International Rights Guide

FRANKFURT 2022
A Note from the Senior International Rights Manager

As Frankfurt Book Fair rolls back around, we’re very much looking forward to meeting with many of you again in person, and of course introducing you to some of Princeton University Press’s new titles! We hope, through this guide and fantastic collection of author video introductions, to show you the wide array of what we have on offer in Fall 2022, across the humanities, sciences and social sciences!

In the sciences, we invite you to travel through the stars and back to ‘cosmic dawn’ with *A Traveler’s Guide to the Stars* and *When Galaxies Were Born*. Back on Earth, Bakker’s *The Sounds of Life* and Greenwalt’s *Remnants of Ancient Life* illuminate the secrets of our world using cutting-edge technology, AI and biomolecule analysis of fossils. We are shown the hidden world of non-human sound, the path to inter-species communication, and an incredible window into million-year-old mysteries.

For fans of popular philosophy, Valerie Tiberius’ *What Do You Want Out of Life?* and *Life is Short* by Dean Rickles both offer clear-eyed, timely explorations of how to get the most from life. We are also pleased to be launching new books by several long-standing PUP authors; for example, Christopher Beckwith sheds light on the understudied yet influential Scythian Empire, and Marion Turner returns to Chaucer with a study of his most famous character—the Wife of Bath. In the social sciences, highlights include Max Bazerman’s *Complicit*, which provides insight into how wrongdoing is perpetuated in the workplace and beyond, and Michael Sonenscher’s take on the history and meaning behind the word ‘Capitalism.’

Many of the authors featured in this guide have prepared a short video introduction to their books. Just click on the links on each page to hear from the authors themselves!
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Science
A brief guide to the real science of interstellar travel

With known exoplanets now numbering in the thousands and initiatives like 100 Year Starship and Breakthrough Starshot advancing the idea of interstellar travel, the age-old dream of venturing forth into the cosmos and perhaps even colonizing distant worlds may one day become a reality. *A Traveler’s Guide to the Stars* reveals how.

Les Johnson takes you on a thrilling tour of the physics and technologies that may enable us to reach the stars. He discusses the latest exoplanet discoveries, promising interstellar missions on the not-so-distant horizon, and exciting new developments in space propulsion, power, robotics, communications, and more.

“A flight of imagination backed up with real out-of-this-world science.”
—Bill Nye, CEO of the Planetary Society

Les Johnson serves as principal investigator for NASA’s first interplanetary solar sail space missions, Near-Earth Asteroid Scout and Solar Cruiser.

**Why It Will Sell**

An original, accessible exploration of the discoveries, and challenges, that are bringing interstellar travel closer than ever. NASA scientist and sci-fi author, Johnson is perfectly poised to contemplate the ideas of science fiction, from wormholes to warp drives, and the real science behind it.

Combines a practical survey of current technology and scientific understanding with an incisive look into the future.

Published: October 2022
Editor: Ingrid Gnerlich
240 pages. 14 b/w illus.
All rights available
Science | Astronomy
One of today’s leading astronomers takes readers inside the decades-long search for the first galaxies and the origin of starlight.

Astronomers are like time travelers, scanning the night sky for the outermost galaxies that first came into being when our universe was a mere fraction of its present age. *When Galaxies Were Born* is Richard Ellis’s firsthand account of how a pioneering generation of scientists harnessed the world’s largest telescopes to decipher the history of the universe and witness cosmic dawn, the time when starlight first bathed the cosmos and galaxies emerged from darkness.

“As one of the leading extragalactic astronomers of his generation, Ellis is uniquely qualified to tell this gripping tale of our earliest cosmological origins while at the same time sharing his fierce love of observing on the world’s greatest telescopes.”

—Alice Shapley, University of California, Los Angeles

**Why It Will Sell**

A bold scientific adventure that charts the author’s work with observatories around the world, from the Canary Islands to the Chilean desert.

Draws on personal anecdotes from over 40 years in the field to take readers to the frontiers of astronomy, including insight into the new possibilities offered by the JWST.

**Published:** November 2022

**Editor:** Ingrid Gnerlich

280 pages. 56 color + 18 b/w illus.

All rights available

Science | Astronomy
The Sounds of Life

How Digital Technology Is Bringing Us Closer to the Worlds of Animals and Plants

Karen Bakker

An amazing journey into the hidden realm of nature’s sounds

At once meditative and scientific, *The Sounds of Life* shares fascinating and surprising stories of nonhuman sound, interweaving insights from technological innovation and traditional knowledge. We meet scientists using sound to protect and regenerate endangered species from the Great Barrier Reef to the Arctic and the Amazon. We discover the shocking impacts of noise pollution on both animals and plants. We learn how artificial intelligence can decode nonhuman sounds, and meet the researchers building dictionaries in East African Elephant and Sperm Whalish. At the frontiers of innovation, we explore digitally mediated dialogues with bats and honeybees. Technology often distracts us from nature, but what if it could reconnect us instead?

“Can we mobilize digital tech to fight back against biodiversity loss? *The Sounds of Life* gives us a rare gift: hope in a time of environmental emergency.”

—Naomi Klein, author of *This Changes Everything*

Karen Bakker is a professor at the University of British Columbia, and earned her PhD from the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar.

Why It Will Sell

A beautifully written account of the cutting-edge science revealing parts of our world previously thought to be silent, such as plants and coral.

Offers insight into the work of those making groundbreaking discoveries, including female and Indigenous scientists.

A timely exploration of our impact on the planet and how AI and tech may actually help us to protect the natural world.

Published: October 2022
Editor: Alison Kalett
368 pages. 2 tables.
Chinese Complex rights licensed
Nature | Technology
Neuropedia

A fun and fact-filled A–Z treasury for anyone with a head on their shoulders

Neuropedia journeys into the mysteries and marvels of the three pounds of tissue between your ears—the brain. Eric Chudler takes you on a breathtaking tour of the nervous system with dozens of entries that explore the structure and function of the brain and cover topics such as the spinal cord and nerve cells, the methods of neuroscientific research, and the visionary scientists who have dedicated their lives to understanding what makes each of us who we are.

With marvelous illustrations by Kelly Chudler, Neuropedia is an informative and entertaining trip into the inner world of the brain.

Eric H. Chudler is executive director of the Center for Neurotechnology and a neuroscientist at the University of Washington in Seattle. His books include Brain Bytes: Quick Answers to Quirky Questions about the Brain and The Little Book of Neuroscience Haiku.

Kelly Chudler is a multidisciplinary artist and musician.
An exciting look at the essential roles that parasites play in Earth’s ecosystems

This book looks at the weird and wonderful world of parasites, the most abundant form of life on Earth. Parasites come in all forms and sizes and inhabit every free-living organism. Parasitism is now, and always has been, a way to survive under changing environmental conditions. From arctic oceans to tropical forests, Scott Gardner, Judy Diamond, and Gabor Racz investigate how parasites survive and evolve, and how they influence and provide stability to ecosystems. Revealing that parasites are so much more than creepy-crawlies, this book gives up-to-date context for these critical members of the biological diversity of our planet.

“Parasites contains excellent illustrations, sound scholarship, and fine writing.”
—Dwight Douglas Bowman, Cornell University

Scott L. Gardner is professor of biological sciences at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.
Judy Diamond is professor at the University of Nebraska State Museum and professor of libraries at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.
Gabor Racz is a parasitologist and collection manager in the H. W. Manter Laboratory at the University of Nebraska State Museum.
Brenda Lee is a graphic artist and illustrator.

Why It Will Sell
Brief yet comprehensive overview of the science of parasites, and the role they have played through human history.
Exploration of the diverse array of ways in which species around the world use others to survive, and what their development can tell us about their ecosystems.

Published: November 2022
Editor: Robert Kirk
224 pages. 29 color photos + 55 b/w illus. 4 maps.
Russian rights licensed
Nature | Ecology
The revolution in science that is transforming our understanding of extinct life

We used to think of fossils as being composed of nothing but rock and minerals, all molecular traces of life having vanished long ago. We were wrong. Remnants of Ancient Life reveals how the new science of ancient biomolecules—pigments, proteins, and DNA that once functioned in living organisms tens of millions of years ago—is opening a new window onto the evolution of life on Earth. A marvelous adventure of discovery, Remnants of Ancient Life offers an unparalleled look at an emerging science that is transforming our picture of the remote past. You will never think of fossils in the same way again.

“In this readable and engaging book, Dale Greenwalt introduces us to less heralded fossils: microscopic molecules like DNA, proteins, and pigment…. Greenwalt convincingly argues that some of the smallest fossils have the biggest stories to tell.”

—Steve Brusatte, New York Times bestselling author of The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs

Dale E. Greenwalt is Resident Research Associate at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History.

Why It Will Sell

A vividly written, guided tour through the earliest history of organisms, bringing lost worlds to life.

A global story of scientific discovery, illustrating how molecules left behind in rock can solve million-year-old mysteries and offer greater insight into our natural world than ever before.

Offers a first account of the emerging science of analyzing ancient biomolecules, and an insider view on the latest methods in paleontology.

Published: January 2023
Editor: Alison Kalett
288 pages. 28 b/w illus. 1 table. All rights available
Science | Paleontology
Humanities
Why life’s shortness—more than anything else—is what makes it meaningful

Death might seem to render pointless all our attempts to create a meaningful life. Doesn’t meaning require transcending death through an afterlife or in some other way? On the contrary, Dean Rickles argues, life without death would be like playing tennis without a net. Only constraints—and death is the ultimate constraint—make our actions meaningful. In Life Is Short, Rickles explains why the finiteness and shortness of life is the essence of its meaning—and how this insight is the key to making the most of the time we do have. By reminding us how extraordinary it is that we have any time to live at all, this book challenges us to rethink what gives life meaning and how to make the most of it.

“A brilliant and brilliantly condensed dose of perspective…. We can’t wriggle free from our human limitations—but Dean Rickles demonstrates, with clarity and wit, how to be free within them.”
—Oliver Burkeman, New York Times

bestselling author of Four Thousand Weeks

Dean Rickles is professor of history and philosophy of modern physics at the University of Sydney, Australia, where he is also a director of the Sydney Centre for Time.

Why It Will Sell
A clear-eyed, compelling call to appreciate the shortness of life, its limitations and how its very ending may be what gives it meaning. Brief and incisive, this book explores how we think about life, lightly drawing on Jung as to why some people are more inclined to long-range thinking while others are more present-focused.

A fresh perspective on a timeless philosophical argument from Seneca.

Published: October 2022
Editor: Rob Tempio
136 pages. 2 b/w illus. 1 table. All rights available
Philosophy | Psychology
A short guide to living well by understanding better what you really value—and what to do when your goals conflict

What do you want out of life? To make a lot of money—or work for justice? To run marathons—or sing in a choir? To have children—or travel the world? The things we care about in life—family, friendship, leisure activities, work, our moral ideals—often conflict, preventing us from doing what matters most to us. Even worse, we don’t always know what we really want, or how to define success. Blending personal stories, philosophy, and psychology, this insightful and entertaining book offers invaluable advice about living well by understanding your values and resolving the conflicts that frustrate their fulfillment.

“A rich and wonderfully written guide to finding out what really matters and a deep exploration of how we can use our values as an effective North Star for living a better life.”
—Laurie Santos, host of The Happiness Lab podcast

Valerie Tiberius is the Paul W. Frenzel Chair in Liberal Arts and professor of philosophy at the University of Minnesota.

Why It Will Sell
Practical and accessible, offering guidance on how to understand what really matters to you, and how to go about achieving it.
Uses engaging anecdotes to outline key strategies for overcoming obstacles to succeeding at our goals.
Author writes with a clear and endearing style, and is mindful of including diverse examples and perspectives.

Published: January 2023
Editor: Rob Tempio
208 pages. 6 b/w illus.
All rights available
Philosophy | Psychology
From their acclaimed biographer, a final, powerful book about how Emerson, Thoreau, and William James forged resilience from devastating loss, changing the course of American thought.

In *Three Roads Back*, Robert Richardson, the author of magisterial biographies of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and William James, tells the connected stories of how these foundational American writers and thinkers dealt with personal tragedies early in their careers. These vivid and moving stories of loss and hard-fought resilience show how the writers’ responses to tragedy helped spur them on to their greatest work, influencing the birth and course of American literature and philosophy.

“As much as any of [Richardson’s] magisterial biographies, *Three Roads Back* is a consideration of how America’s foundational thinkers arrived at their ideas.”

—from the foreword by Megan Marshall

Robert D. Richardson (1934–2020) was the author of the acclaimed biographies *William James: In the Maelstrom of American Modernism*, *Henry Thoreau: A Life of the Mind*, and *Emerson: The Mind on Fire*.

Why It Will Sell
Sympathetically explores how foundational philosophers and writers responded to major loss, and how they emerged with a new perspective in the world.

Succinct and inspiring, this book offers a timely look at the cultivation of personal resilience.

A major ‘end of career’ statement from an acclaimed biographer, filled with vivid autobiographical detail and foregrounding Emerson, Thoreau and James’ own words.
A rich, discovery-filled history that tells how a forgotten empire transformed the ancient world

In the late 8th and early 7th centuries BCE, Scythian warriors conquered and unified most of the vast Eurasian continent, creating an innovative empire that would give birth to the age of philosophy and the Classical age across the ancient world. The Scythians made stunning contributions to world civilization—from capital cities and strikingly elegant dress to political organization and the world-changing ideas of Buddha, Zoroaster, and Laotzu—Scythians all. In *The Scythian Empire*, Christopher I. Beckwith presents a major new history of a fascinating but often forgotten empire that changed the course of history.

“...A revolutionary rewriting of the current dominant view on Ancient Central Eurasia, *The Scythian Empire* will deeply transform what we believed the Greek, Roman, Persian, and Chinese classical ages were. —Marie Favereau, author of *The Horde*

Christopher I. Beckwith is Distinguished Professor of Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University.

**Why It Will Sell**

Introduction to an understudied yet influential empire, whose philosophy, innovations and political structure shaped Chinese and Western cultures.

Draws on a wide array of sources, fully utilising the author’s unparalleled linguistic and cultural knowledge of Central Asia.

Author’s previous works have been widely translated.

Published: January 2023
Editor: Rob Tempio
416 pages. 18 b/w illus. 9 tables. 1 map.
All rights available
Ancient History | Asian Studies
From the award-winning biographer of Chaucer, the story of his most popular and scandalous character, from the Middle Ages to #MeToo

Ever since her triumphant debut in Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, the Wife of Bath, arguably the first ordinary and recognisably real woman in English literature, has obsessed readers—from Shakespeare to James Joyce, Voltaire to Pasolini, Dryden to Zadie Smith. Few literary characters have led such colourful lives or matched her influence or capacity for reinvention in poetry, drama, fiction, and film. In *The Wife of Bath*, Marion Turner tells the fascinating story of where Chaucer’s favourite character came from, how she related to real medieval women, and where her many travels have taken her since the fourteenth century, from Falstaff and Molly Bloom to #MeToo and Black Lives Matter.
An essential guide to cultivating joy in your professional and personal writing

Writing should be a pleasurable challenge, not a painful chore. Writing with Pleasure empowers academic, professional, and creative writers to reframe their negative emotions about writing and reclaim their positive ones. By learning how to cast light on the shadows, you will soon find yourself bringing passion and pleasure to everything you write. Exuberantly illustrated by prize-winning graphic memoirist Selina Tusitala Marsh, Writing with Pleasure is an indispensable resource for academics, students, professionals, and anyone for whom writing has come to feel like a burden rather than a joy.

“At last, a writing guide that doesn’t scold or ridicule, but treats the challenge of writing well as a form of pleasurable mastery.”
—Steven Pinker, Johnstone Professor of Psychology, Harvard University, author of The Sense of Style

Helen Sword is a professor in the School of Humanities and the Centre for Arts and Social Transformation at the University of Auckland and founder of WriteSPACE.

Selina Tusitala Marsh is a poet, academic, and illustrator

Why It Will Sell
Inspires and empowers the reader to enjoy writing in professional, academic, and personal contexts.
The principles and practices are grounded in robust original research, drawn from 600 case studies in 15 countries.
Author is a leading expert on writing, and delivers workshops around the world.

Published: February 2023
Editor: Peter Dougherty
328 pages. 40 b/w illus.
All rights available
Writing | Reference
The extraordinary life story of the celebrated artist and writer, as told through four decades of intimate letters to her beloved mother

*I Always Knew* is an intimate and vivid portrait of Barbara Chase-Riboud’s life as told through the letters she wrote to her mother, Vivian Mae, between 1957 and 1991. In candid detail, Chase-Riboud tells her mother about her life in Europe, her work as an artist, her romances, and her journeys around the world, from Western and Eastern Europe to the Middle East, Africa, the Soviet Union, China, and Mongolia.

“This book is a marvel. By turns witty and moving, and always keenly observed, Chase-Riboud’s letters to her mother span decades, continents, and cultures. From them emerges an unforgettable portrait of the artist as a woman and, just as crucially, as a daughter—her soul steeped in that rarest of elements: unconditional love.”

—Caroline Weber, author of *Proust’s Duchess and Queen of Fashion*

**Barbara Chase-Riboud** is a visual artist and sculptor, novelist, and poet. She is the author of six novels, including *Sally Hemings* and *The Great Mrs. Elias*, and three poetry collections.

**Why It Will Sell**
A poignant memoir, chronicling decades of letters, taking the reader from her early years as a student in Paris, to her established success as an artist.

A guided tour through the storied career and eclectic life of the author, including previously unpublished material.

Engaging account of the author’s life, including vivid snapshots of interactions with notable figures like James Baldwin and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

Published: October 2022
Editor: Michelle Komie
480 pages. 21 color + 74 b/w illus.
All rights available
Art & Architecture
Social Sciences
Why the world’s most resilient dictatorships are products of violent revolution

*Revolution and Dictatorship* explores why dictatorships born of social revolution are extraordinarily durable, even in the face of economic crisis, large-scale policy failure, mass discontent, and intense external pressure. Few other modern autocracies have survived in the face of such extreme challenges. Drawing on comparative historical analysis, Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way argue that radical efforts to transform the social and geopolitical order trigger intense counterrevolutionary conflict, which initially threatens regime survival, but ultimately fosters the unity and state-building that supports authoritarianism.

“*Revolution and Dictatorship* provides a comprehensive and convincing explanation for why revolutionary regimes in places like China, Cuba, Mexico, and Iran have been so durable.”

—Francis Fukuyama, Stanford University

**Steven Levitsky** is director of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University.

**Lucan Way** is professor of political science at the University of Toronto.

**Why It Will Sell**

Clear-eyed consideration of the durability of totalitarian regimes, from two expert authors.

Draws on historical examples from around the world to illustrate the impact of authoritarianism and violent revolution.

Proposes a reliable, comprehensive theory of the nature of these regimes; how they create a ruling elite, install systems, and counteract rival powers.

Published: September 2022

Editor: Bridget Flannery-McCoy

656 pages. 10 b/w illus. 14 tables.

Portuguese (Brazil) rights licensed.

Politics
How to sustain an international system of cooperation in the midst of geopolitical struggle

Can the international economic and legal system survive today’s fractured geopolitics? Democracies are facing a drawn-out contest with authoritarian states that is entangling much of public policy with global security issues. In Global Discord, Paul Tucker lays out principles for a sustainable system of international cooperation, showing how democracies can deal with China and other illiberal states without sacrificing their deepest political values. Drawing on three decades as a central banker and regulator, Tucker applies these principles to the international monetary order, including the role of the U.S. dollar, trade and investment regimes, and the financial system.

“Paul Tucker writes with the erudition of a scholar and the realism of a practitioner.”
—Dani Rodrik, author of Straight Talk on Trade: Ideas for a Sane World Economy

Paul Tucker is a fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School and the author of Unelected Power (Princeton).
What all of us can do to fight the pervasive human tendency to enable wrongdoing in the workplace, politics, and beyond

It is easy to condemn obvious wrongdoers such as Elizabeth Holmes, Adam Neumann, Harvey Weinstein, and the Sackler family. But we rarely think about the many people who supported their unethical or criminal behavior. In *Complicit*, Harvard Business School professor Max Bazerman confronts our complicity head-on and offers strategies for recognizing and avoiding the psychological and other traps that lead us to ignore, condone, or actively support wrongdoing in our businesses, organizations, communities, politics, and more.

“Required reading for anyone who wants to improve the world and themselves.” —Angela Duckworth, author of *Grit*

Max H. Bazerman is the Jesse Isidor Straus Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School.

Why It Will Sell
Provides insight into how and why wrongdoing is perpetuated, with examples drawn from business, politics and academia.
Focuses on how well-meaning individuals enable wrongdoing, offering helpful takeaways for readers wanting to challenge complicity in their daily lives.
Author has an excellent international profile and has been translated into 11 languages.

Published: November 2022
Editor: Joe Jackson
264 pages.
All rights available
Business | Ethics
How the history of a word sheds new light on capitalism and modern politics

What exactly is capitalism? How has the meaning of capitalism changed over time? And what’s at stake in our understanding or misunderstanding of it? In *Capitalism*, Michael Sonenscher examines the history behind the concept and pieces together the range of subjects bound up with the word. Sonenscher shows that many of our received ideas fail to pick up the work that the idea of capitalism is doing for us, without us even realizing it.

“An incisive, erudite, compelling, and deeply original contribution to the history of political and economic thought.”
—Paul Sagar, King’s College London
Also Available
A scientist’s inspiring vision of our return to the Moon as humanity’s next thrilling step in space exploration

Just over half a century since Neil Armstrong first stepped foot on the lunar surface, a new space race to the Moon is well underway and rapidly gaining momentum. Laying out a vision for the next fifty years, Back to the Moon is astrophysicist Joseph Silk’s persuasive and impassioned case for putting scientific discovery at the forefront of lunar exploration.

Why It Will Sell
Explores the case for returning to the moon, and the challenges in our way.
A hopeful and engaging account of the efforts to return to the moon.
Chinese Simplified, French and German rights licensed

A revelatory tale of how the human brain develops, from conception to birth and beyond

W. A. Harris guides you through the process of how the brain is built, he takes up the biggest questions that scientists have asked about the developing brain, describing many of the thrilling discoveries that were foundational to our current understanding. He weaves in a remarkable evolutionary story that begins billions of years ago in the Proterozoic eon, when multicellular animals first emerged from single-cell organisms, and reveals how the growth of a fetal brain over nine months reflects the brain’s evolution through the ages.

Why It Will Sell
An expert’s insight into the scientific advancement and growth of knowledge about the early development of the brain
Mixes stories and experiments from throughout the history of neuroscience with the cutting-edge science.
Arabic, Chinese Simplified, Korean, Polish and Slovak rights licensed
THE MIND OF A BEE
LARS CHITTKA

A rich and surprising exploration of the intelligence of bees

Most of us are aware of the hive mind—the power of bees as an amazing collective. But do we know how uniquely intelligent bees are as individuals? In *The Mind of a Bee*, Lars Chittka draws from decades of research, including his own pioneering work, to argue that bees have remarkable cognitive abilities. He shows that they are profoundly smart, have distinct personalities, can recognize flowers and human faces, exhibit basic emotions, count, use simple tools, solve problems, and learn by observing others. They may even possess consciousness.

Why It Will Sell
Offers a tour of the current understanding of bee cognition, exploring recent advancements our study of how bees think and act.
Arabic, Chinese Simplified, Dutch, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Slovak and Turkish rights licensed

A panoramic history of rules in the Western world

Rules order almost every aspect of our lives. They set our work hours, dictate how we drive and set the table, tell us whether to offer an extended hand or cheek in greeting, and organize the rites of life, from birth through death. We may chafe under the rules we have, and yearn for ones we don’t, yet no culture could do without them. In *Rules*, historian Lorraine Daston traces their development in the Western tradition and shows how rules have evolved from ancient to modern times. Daston demonstrates that while the content of rules is dazzlingly diverse, the forms that they take are surprisingly few and long-lived.

Why It Will Sell
Sweeping ‘big think’ argument about the history of rules in the Western world from antiquity to the present. Accessibly written, and filled with interesting and varied examples.
Chinese Complex, Chinese Simplified, German, Korean, Romanian and Slovak rights licensed
A sweeping account of how the sea routes of Asia have transformed a vast expanse of the globe over the past five hundred years, powerfully shaping the modern world.

In the centuries leading up to our own, the volume of traffic across Asian sea routes grew dramatically, eventually making them the busiest in the world. The result was a massive circulation of people, commodities, religion, culture, technology, and ideas. In this book, Eric Tagliacozzo chronicles how the seas and oceans of Asia have shaped the history of the largest continent for the past half millennium, leaving an indelible mark on the modern world in the process.

The epic story of human evolution, from our primate beginnings more than five million years ago to the agricultural era.

Over the course of five million years, our primate ancestors evolved from a modest population of sub-Saharan apes into the globally dominant species Homo sapiens. Along the way, humans became incredibly diverse in appearance, language, and culture. How did all of this happen? In *The Five-Million-Year Odyssey*, Peter Bellwood synthesizes research from archaeology, biology, anthropology, and linguistics to immerse us in the saga of human evolution, from the earliest traces of our hominin forebears in Africa, through waves of human expansion across the continents, and to the rise of agriculture and explosive demographic growth around the world.
How the prized matsutake mushroom is remaking human communities in China—and providing new ways to understand human and more-than-human worlds

*What a Mushroom Lives For* pushes today’s mushroom renaissance in compelling new directions. For centuries, Western science has promoted a human- and animal-centric framework of what counts as action, agency, movement, and behavior. But, as Michael Hathaway shows, the world-making capacities of mushrooms radically challenge this orthodoxy by revealing the lively dynamism of all forms of life.

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How a new breed of dictators holds power by manipulating information and faking democracy

Hitler, Stalin, and Mao ruled through violence, fear, and ideology. But in recent decades a new breed of media-savvy strongmen has been redesigning authoritarian rule for a more sophisticated, globally connected world. Like spin doctors in democracies, they spin the news to engineer support. Uncovering this new brand of authoritarianism, Sergei Guriev and Daniel Treisman explain the rise of such “spin dictators,” describing how they emerge and operate, the new threats they pose, and how democracies should respond.
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