

SCIENCE AND ANTHROPOLOGY

The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth by Edward O. Wilson. New York, NY: W. W. Norton, 2006. The renowned biologist issues a call for action to religious leaders everywhere.

The Wisdom of Crowds by James Surowiecki. New York, NY: Anchor Books, 2005. Intriguing evidence that collective intelligence is abundantly available.

The Hidden Messages in Water by Masaru Emoto. New York: Atria Books, 2004. Suspend judgement and find love and gratitude.

The God Gene: How Faith is Hardwired into our Genes by Dean Hamer. Challenges basic assumptions and reflection about human nature by a prominent geneticist.

Radical Evolution: The Promise and Peril of Enhancing our Minds, Our Bodies, and What it Means to be Human by Joel Garreau. A respected journalist struggles to make sense of technological innovations that advance faster than the human ability to adapt.

Biomimicry - Innovation Inspired by Nature by Janine Benyus. Interesting book about efforts to create new technologies using natural processes as a model.

Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health by Laurie Garrett. A chilling exploration of the decline of public health systems in the US and elsewhere, and the lack of global capacity to deal with virulent disease outbreaks.

The Trouble with Testosterone by Robert Sapolsky. Great essays on the biology of the human predicament.

The Code Book, how to Make it, Break it, Crack it by Simon Singh. Interesting read about the development and importance of cryptography and cryptanalysis from the beginning of time through today.

The Big Bang by Simon Singh. A well-written and informative explanation of the development of thought (and the thinkers) about the beginning of the Universe.

The Tipping Point - How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference by Malcolm Gladwell. A brief overview of how change happens and can be manipulated.

Panarchy: Understanding Transformation in Human and Natural Systems. Edited by Lance Gunderson and CS Holling. A very important and scholarly book examining how change happens.

Global Crises, Global Solutions edited by Bjorn Lomborg. Dense discussions of the major issues facing the world, followed by a case for policy solutions.

The Skeptical Environmentalist: Measuring the Real State of the World by Bjorn Lomborg. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001. Thoughtful statistician examines the data. Dense going, but thoroughly researched.

Linked: How Everything is Connected to Everything Else and What it Means for Business, Science, and Everyday Life. by Albert-László Barabási. Informative explanation of network science by a leading authority on the subject.

Discordant Harmonies. by Daniel Botkin. Lucid and penetrating (if a bit boring) examination of environmental issues through a series of case studies.

In A Dark Wood: The Fight over Forests and the Myths of Nature. by Alston Chase. A dispassionate history of the debates over ecology and the results of environmental policies.

A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson. A fun and informative romp through time from the Big Bang to where we are now.

The Science of Good and Evil: Why People Cheat, Gossip, Care, Share, and Follow the Golden Rule. by Michael Shermer. A conscientious and highly readable effort to explain the dichotomy of human nature and why ordinary people can do awful things.

Metaphors We Live By by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson. A classic that changed our understanding of linguistics and how humans think.

A Lexicon of Terror; Argentina and the Legacies of Torture by Marguerite Feitlowitz. The author (a linguist) expertly draws out the language-behavior relationship that allows people to justify to themselves and others their performance of atrocious acts.

The Evolution Explosion by Stephen Palumbi. Lucid explanation about how humans cause rapid evolutionary change.

The Elegant Universe by Brian Greene. Explains string theory and other ideas emerging from recent research in physics.

Viruses, Plagues, and History by Michael Oldstone. Accessible reading by a leading virologist.

The Coming Plague by Laurie Garrett. A fascinating and disturbing examination of disease eruptions around the world.