Baldwin and Buckley to it, and how the debate and the decades-long clash between the men illuminates the racial divide that continues to haunt America today.

“A great read.”
—Whoopi Goldberg, The View

“Wonderfully accessible.”
—Gabrielle Bellot, The Atlantic

Nicholas Buccola is the author of The Political Thought of Frederick Douglass and the editor of The Essential Douglass and Abraham Lincoln and Liberal Democracy. His work has appeared in the New York Times, Salon, and many other publications. He is the Elizabeth and Morris Glicksman Chair in Political Science at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon.

2020. 504 pages.
Paperback 9780691210773 $18.95  ebook 9780691197395

“A gripping snapshot of a country riven by injustice yet anxious about radical change.”
—New York Times Book Review
How the words we use—and don’t use—reinforce dominant cultural norms

**Taken for Granted**

Why is the term “openly gay” so widely used but “openly straight” is not? What are the unspoken assumptions behind terms like “male nurse,” “working mom,” and “white trash”? *Taken for Granted* exposes the subtly encoded ways we talk about topics like race, gender, sexuality, and social status, offering a provocative look at the word choices we make every day without even realizing it. Eviatar Zerubavel describes how the words we use provide telling clues about the things we take for granted. By marking “women’s history” or “Black History Month,” we are also reinforcing the apparent normality of the history of white men. Zerubavel shows how this tacit normalizing of certain identities, practices, and ideas helps to maintain their cultural dominance—and shape what we take for granted.

“I dare Americans to read this revelatory book, and hope they will.”
—Catharine R. Stimpson, New York University

“Mind-opening…. Remarkable.”
—Dan Friedman, *Los Angeles Review of Books*

“A special mind is at work in these pages.”
—Kai Erikson, Yale University

**Eviatar Zerubavel** is Board of Governors and Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Rutgers University. His many books include *Social Mindscapes: An Invitation to Cognitive Sociology* and *The Elephant in the Room: Silence and Denial in Everyday Life.*

2020. 160 pages. 7 b/w illus.
Paperback 9780691202433 $14.95
ebook 9781400889464
How the attorney-client relationship favors the privileged in criminal court—and denies justice to the poor and to working-class people of color

Privilege and Punishment

The number of Americans arrested, brought to court, and incarcerated has skyrocketed in recent decades. Criminal defendants come from all races and economic walks of life, but they experience punishment in vastly different ways. Privilege and Punishment examines how racial and class inequalities are embedded in the attorney-client relationship, providing a devastating portrait of inequality and injustice within and beyond the criminal courts.

Matthew Clair conducted extensive fieldwork in the Boston court system, attending criminal hearings and interviewing defendants, lawyers, judges, police officers, and probation officers. In this eye-opening book, he uncovers how privilege and inequality play out in criminal court interactions. When disadvantaged defendants try to learn their legal rights and advocate for themselves, lawyers and judges often silence, coerce, and punish them. Privileged defendants, who are more likely to trust their defense attorneys, delegate authority to their lawyers, defer to judges, and are rewarded for their compliance. Clair shows how attempts to exercise legal rights often backfire on the poor and on working-class people of color, and how effective legal representation alone is no guarantee of justice.

Matthew Clair is assistant professor of sociology at Stanford University, where he holds a courtesy appointment at Stanford Law School. Twitter @mathuclair

2020. 320 pages. 14 tables.
Hardback 9780691194332 $29.95  ebook 9780691205878

“Invaluable contribution to our understanding of America’s criminal legal system. Clair combines compelling observations, robust interview data, and deft prose to illuminate an aspect of the courtroom that, until now, has not gotten the attention it deserves. Privilege and Punishment helps all of us better understand the current system so that we can collectively imagine a new one.”
—Clint Smith, author of Counting Descent
The groundbreaking classic that explores how women can and should negotiate for parity in their workplaces, homes, and beyond

**Women Don’t Ask**

When Linda Babcock wanted to know why male graduate students were teaching their own courses while female students were always assigned as assistants, her dean said: “More men ask. The women just don’t ask.” Drawing on psychology, sociology, economics, and organizational behavior as well as dozens of interviews with men and women in different fields and at all stages in their careers, *Women Don’t Ask* explores how our institutions, child-rearing practices, and implicit assumptions discourage women from asking for the opportunities and resources that they have earned and deserve—perpetuating inequalities that are fundamentally unfair and economically unsound. *Women Don’t Ask* tells women how to ask, and why they should.

“An eye-opener, a call to arms, and a plan for action; it is enlightening, unsettling, and, ultimately, inspiring.”
—Teresa Heinz

**Linda Babcock** is the James M. Walton Professor of Economics and head of the Department of Social and Decision Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University. **Sara Laschever** is a writer whose work has appeared in such publications as the *New York Times*, the *New York Review of Books*, *Harvard Business Review*, the *Guardian*, and *Vogue*. Babcock and Laschever are the coauthors of *Ask For It: How Women Can Use the Power of Negotiation to Get What They Really Want*.

2021. 248 pages.
Paperback 9780691210537 $17.95  ebook 9780691212845

“An eye-opener, a call to arms, and a plan for action; it is enlightening, unsettling, and, ultimately, inspiring.”
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2021. 248 pages.
Paperback 9780691210537 $17.95  ebook 9780691212845
From acclaimed archaeologist and bestselling author Eric Cline, a breathtaking account of how the collapse of an ancient civilized world ushered in the first Dark Ages

**1177 B.C.**

In 1177 B.C., marauding groups known only as the “Sea Peoples” invaded Egypt. The pharaoh’s army and navy defeated them, but the victory so weakened Egypt that it soon slid into decline, as did most of the surrounding civilizations. Eric Cline tells the gripping story of how the end was brought about by multiple interconnected failures, ranging from invasion and revolt to earthquakes, drought, famine, and the cutting of international trade routes. Bringing to life a vibrant multicultural world, he draws a sweeping panorama of the empires of the age and shows that it may have been their very interdependence that hastened their dramatic collapse. Now revised and updated, *1177 B.C.* sheds light on the complex ties that gave rise to, and eventually destroyed, the flourishing civilizations of the Late Bronze Age—and set the stage for the emergence of classical Greece and, ultimately, our world today.

“The memorable thing about Cline’s book is the strangely recognizable picture he paints of this very faraway time…. It was as globalized and cosmopolitan a time as any on record, albeit within a much smaller cosmos. The degree of interpenetration and of cultural sharing is astonishing.”

—Adam Gopnik, *New Yorker*

“...a detailed but accessible synthesis. ... [O]ffers students and the interested lay antiquarian a sense of the rich picture that is emerging from debates among the ruins.”

—Scott McLemee, *Inside Higher Ed*

Eric H. Cline is professor of classics and anthropology and director of the Capitol Archaeological Institute at George Washington University. Twitter @digkabri
A powerful portrait of the greatest humanitarian emergency of our time, from the director of Human Flow

Human Flow

In the course of making Human Flow, his epic feature documentary about the global refugee crisis, the artist Ai Weiwei and his collaborators interviewed more than 600 refugees, aid workers, politicians, activists, doctors, and local authorities in twenty-three countries around the world. A handful of those interviews were included in the film. This book presents one hundred of these conversations in their entirety, providing compelling first-person stories of the lives of those affected by the crisis and those on the front lines of working to address its immense challenges.

Speaking in their own words, refugees give voice to their experiences of migrating across borders, living in refugee camps, and struggling to rebuild their lives in unfamiliar and uncertain surroundings. They talk about the dire circumstances that drove them to migrate, whether war, famine, or persecution; and their hopes and fears for the future. A wide range of related voices provides context for the historical evolution of this crisis, the challenges for regions and states, and the options for moving forward.

Complete with photographs taken by Ai Weiwei while filming Human Flow, this book provides a powerful, personal, and moving account of the most urgent humanitarian crisis of our time.

“Today there are nearly 80 million people displaced by war and persecution. They are alternately forgotten and demonized. In sharing their words, Ai Weiwei reminds us that while they are refugees, they are first and foremost men, women, and children with the same dreams and aspirations as the rest of us, equally deserving of the peace, protection, and opportunity we seek for ourselves and our own families.”
—Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Ai Weiwei is one of the world’s most prominent artists and political activists. His books include Weiwei-isms and Humanity (both Princeton). His works have been exhibited at Tate Modern, the Guggenheim, and the Museum of Modern Art. Twitter @aiww

2020. 400 pages. 48 b/w illus.
Paperback 9780691207049 $29.95  ebook 9780691208060
An entertaining, enlightening, and humorous graphic narrative of the dangerous thinkers who laid the foundation of modern thought

**Heretics!**

This entertaining and enlightening graphic narrative tells the exciting story of the seventeenth-century thinkers who challenged authority—sometimes risking excommunication, prison, and even death—to lay the foundations of modern philosophy and science and help usher in a new world. With masterful storytelling and color illustrations, *Heretics!* offers a unique introduction to the birth of modern thought in comics form—smart, charming, and often funny.

These contentious and controversial philosophers—from Galileo and Descartes to Spinoza, Locke, Leibniz, and Newton—fundamentally changed the way we look at the world, society, and ourselves, overturning everything from the idea that the Earth is the center of the cosmos to the notion that kings have a divine right to rule. More devoted to reason than to faith, these thinkers defended scandalous new views of nature, religion, politics, knowledge, and the human mind.

“An entertaining book that will keep the interest of all readers…. The color illustrations keep the text moving at a brisk pace. The authors are excellent story tellers…. An enjoyable read for any science teacher. The engaging nature of the stories makes it easy for the reader to learn about the ideas and stories of the philosophers and scientists who laid the groundwork for our modern world. Teachers could also use this book to help students understand the origins of our modern scientific thinking.”

—NSTA Recommends

**Steven Nadler** is the William H. Hay II Professor of Philosophy and Evjue-Bascom Professor in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. His books include *Spinoza: A Life*, which won the Koret Jewish Book Award, and *Rembrandt’s Jews*, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

**Ben Nadler** is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and an illustrator. Instagram @bennadlercomics

2017. 192 pages. 173 color illus. Paperback 9780691168692 $22.95  ebook 9781400884650
The gripping story of how the end of the Roman Empire was the beginning of the modern world

Escape from Rome

The fall of the Roman Empire has long been considered one of the greatest disasters in history. But in this groundbreaking book, Walter Scheidel argues that Rome’s dramatic collapse was actually the best thing that ever happened, clearing the path for Europe’s economic rise and the creation of the modern age. Ranging across the entire premodern world, Escape from Rome offers new answers to some of the biggest questions in history: Why did the Roman Empire appear? Why did nothing like it ever return to Europe? And, above all, why did Europeans come to dominate the world? In an absorbing narrative that begins with ancient Rome but stretches far beyond it, from Byzantium to China and from Genghis Khan to Napoleon, Scheidel shows how the demise of Rome and the enduring failure of empire-building on European soil launched an economic transformation that changed the continent and ultimately the world.

“An outstanding, epic history of the fall of the Roman Empire and rise of the European West.”
—Simon Sebag Montefiore, Evening Standard

“A remarkable book.”
—Peter Brown, New York Review of Books

Walter Scheidel is the Dickason Professor in the Humanities, Professor of Classics and History, and a Kennedy-Grossman Fellow in Human Biology at Stanford University. His many books include The Great Leveler (Princeton).
Twitter @WalterScheidel

March 2021. 704 pages. 29 b/w illus. 5 tables. 36 maps.
Paperback 9780691216737 $21.95 ebook 9780691198835
From acclaimed writer and biologist Sean B. Carroll, a rollicking, awe-inspiring story of the surprising power of chance in our lives and the world

**A Series of Fortunate Events**

Why is the world the way it is? How did we get here? Does everything happen for a reason or are some things left to chance? Philosophers and theologians have pondered these questions for millennia, but startling scientific discoveries over the past half century are revealing that we live in a world driven by chance. *A Series of Fortunate Events* tells the story of the awesome power of chance and how it is the surprising source of all the beauty and diversity in the living world.

Like every other species, we humans are here by accident. But it is shocking just how many things—any of which might never have occurred—had to happen in certain ways for any of us to exist. From an extremely improbable asteroid impact, to the wild gyrations of the Ice Age, to invisible accidents in our parents’ gonads, we are all here through an astonishing series of fortunate events. And chance continues to reign every day over the razor-thin line between our life and death.

Drawing inspiration from Monty Python, Kurt Vonnegut, and many others, and crafted by one of today’s most accomplished science storytellers, this book is an irresistibly entertaining and thought-provoking account of one of the most important but least appreciated facts of life.

“In *A Series of Fortunate Events*, Sean Carroll pulls off a remarkable feat. He handles the ‘Big Question’—the role of chance in the making of our bodies and our planet—with wit and scientific rigor. Carroll treats us to a tour of Earth history, DNA, cancer, and evolution that is awe-inspiring, urgent, and even at times laugh-out-loud funny.”

—Neil Shubin, paleontologist and author of *Your Inner Fish*

**Sean B. Carroll** is an award-winning scientist, writer, educator, and film producer. He is Vice President for Science Education at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Balo-Simon Chair of Biology at the University of Maryland. Twitter [@SeanBiolCarroll](https://twitter.com/SeanBiolCarroll)

2020. 224 pages. 40 b/w illus. 1 table. Hardback 9780691201757 $22.95  
Audiobook 9780691212098 $22.95  
ebook 9780691209548  

“Fascinating and exhilarating—Sean B. Carroll at his very best.”  
—Bill Bryson, author of *The Body: A Guide for Occupants*
Why an awareness of Earth’s temporal rhythms is critical to our planetary survival

Timefulness

Few of us have any conception of the enormous timescales of our planet’s long history, and this narrow perspective underlies many of the environmental problems we are creating. The lifespan of Earth can seem unfathomable compared to the brevity of human existence, but this view of time denies our deep roots in Earth’s history—and the magnitude of our effects on the planet. Timefulness reveals how knowing the rhythms of Earth’s deep past and conceiving of time as a geologist does can give us the perspective we need for a more sustainable future. Featuring illustrations by Haley Hagerman, this compelling book offers a new way of thinking about our place in time, showing how our everyday lives are shaped by processes that vastly predate us, and how our actions today will in turn have consequences that will outlast us by generations.

“Timefulness is a delightful and interesting read…. Made me feel as though I was having a glass of wine with a friend who was explaining geologic history while sketching on a napkin.”
—David R. Wunsch, Science

Marcia Bjornerud is professor of geology and environmental studies at Lawrence University. She is the author of Reading the Rocks: The Autobiography of the Earth and a contributing writer for Elements, the New Yorker’s science and technology blog.

“A profound meditation on the richness, depth and entanglements of geologic time.”
—Wall Street Journal

2020. 224 pages. 12 b/w illus.
Paperback 9780691202631 $16.95    ebook 9780691184531
A provocative and inspiring look at the future of humanity and science from world-renowned scientist and bestselling author Martin Rees

On the Future

Humanity has reached a critical moment. Our world is unsettled and rapidly changing, and we face existential risks over the next century. Various outcomes—good and bad—are possible. Yet our approach to the future is characterized by short-term thinking, polarizing debates, alarmist rhetoric, and pessimism. In this short, exhilarating book, renowned scientist and bestselling author Martin Rees argues that humanity’s prospects depend on our taking a very different approach to planning for tomorrow.

The future of humanity is bound to the future of science and hinges on how successfully we harness technological advances to address our challenges. If we are to use science to solve our problems while avoiding its dystopian risks, we must think rationally, globally, collectively, and optimistically about the long term. But there is no “Plan B” for Earth—no viable alternative within reach if we do not care for our home planet.

Rich with fascinating insights into cutting-edge science and technology, this accessible book will captivate anyone who wants to understand the critical issues that will define the future of humanity on Earth and beyond.

“On the Future, by a leading senior scientist and written in a charming and crystalline style, provides the kind of wisdom humanity most needs to make our way on through the twenty-first century.”
—Edward O. Wilson, professor emeritus, Harvard University

“An engaging analysis of the most important issues facing the world, sprinkled with insight and suffused with wisdom and humanity.”
—Steven Pinker, author of Enlightenment Now

“What if we got one of the smartest people alive to figure the odds on how we might be able to survive our ability to do ourselves in? We have that person in Martin Rees, and his thoughtful answers in this book.”
—Alan Alda

Martin Rees is Astronomer Royal, and has been Master of Trinity College and Director of the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge University. Twitter @lordmartinrees
An intimate reckoning with aquifer depletion in America’s heartland

Running Out

The Ogallala aquifer has nourished life on the American Great Plains for millennia. But less than a century of unsustainable irrigation farming has taxed much of the aquifer beyond repair. The imminent depletion of the Ogallala and other aquifers around the world is a defining planetary crisis of our times. Running Out offers a uniquely personal account of aquifer depletion and the deeper layers through which it gains meaning and force.

Anthropologist Lucas Bessire journeyed back to western Kansas, where five generations of his family lived as irrigation farmers and ranchers, to try to make sense of this vital resource and its loss. His search for water across the drying High Plains brings the reader face to face with the stark realities of industrial agriculture, eroding democratic norms, and surreal interpretations of a looming disaster. Yet the destination is far from predictable, as the book seeks to move beyond the words and genres through which destruction is often known. Instead, this journey into the morass of eradication offers a series of unexpected discoveries about what it means to inherit the troubled legacies of the past and how we can take responsibility for a more inclusive, sustainable future.

An urgent and unsettling meditation on environmental change, Running Out is a revelatory account of family, complicity, loss, and what it means to find your way back home.

Lucas Bessire is associate professor of anthropology at the University of Oklahoma and the author of Behold the Black Caiman: A Chronicle of Ayoreo Life.

“Powerful. Bessire tells a tragic and infuriating story of massive, earth-shattering loss juxtaposed with the cultivated world and the human search for meaning and purpose.”
—Kathleen Stewart, author of A Space on the Side of the Road: Cultural Poetics in an “Other” America
A riveting portrait of a rural Pennsylvania town at the center of the fracking controversy

Up to Heaven and Down to Hell

Shale gas extraction—commonly known as fracking—is often portrayed as an energy revolution that will transform the American economy and geopolitics. But in greater Williamsport, Pennsylvania, fracking is personal. *Up to Heaven and Down to Hell* is a vivid and sometimes heartbreaking account of what happens when one of the most momentous decisions about the well-being of our communities and our planet—whether or not to extract shale gas and oil from the very land beneath our feet—is largely a private choice that millions of ordinary people make without the public’s consent.

The United States is the only country in the world where property rights commonly extend “up to heaven and down to hell,” which means that landowners have the exclusive right to lease their subsurface mineral estates to petroleum companies. Colin Jerolmack spent eight months living with rural communities outside of Williamsport as they confronted the tension between property rights and the commonwealth. In this deeply intimate book, he reveals how the decision to lease brings financial rewards but can also cause irreparable harm to neighbors, to communal resources like air and water, and even to oneself.

*Up to Heaven and Down to Hell* casts America’s ideas about freedom and property rights in a troubling new light, revealing how your personal choices can undermine your neighbors’ liberty, and how the exercise of individual rights can bring unintended environmental consequences for us all.

*Colin Jerolmack* is professor of sociology and environmental studies at New York University and the author of *The Global Pigeon*. Twitter @jerolmack

“A true tour de force, *Up to Heaven and Down to Hell* takes community ethnography to a whole new level. Embedding himself in a Pennsylvania town turned upside down by fracking, Colin Jerolmack spends time with people on all sides of the issue, giving everyone an honest hearing. The result is a deeply insightful on-the-ground account that reveals the climate crisis to be a crisis of community.”

—Matthew Desmond, Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*
What a rare mushroom can teach us about sustaining life on a fragile planet

The Mushroom at the End of the World

Matsutake is the most valuable mushroom in the world—and a weed that grows in human-disturbed forests across the Northern Hemisphere. Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing’s account of these sought-after fungi offers insights into areas far beyond just mushrooms and addresses a crucial question: What manages to live in the ruins we have made? *The Mushroom at the End of the World* explores the unexpected corners of matsutake commerce, where we encounter Japanese gourmets, capitalist traders, Hmong jungle fighters, Finnish nature guides, and more. These companions lead us into fungal ecologies and forest histories to better understand the promise of cohabitation in a time of massive human devastation. *The Mushroom at the End of the World* delves into the relationship between capitalist destruction and collaborative survival within multispecies landscapes, the prerequisite for continuing life on earth.

“Scientists and artists know that the way to handle an immense topic is often through close attention to a small aspect of it, revealing the whole through the part. In the shape of a finch’s beak we can see all of evolution. So through close, indeed loving, attention to a certain fascinating mushroom, the matsutake, Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing discusses how the whole immense crisis of ecology came about and why it continues…. In a situation where urgency and enormity can overwhelm the mind, she gives us a real way to think about it. I’m very grateful to have this book as a guide through the coming years.”

—Ursula K. Le Guin

Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing is professor of anthropology at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

June 2021. 352 pages. 29 b/w illus.
Paperback 9780691220550 $18.95 ebook 9781400873548
Land of Wondrous Cold

Antarctica, the ice kingdom hosting the South Pole, looms large in the human imagination. The secrets of this vast frozen desert have long tempted explorers, but its brutal climate and glacial shores notoriously resist human intrusion. *Land of Wondrous Cold* tells a gripping story of the pioneering nineteenth-century voyages, when British, French, and American commanders raced to penetrate Antarctica’s glacial rim for unknown lands beyond.

Today, the white continent poses new challenges, as scientists race to uncover Earth’s climate history, which is recorded in the south polar ice and ocean floor, and to monitor the increasing instability of the Antarctic ice cap, which threatens to inundate coastal cities worldwide. Interweaving the breakthrough research of the modern Ocean Drilling Program with the dramatic discovery tales of their Victorian forerunners, Gillen D’Arcy Wood describes Antarctica’s role in a planetary drama of plate tectonics, climate change, and species evolution stretching back more than thirty million years. An original, multifaceted portrait of the polar continent emerges, illuminating our profound connection to Antarctica in its past, present, and future incarnations.

A deep-time history of monumental scale, *Land of Wondrous Cold* brings the remotest of worlds within close reach—an Antarctica vital to both planetary history and human fortunes.

Gillen D’Arcy Wood is professor of environmental humanities at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where he serves as associate director of the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and the Environment. He is the author of *Tambora: The Eruption That Changed the World* (Princeton).

“Three nations sent expeditions to the Antarctic in the late 1830s and early 1840s. This fascinating account describes their members’ heroism and often disastrous experiences without ignoring the significant discoveries that followed…. Outstanding history accompanied by outstanding popular science.”

—Kirkus, starred review
The Long Thaw

The human impact on Earth’s climate is often treated as a hundred-year issue lasting as far into the future as 2100, the year in which most climate projections cease. In *The Long Thaw*, David Archer, one of the world’s leading climatologists, reveals the hard truth that these changes in climate will be “locked in,” essentially forever.

If you think that global warming means slightly hotter weather and a modest rise in sea levels that will persist only so long as fossil fuels hold out (or until we decide to stop burning them), think again. In *The Long Thaw*, David Archer predicts that if we continue to emit carbon dioxide we may eventually cancel the next ice age and raise the oceans by 50 meters. A human-driven, planet-wide thaw has already begun, and will continue to impact Earth’s climate and sea level for hundreds of thousands of years. The great ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland may take more than a century to melt, and the overall change in sea level will be one hundred times what is forecast for 2100. By comparing the global warming projection for the next century to natural climate changes of the distant past, and then looking into the future far beyond the usual scientific and political horizon of the year 2100, Archer reveals the hard truths of the long-term climate forecast.

With a new preface that discusses recent advances in climate science, and the impact on global warming and climate change, *The Long Thaw* shows that it is still not too late to avert dangerous climate change—if we can find a way to cooperate as never before.

David Archer is professor of geophysical sciences at the University of Chicago. He is the author of many books, including *The Global Carbon Cycle* (Princeton).
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The strengths and failures of the American college, and why liberal education still matters

College

“In College, [Delbanco] looks to the lengthy and dynamic history of higher education in America as a lens through which to examine its current crises and unsettled future.” —Serena Golden, Inside Higher Ed

“Delbanco’s book would be a great one for students and scholars in the fields of educational philosophy, history of education, educational policy, and other related fields.” —Teachers College Record

Andrew Delbanco is the Mendelson Family Chair of American Studies and the Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University.

The William G. Bowen Series

2014. 264 pages.
Paperback 9780691165516 $17.95  ebook 9781400866144

How our colleges and universities can respond to the changing hopes and needs of society

Higher Expectations

“As higher education grapples with epochal disruption, Derek Bok—the nation’s indefatigable dean for all seasons—provides . . . exactly what all educators will need to rebuild: a cogent and compelling articulation of higher education’s core educational purposes, from venerable goals, like educating citizens and cultivating evidence-based reasoning, to such suddenly urgent priorities as resilience, design thinking, and creativity. . . . [Bok] models in his own prose the finest benefits of liberal learning: careful analysis, reasoned, research-informed judgment, thoughtful attention to dissenting positions, and an abiding conviction that college learning can and should help our society build a better tomorrow.” —Carol Geary Schneider, President Emerita, Association of American Colleges and Universities

Derek Bok is the 300th Anniversary University Research Professor at Harvard University.

2020. 232 pages.
Hardback 9780691205809 $29.95  ebook 9780691212357
FOR EDUCATORS

A sweeping assessment of the state of higher education today from former Harvard president Derek Bok

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—James J. Duderstadt, president emeritus of the University of Michigan

**Derek Bok** is the 300th Anniversary University Research Professor at Harvard University.

The William G. Bowen Series
2015. 496 pages. 5 tables.
Paperback 9780691165585 $19.95 ebook 9781400866120

The landmark *New York Times* bestseller that demonstrates the benefits of race-conscious admissions in higher education

**The Shape of the River**

First published in 1998, *The Shape of the River* became an immediate landmark in the debate over affirmative action in America. It grounded a contentious subject in concrete data at a time when arguments surrounding it were characterized more by emotion than evidence—and it made a forceful case that race-conscious admissions were successfully helping to promote equal opportunity. Now with a new foreword by Nicholas Lemann and an afterword by Derek Bok, *The Shape of the River* is an essential text for anyone seeking to understand race-conscious admissions in higher education.

**William G. Bowen** (1933–2016) was president emeritus of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Princeton University. **Derek Bok** is the 300th Anniversary University Research Professor at Harvard University.

The William G. Bowen Series
2019. 528 pages. 103 b/w illus. 93 tables.
Paperback 9780691182483 $24.95 ebook 9780691184227
A masterful history of the postwar transformation of American higher education

American Higher Education since World War II

In the decades after World War II, as government and social support surged and enrollments exploded, the role of colleges and universities in American society changed dramatically. Roger Geiger provides an in-depth history of this remarkable transformation. He demonstrates how growth has been the defining feature of modern higher education, but how each generation since the war has pursued it for different reasons. Sweeping in scope and richly insightful, this groundbreaking book provides the context we need to understand the complex issues facing our colleges and universities today.

Roger L. Geiger is Distinguished Professor of Higher Education Emeritus at Pennsylvania State University.

May 2021. 400 pages.
Paperback 9780691216928 $24.95  ebook 9780691190648

A revealing look at the experiences of first generation students on elite campuses and the hidden curriculum they must master in order to succeed

The Hidden Curriculum

“I highly recommend this book for university leaders who are committed to creating more equitable and inclusive environments in which all students can thrive.”
—Kourtney Cockrell, cofounder of the FGLI Consortium

For first generation students, elite universities can often seem like bastions of privilege, with unspoken academic norms and social rules. The book draws on more than one hundred in-depth interviews with students to offer vital lessons about the challenges of being the first in the family to go to college, while also providing invaluable insights into the hurdles that all undergraduates face.

Rachel Gable is director of institutional effectiveness at Virginia Commonwealth University.

2021. 264 pages. 12 b/w illus.
Hardback 9780691190761 $27.95  ebook 9780691201085
A conservative college professor’s compelling defense of liberal education

Let’s Be Reasonable

“There is a role for politics in higher education, but it should not be one of enforced conformity. Jonathan Marks’s witty and readable challenge to contemporary practices will not be welcome in all quarters, but that is exactly why it is important.”

—Cary Nelson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, former president of the American Association of University Professors

Jonathan Marks is professor of politics at Ursinus College and a blogger for Commentary magazine. Twitter @marksjo1

February 2021. 248 pages.

Hardback 9780691193854 $27.95
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Why colleges and universities live or die by free speech

Speak Freely

“No other book so accessibly presents the fundamental principles of the free speech tradition and applies them to contemporary campus controversies. … Speak Freely is fresh, illuminating, galvanizing, and persuasive.”

—Jeffrey Rosen, National Constitution Center and George Washington University Law School

Speak Freely argues that universities must protect and encourage vigorous free speech, which is at the heart of their mission to foster freedom of thought, ideological diversity, and tolerance. The book describes the dangers of empowering campus censors to limit speech and enforce orthodoxy and shows that better understanding of why universities live or die by free speech can help guide students, faculty, administrators, and alumni when faced with unpopular, hateful, or dangerous speech.

Keith E. Whittington is the William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Politics at Princeton University.

New Forum Books
2019. 232 pages.

Paperback 9780691193595 $14.95
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An inside look at a “no-excuses” charter school that reveals this educational model’s strengths and weaknesses, and how its approach shapes students

Scripting the Moves

Silent, single-file lines. Detention for putting a head on a desk. Rules for how to dress, how to applaud, how to complete homework. Walk into some of the most acclaimed urban schools today and you will find similar recipes of behavior, designed to support student achievement. But what do these “scripts” accomplish? Immersing readers inside a “no-excuses” charter school, Scripting the Moves offers a telling window into an expanding model of urban education reform. Despite good intentions, scripts constrain the development of important interactional skills and reproduce some of the very inequities they mean to disrupt.

Joanne W. Golann is assistant professor of public policy and education at Peabody College, Vanderbilt University.

Twitter @jwgolann

June 2021. 224 pages. 4 tables.
Hardback 978-0-691-16887-6 $27.95

The first book to tell the story of the Advanced Placement program

Learning in the Fast Lane

The Advanced Placement program stands as the foremost source of college-level academics for millions of high school students in the United States and beyond. More than 22,000 schools now participate in it, across nearly forty subjects. Yet remarkably little has been known about how this nongovernmental program became one of the greatest success stories in K–12 education—until now. In Learning in the Fast Lane, Chester Finn and Andrew Scanlan, two of America’s most respected education analysts, offer a groundbreaking account of one of the most important educational initiatives of our time.

Chester E. Finn, Jr., is a distinguished senior fellow and president emeritus at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute and a senior fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution.

Andrew E. Scanlan was formerly a research and policy associate at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute.

May 2021. 296 pages. 13 b/w illus. 7 tables.
Paperback 978-0-691-21691-1 $21.95
A startling look at the unexpected places where violent hate groups recruit young people

Hate in the Homeland

Author recently featured on CNN’s Fareed Zakaria GPS and on NPR’s All Things Considered Weekend

Hate crimes. Misinformation and conspiracy theories. Foiled white-supremacist plots. The signs of growing far-right extremism are all around us, and communities across America and around the globe are struggling to understand how so many people are being radicalized and why they are increasingly attracted to violent movements. Hate in the Homeland shows how tomorrow’s far-right nationalists are being recruited in surprising places, from college campuses and mixed martial arts gyms to clothing stores, online gaming chat rooms, and YouTube cooking channels.

Instead of focusing on the how and why of far-right radicalization, Cynthia Miller-Idriss seeks answers in the physical and virtual spaces where hate is cultivated. Where does the far right do its recruiting? When do young people encounter extremist messaging in their everyday lives? Miller-Idriss shows how far-right groups are swelling their ranks and developing their cultural, intellectual, and financial capacities in a variety of mainstream settings. She demonstrates how young people on the margins of our communities are targeted in these settings, and how the path to radicalization is a nuanced process of moving in and out of far-right scenes throughout adolescence and adulthood.

Cynthia Miller-Idriss is professor of education and sociology at American University, where she runs the Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab (PERIL).

“Once again, Cynthia Miller-Idriss has shown her mastery of one of the most terrifying and growing social movements of our time. But this book does something much more important than just that, because Miller-Idriss also gives us solutions. Hate in the Homeland is a must-read for academics and also for practitioners working to stop the spread of hateful ideas among young people.”

—Heidi Beirich, cofounder, Global Project against Hate and Extremism
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