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SPRING 2016 - Top Titles

ACADEMIC DIARY
Why Higher Education Still Matters
By Les Back (Goldsmiths)

“A beautifully written book, full of reflection and reverie, decency, and front-line documentation.”
— Sukhdev Sandhu, NYU

“All academics should make sure that they have a copy to hand.”
— David Beer, University of York

WHY ONLY US: Language and Evolution
Robert C. Berwick & Noam Chomsky.

“Captivating. A must for everyone interested in evolution and humans. It is a landmark that will define future research.”
— Martin Nowak, Harvard University

THE HUMAN ADVANTAGE
By Suzana Herculano-Houzel

“Elephants have bigger brains than humans. So why are we more intelligent? Herculano-Houzel’s ability to count neurons gives us a radical new understanding of brain biology. Her science is convincing, fun, and inspiring. A game-changer.”
— Richard Wrangham, author of Catching Fire: How Cooking Made Us Human

THE DISRUPTION DILEMMA
Joshua Gans, winner Australian Young Economist Award

“This important and thought-provoking book has been a source of fresh, new insights for me. Even when Gans disagrees with my work, it has given me a chance to improve what the theory needs to say.”
— Clayton M. Christensen, author of The Innovator’s Dilemma

HOW NOT TO NETWORK A NATION
The Uneasy History of the Soviet Internet
Benjamin Peters

“A scintillating explanation of why the Soviet Internet failed to materialize, a first-rate sociopolitical investigative report, and a delicious tale of how Soviet efforts to manage a command economy left them without either command or an economy.”
— Todd Gitlin, author, Media Unlimited.

THE STACK
On Software and Sovereignty
Benjamin H. Bratton

“This political geography of computation is a strange, marvelous text of great conceptual beauty. Bratton’s book breaks more new ground than a carpet bombing.”
— Bruce Sterling

CHINA’S NEXT ADVANTAGE
From Imitation to Innovation
George S. Yip & Bruce McKern

“An eye-opening book about the startling growth of innovation in Chinese companies. The case that engagement with the Chinese system is essential for business success in the coming decades is compelling.”
— A. Michael Spence, 2001 Nobel Laureate in Economics

HOW GAMES MOVE US
Emotion in Design
Katherine Isbister

“Isbister gets to the heart of what makes games a powerful emotional medium. She writes clearly and persuasively about the actual techniques game developers use to reach players emotionally and explains why those techniques have impact.”
— Noah Falstein, Chief Game Designer, Google
offer a holistic picture of PIM and a logical reshaping of how we should handle our personal data.

Curates the information is the same attributes in their design. Synthesizing two decades of pioneering research into PIM behavior and system design, the authors support the design of successful systems for PIM, the authors argue for a user-subjective approach. In PIM the person who information and the research related to each. They argue that methods that work well for other information management fields do curation of existing personal information.

Modern information collection – tagging, search, and discovery – ignores the truly pressing problem of the information age: How do we manage our digital stuff?

Driversless: Intelligent Cars and the Road Ahead
Hod Lipson and Melba Kurman

Few inventions have changed our lives as much as the automobile. These creations of steel and horsepower are ubiquitous and deeply intertwined within our lives, jobs and environment. Our concept of the car, however, is about to change. Thanks to rapid advances in robotics, machine learning and artificial intelligence, cars are poised to become the first mainstream autonomous robots that we will entrust with our lives, creating a cascade of social and economic change. Authors Hod Lipson, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Columbia University, and Melba Kurman, a technology analyst and journalist, offer the first authoritative summary of how artificial intelligence is reshaping the concept of the “car” and what it means to our lives. From the basics of how driverless cars work to how roboticists create artificial perception through “Deep Learning”, Driverless will bring us up-to-date on how this new technology will change our lives, our businesses, and our cities and pave the way for the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead.

ROBOTS (The MIT Press Essential Knowledge series)
John M. Jordan

Robots are rapidly becoming a key aspect of modern life, whether in personal care, manufacturing, self-driving cars, or warfare. Public understanding of what real robots do is, however, conditioned by what imaginary robots have been portrayed as doing for the past 90 years or so. John Jordan both explicates the many cultural forces conditioning our understanding and our fears of the ethics and implications of a robot future and explains the current state of the technology. Jordan is not a roboticist, nor does he intend the book for an expert readership. His goal is to provide an overview or the implications and development of the field in clear, accessible language and to a global audience (including specific developments from France, Japan, Sweden, and Germany).

BAD CALL: Technology's Attack on Referees and Umpires and How to Fix It
Harry Collins, Robert Evans, and Christopher Higgins

An accessible, engaging, study of the role technology plays in the officiating of the global professional sports. The authors, led by sociologist Harry Collins at the University of Cardiff, argue that justice in sports is best served when technology is used sparingly in overruling the subjective calls of referees and umpires. They concentrate on three primary global sports: football ("soccer" in the U.S.), tennis, and cricket; but the principles discussed in the book involve fairness, accuracy, justice, and the fervor of fans and are applicable to competition and technology in any sport. As example, the authors rescore football matches in the English Premier League to reflect calls that would have been made if instant replay were a permissible use of technology in football. The shocking suggested results would have drastically changed which teams made it to the UEFA Champions League (and which teams relegated). Expert in its descriptions of a championship win, or last minute defeat, Bad Call provides the high drama of the misguided use and misuse of technology and the consequences for the game.

THE SCIENCE OF MANAGING OUR DIGITAL STUFF
Ofer Bergman, Steve Whittaker

Modern information collection – tagging, search, and discovery – ignores the truly pressing problem of the information age: How do we manage our digital stuff? Bergman & Whittaker propose we shift the focus from consumption of new information to curation of existing personal information. They discuss the three distinct stages of curation – keeping, managing, and exploiting information and the research related to each. They argue that methods that work well for other information management fields do not work for Personal information management (PIM), and they explore the underlying cognitive and neural reasons for this. To support the design of successful systems for PIM, the authors argue for a user-subjective approach. In PIM the person who curates the information is the same who later retrieves it. Accordingly, PIM systems should exploit subjective (user-dependent) attributes in their design. Synthesizing two decades of pioneering research into PIM behavior and system design, the authors offer a holistic picture of PIM and a logical reshaping of how we should handle our personal data.

MACHINE LEARNING (The MIT Press Essential Knowledge series)
Ethem Alpaydin

Machine learning (ML) deals with computer programs that update themselves automatically on the basis of data as well as experience, as opposed to being explicitly programmed. ML finds application in various domains from recommending movies to trading, and from automatic text and speech translation to self-driving cars. This latest edition to our bestselling Essential Knowledge series offers a basic introduction to this rapidly evolving technology for the interested general reader. Alpaydin, Professor in the Department of Computer Engineering at Bogaziçi University-Istanbul, uses practical examples to illustrate the main concepts and their real-world applications, providing historical context as to where ML fits in the evolution of computing.
THE END OF OWNERSHIP: Personal Property in the Digital Economy
Aaron Perzanowski and Jason Schultz

Over the last decade, digital technology has quietly eroded the foundations of personal property. Books, movies, music, and video games—once preserved as analog objects in our living rooms, cars, basements, attics, and backpacks—are now more commonly stored on digital devices and cloud servers. Are we better off in a world where all the content we want is accessible in the cloud, where our smart phones, self-driving cars, networked refrigerators, wearable technologies, and the Internet of Things are our new personal property ownership engineered to take advantage of?

Tiago Saraiva, Drexel University and University of Lisbon

Food independence was an early experiment involving geneticists and their organisms, mass propaganda, overgrown bureaucracy, and violent colonialism. Over the last decade, digital technology has quietly eroded the foundations of personal property. Books, movies, music, and video games—once preserved as analog objects in our living rooms, cars, basements, attics, and backpacks—are now more commonly stored on digital devices and cloud servers. Are we better off in a world where all the content we want is accessible in the cloud, where our smart phones, self-driving cars, networked refrigerators, wearable technologies, and the Internet of Things are our new collectables? The authors address the implications of this “distance” from our new digital media and highlight how the demise of personal property ownership effects legal, privacy, economic, and cultural lives.

FASCIST PIGS: Technoscientific Organisms and the History of Fascism
Tiago Saraiva, Drexel University and University of Lisbon

In the fascist regimes of Mussolini’s Italy, Salazar’s Portugal, and Hitler’s Germany, the first mass mobilizations involved wheat engineered to take advantage of chemical fertilizers, potatoes resistant to late blight, and pigs that thrived on national produce. Food independence was an early goal of fascism; indeed, as historian Tiago Saraiva writes, fascists were obsessed with projects to feed the national body from the national soil. Saraiva shows how such technoscientific organisms as specially bred wheat and pigs became important elements in the institutionalization and expansion of fascist regimes. The pigs, the potatoes, and the wheat embodied fascism. In Nazi Germany, only plants and animals conforming to the new national standards would be allowed to reproduce. Pigs that didn’t efficiently convert German-grown potatoes into pork and lard were eliminated. Saraiva describes national campaigns that intertwined the work of geneticists with new state bureaucracies; discusses fascist empires, considering forced labor on coffee, rubber, and cotton in Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Eastern Europe; and explores fascist genocides, following Karakul sheep from a laboratory in Germany to Eastern Europe, Libya, Ethiopia, and Angola. The first systematic study of the relation between science and fascism argues that the back to the land aspect of fascism should be understood as a modernist experiment involving geneticists and their organisms, mass propaganda, overgrown bureaucracy, and violent colonialism.

HATE SPIN: The Manufacture of Religious Offense and its Threat to Democracy
Cherian George

Right-wing networks orchestrate the giving and taking of offense—what George terms “hate spin”—as instruments of identity politics exploiting democratic space to promote agendas that undermine democratic values. George looks at the world’s three largest democracies. In the U. S., elements of the religious right fuel fears of an existential Islamic threat, spreading anti-Muslim rhetoric into mainstream politics. In Indonesia, Muslim absolutists urge suppression of churches and minority sects, fostering a climate of rising intolerance. In India, Narendra Modi’s radical supporters instigate communal riots and academic censorship in pursuit of their Hindu nationalist vision. Outbreaks of religious intolerance are usually assumed to be visceral and spontaneous; but George shows that they often involve sophisticated campaigns manufactured by political opportunists to mobilize supporters and marginalize opponents. He also shows how the digital environment and tools like Google have opened up new opportunities for cross-border hate spin. George argues that governments must protect vulnerable communities by prohibiting calls to action that lead directly to discrimination and violence.

FRAMING INTERNET SECURITY: The Governance of Youth Online
Nathan Fisk

Since the beginning of the Internet era, it has become almost impossible to discuss youth and technology without mentioning online danger—pornography just a click away, lurking sexual predators, and inescapable cyberbullies. Cybersecurity expert Nathan Fisk takes an innovative approach to the subject, examining youth Internet safety as a technology of governance over information technologies and, by extension, over the forms of sociality and society they make possible. He argues that it is through the mobilization of various discourses of online risk that the everyday lives of youth are increasingly monitored and policed and the governing potential of information technologies are explored. Fisk relates particular panics over youth Internet safety to patterns of technological adoption by young people, focusing on the policy response at the federal level aimed at producing future cybercitizens. He describes pedagogies of surveillance, which position parents as agents of surveillance; the evolution of the youth Internet safety curricula, as seen through materials on cyberbullying and online reputation management; and, drawing on survey results and focus groups, parent and child everyday practice. Finally, Fisk offers recommendations for a “cybersafety of everyday life,” connecting youth Internet safety to trends in national infrastructure protection and corporate information assurance.
Over the last decade, video games designed to teach academic content have multiplied. Students can learn about Newtonian physics from a game or prep for entry into the army. However, an emphasis on the instructionist approach to gaming has overshadowed the constructionist approach, in which students learn by designing their own games. Yasmin Kafai and Quinn Burke discuss the educational benefits of constructionist gaming—coding, collaboration, and creativity—and the move from “computational thinking” toward “computational participation.” The authors point to recent developments that support a shift to game making from game playing, including the game industry’s acceptance, and even promotion, of “modding” and the growth of a DIY culture. They show that student-designed games teach not only such technical skills as programming but also academic subjects. Making games also teaches collaboration, as students frequently work in teams to produce content and then share their games with in class or with others online. Kafai and Burke don’t advocate abandoning instructionist for constructionist approaches, but rather argue for a more comprehensive, inclusive idea of connected gaming in which both making and gaming play a part.

Connected Gaming: What Making Video Games Can Teach Us about Learning and Literacy
Yasmin B. Kafai (University of Pennsylvania) and Quinn Burke

The expressive moment is that point in time when we grasp a situation and respond quickly, even before we are aware of it. In this book, Marc Leman argues that expression drives this kind of interaction, and he proposes a general framework for understanding expressive interactions. He focuses on the dynamic, rapid, pre-reflective processes underlying our interactions with music—whether we are playing an instrument, dancing, listening, or using new interactive technologies. Music offers a well-established domain for studying these processes, and Leman argues that understanding the power of expressive interaction through music may help us understand cognitive processing in other domains—language, human action coordination, human-animal interaction, and human-machine interaction. Leman regards expressive interactions with music as energizing and empowering. He argues that music is based on patterns that intervene with a reinforcing loop in the human brain, strengthening learning, motivation, and reward. He argues further that the reinforcing effect is influenced by the interaction flow, by fast processes that handle expressive qualities on the fly. Leman sets out the framework in which expressive interaction is situated, describing, among other things, a pragmatic model of communication in which the fundamental components are enactment and dynamics. He looks in more detail at the cognitive-motivational architecture, discussing sensorimotor and motivational schemes. Finally, he discusses applications for the concepts behind expressive motivation in such fields as sports, entertainment, rehabilitation, multimedia art, and music education.

The Expressive Moment: How Interaction (with Music) Shapes Human Empowerment
Marc Leman

System: The Shaping of Modern Knowledge
Clifford Siskin (New York University and Director of the Re:Enlightenment Project)

"System" is a powerful word and concept. It can describe what we see (the solar system), operate a computer (Windows 10), or be made on a page (the fourteen engineered lines of a sonnet). Clifford Siskin defines system as a form that works physically in the world to mediate our efforts to understand it. Drawing on the concept’s history from Galileo’s “message from the stars” and Newton’s “system of the world” to today’s “computational universe,” he illuminates the role that the system has played in the shaping and reshaping of modern knowledge. He considers the past and present, moving from the “system of the world” to “a world full of systems.” He traces the turn to system in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries’ scientific studies, and describes this primary form of Enlightenment as a mediator of political, cultural, and social modernity—pointing to the moment when people began to “blame the system” for working both well (“you can’t beat the system”) and not well enough (it always seems to “break down”). A fascinating of the "system" system : what it is and how it has changed; how it has mediated knowledge; and how it has worked in the world.

Connected Gaming: What Making Video Games Can Teach Us about Learning and Literacy
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INNOVATION OF MEANING: Gifting People Products to Love
Roberto Verganti, Professor of Leadership and Innovation at Politecnico di Milano

What does it mean to truly innovate? Organizations too often substitute “Innovation” for “creative problem solving”. But there is a deeper level of innovation being overlooked: meaning. Individuals are both in constant search for new solutions to existing meanings and searching for new meanings as their lives and work evolve. Verganti calls this the eternal “why” and asserts that as individuals we are offered a new “why” that makes more sense than the previous, they embrace it. He feels instead of creativity, we need critique, since the discovery of new meanings requires questioning the old meanings; instead of zooming in on how users solve existing problems, zoom out to view lifestyle and habits, because true innovations are envisioned by forgetting current use and by gifting new possibilities unimagined. True innovation organizations like Philips, Apple, and Nest understand this and have evolved their strategy of innovating new products and services from the “how” to the “why.” This is ultimately a book about building value in a scenario where technologies and solutions are increasingly accessible, but problems and meanings keep changing. It’s the next step in the innovation path: now that organizations have improved their creative capabilities, it’s time to make sense of this wealth of ideas to capture their potential.

THE GUIDANCE OF AN ENTERPRISE ECONOMY
Martin Shubik (Yale University School of Management) and Eric Smith (Earth-Life Science Institute in Tokyo)

A rigorous study of control, guidance, and coordination problems of an enterprise economy, with attention to the roles of money and financial institutions. The authors draw on game theory, methods of physics and experimental gaming, and, more generally, a broader evolutionary perspective from the biological and behavioral sciences. Problems concerning the meaning of rational economic behavior and the concept of solution are noted. The authors argue that process models of the economy can be built that are consistent with the general equilibrium system but become progressively more complex as new functions are added. Explicit embedding of the economy within the framework of government and society provides a natural, both formal and informal, control system. The authors describe how to build and analyze multistate models with simple assumptions about behavior, and develop a general modeling methodology for the construction of models as playable games.

SOFTWARE DESIGN DECODED: 66 Ways Experts Think
Marian Petre, Andre van der Hoek, and Yen Quach

What makes an expert software designer? Software Design Decoded examines the habits, practices, and principles of professional software designers in their work and offers 66 “things that expert software designers do. Each can be traced back to expert behavior and each has been confirmed time and again by those working in the field. Today software is no longer limited by technology, but rather by imagination. Yet turning the imagined into reality can be complex, and places extraordinary demands on software designers, demands that can only be met if we ‘step up’ to achieve excellence in design.

INNOVATING: A Doer’s Manifesto for Starting from a Hunch, Scaling Up, and Learning to Be Productively Wrong
Luis Perez-Breva

Innovation and entrepreneurship are not one and the same. They are told to get an idea and a team and to build a show-and-tell for potential investors. In Innovating, Luis Perez-Breva describes another approach—a doer’s approach developed over a decade at MIT and internationally in workshops, classes, and companies. He shows that to start innovating it doesn’t require an earth-shattering idea; all it takes is a hunch. Anyone can do it. By prototyping a problem and learning by being wrong, innovating can be scaled up to make an impact. Perez-Breva shows at the outset of what we later celebrate as “innovations” nothing is new. In Innovating, the process—illustrated by unique and dynamic artwork—is shown to be empirical, experimental, nonlinear, and incremental. You give your hunch the structure of a problem. Anything can be a part. Your innovating accrues other people’s knowledge and skills. Perez-Breva describes how to create a kit for innovating, and outlines questions that will help you think in new ways. Finally, he shows how to systematize what you’ve learned: to advocate, communicate, scale up, manage innovating continuously, and document—“you need a notebook to converse with yourself,” he advises. Everyone interested in innovating also needs to read this book. Luis Perez-Breva, an innovator and entrepreneur, is a Lecturer and a Research Scientist at MIT’s School of Engineering and the originator and Lead Instructor of the Mit Innovation Teams Program.
THE WORLD TRADE SYSTEM: Trends and Challenges
edited by Jagdish N. Bhagwati, Pravin Krishna, and Arvind Panagariya

Leading trade experts examine the world trading system today, from the multilateralism of the WTO to explosive bilateralism and the mega-regionals TPP and TTIP. When the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) metamorphosed into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1994, it seemed that the third pillar of the international economic superstructure was finally in place. And yet with the failure of member countries to close the Doha Round of trade negotiations and the emergence of bilateral and plurilateral preferential trade arrangements (PTAs) such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the future of the multilateral WTO seems uncertain. In this volume, leading economists examine issues in trade policy that have arisen during this shift. They discuss such topics as the effect of trade on poverty and inequality, PTAs and litigation between trading partners, the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, and the relationship of food security and trade liberalization. They also offer regional perspectives on the TPP and trans-Atlantic free trade.

Contributors
Jagdish Bhagwati, Steve Charnovitz, Gabriel Felbermayr Dimitar Gueorguiev, Bernard Hoekman, Jonas Kasteng, Pravin Krishna, Mary Lovely, Petros Mavroidis, Devashish Mitra, Arvind Panagariya, Tom Prusa, Andre Sapir, Stefan Tangermann

COMPLEXITY AND EVOLUTION: Toward a New Synthesis for Economics
edited by David S. Wilson and Alan Kirman

An exploration of how approaches that draw on evolutionary theory and complexity science can advance our understanding of economics. Two widely heralded yet contested approaches to economics have emerged in recent years: one emphasizes evolutionary theory in terms of individuals and institutions; the other views economies as complex adaptive systems. In this book, leading scholars examine these two bodies of theory, exploring their possible impact on economics. Relevant concepts from evolutionary theory are drawn on by the contributors include the distinction between proximate and ultimate causation, multilevel selection, cultural change as an evolutionary process, and human psychology as a product of gene-culture coevolution. Applicable ideas from complexity theory include self-organization, fractals, chaos theory, sensitive dependence, basins of attraction, and path dependence.

MACROECONOMICS IN TIMES OF LIQUIDITY: Searching for Economic Essentials
Guillermo A. Calvo

Since the subprime mortgage crisis that began in 2007, advanced economies have felt a nagging sense of insecurity. In parallel, the profession has witnessed phenomena that are alien to mainstream macroeconomic models. Financial crises are systemic, occurring simultaneously in different economies. In this book, Guillermo Calvo focuses on liquidity factors as a commonality in financial crises. Specifically, he examines the role of “liquidity crunch” in triggering crises. He also identifies a fundamental (but overlooked) idea in Keynes’s General Theory, termed by Calvo the price theory of money, to rationalize the resiliency of the U.S. dollar when other dollar-backed assets suffered a devastating liquidity crunch. Calvo shows that a sharp focus on liquidity reveals some characteristics of liquid assets that are easy to miss otherwise. He argues for liquidity’s centrality, presenting what he calls the Liquidity Approach. He shows that simple extensions of standard monetary models help rationalize the implications of the liquidity crunch, and then examines slightly more technical models that highlight liquidity issues. He explores the empirical effects of liquidity crunch by studying systemic system stops (of capital inflows), presuming that they are triggered by liquidity crunch-type phenomena.

MODELING AND SIMULATING SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE: The Palladio Approach
Ralf H. Reussner, Steffen Becker et al.

This book is about simulating software architectures to understand the impact of design decisions on software quality, using a new software simulator (developed by the authors) called Palladio. The authors explain in detail how quality attributes of software systems, such as performance or reliability, can be modeled, analyzed and improved before the eventual rollout. They show how software architects can profit from architecture simulation and provides dependable and well-validated modeling and prediction techniques. With the presented engineering approach to software design, readers get to know how to overcome costly testing cycles that are bound to trial and error. The text details the key concepts of a domain-specific modeling language for software architecture and presents the corresponding development and analysis process. It describes how quality information can be used to calibrate architecture models from which detailed simulation models are automatically derived for quality predictions. The usage and benefit of the obtained prediction results is explained in general terms along established and innovative processes, such as roundtrip engineering or design space exploration, and it is illustrated using three industrial case studies.
ENVIROMENTALISM OF THE RICH
Peter Dauvergne
A wide-ranging historical narrative of how wealthy nations inflict "progress" on those less fortunate. Dauvergne offers original scholarship (a pre-1600 dating of the anthropocene) and fascinating stories (Poynesian Nauru - "Pleasant Island" - and its devastation; China’s adoption of Pampers diapers) to tell the tale of the devious blind leading the blind to destroy the planet.

THE WICKED AND THE WILD
On Nature and Human Nature
Benjamin Hale
The conventional wisdom among environmentalists for loving the environment is pointing out how good and valuable nature can be. The Wicked and the Wild makes the case for environmentalism by flipping this argument on its head: that though nature can be brutal in all its Darwinian extremes, it is in our self-interest to ensure that we protect it.

HEAT ADVISORY: Protecting Health on a Warming Planet
Alan H. Lockwood, MD
Many books have been written about the environmental impacts of global warming, but few have focused on its health effects. Dr. Lockwood’s global focus - especially in Subsaharan Africa - is particularly relevant in discussions of insect-borne diseases like malaria and dengue, climate refugees from coastal flooding, and famine effects on agriculture. A powerful book.

WHAT A CITY IS FOR: Remaking the Politics of Displacement
Matt Hern
Looking at modern “It” cities like Portland and Vancouver and efforts like the globalized commoning movement, Hern takes us through the radical divergences of wealth and property to reveal that rethinking land ownership and division is key to renewing our cities and creating a more equitable society.

EBOLA’S MESSAGE: Public Health and Medicine in the Twenty-First Century
Edited by Nicholas G. Evans, Tara C. Smith, and Maimuna S. Majumder
The 2013–2015 outbreak of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) was a public health disaster: 28,575 infections and 11,313 deaths (as of October 2015), devastating the countries of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone; a slow and mishandled international response; and sensationalistic media coverage, seized upon by politicians to justify wrongheaded policy. And yet there were also promising developments that may improve future responses to infectious disease epidemics: the UN Security Council’s first involvement in a public health event; a series of promising clinical treatments and vaccines for EVD; and recognition of the need for a global public health system to deal with epidemics that cross national borders. This volume offers a range of perspectives on these and other lessons learned, with essays on the science, politics, and ethics of the Ebola outbreak. The contributors discuss topics including the virology and management of EVD in both rich and poor nations; the spread of the disease (with an essay by a leader of Médecins Sans Frontières); racist perceptions of West Africa; mainstream and social media responses to Ebola; and the ethical issue of whether to run clinical trials of experimental treatments during an outbreak.

ART & ARCHITECTURE

ECOLOGIES OF POWER: Countermapping the Logistical Landscapes and Military Geographies of the U.S. Department of Defense
Pierre Bélanger (Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design), Alexander Arroyo
This is not a book about the drama of war. Instead of shock-and-awes wartime images, it explores the architecture of power camouflaged in the infrastructures, environments, and scales of military operations. The U.S. Department of Defense—the single largest developer, landowner, equipment contractor, and energy consumer in the world—has engineered a planetary assemblage of “operational environments” in which militarized, demilitarized, and non-militarized landscapes are everpresent and in flux. In a series of critical cartographic essays highlighting both wartime highs and drawdown lows, demobilization and realignment, Bélanger and Arroyo trace this footprint far beyond the battlefield, countermapping the geographies of U.S. militarism across five embattled operational environments: the ocean, atmosphere, highway, city, and desert. In doing so, the authors reveal unseen ecologies of power at work in the making and unmaking of environments—operational, built, and otherwise—to come.
THE APPARENTLY MARGINAL ACTIVITIES OF MARCEL DUCHAMP
Elena Filipovic

"The Apparently Marginal Activities of Marcel Duchamp will likely end up on more than a few art lovers’ shelves."
-- Artsy

Insider art magazine Artsy named Elena Filipovic - Chief curator of Kunsthalle Basel, past senior curator of WIELS Contemporary Art Centre in Brussels, and co-curated the 5th Berlin Biennial (2008) - as one of its "20 Most Influential Young Curators" in Europe. Marcel Duchamp, of course, is regarded by many in the art world as the most influential artist of the last century. Filipovic

new understanding of Marcel Duchamp and his significance as an artist through an investigation of his non-art activities—archiving, art-dealing, and, most persistently, curating.

PRACTICABLE: From Participation to Interaction in Contemporary Art
Elena Filipovic

How are we to understand works of art that are realized with the physical involvement of the viewer? A relationship between a work of art and its audience that is rooted in an experience that is both aesthetic and physical? Today, these works often use digital technologies, but artists have created participatory works since the 1950s. In this book, critics, writers, and artists offer diverse perspectives on this kind of “practicable” art that bridges contemplation and use, discussing and documenting a wide variety of works from the last several decades. The contributors consider both works that are technologically mediated and those that are not, as long as they are characterized by a process of reciprocal exchange. Practicable offers a historical frame for practicable works, examining the emergence and influence of cybernetics, art movements as well as perspectives of the humanities and sciences; and investigate performance and exhibition.

PHOTO FORENSICS
Hany Farid

Photographs have been doctored since photography was invented. Dictators have erased people from photographs and from history; politicians have manipulated photos for short-term political gain. Altering photographs in the predigital era required time-consuming darkroom work. Today, powerful and low-cost digital technology makes it relatively easy to alter digital images, and the resulting fakes are difficult to detect. The field of photo forensics—pioneered in Hany Farid’s lab at Dartmouth College—restores some trust to photography. In Photo Forensics, Farid offers case studies of famously questionable photographs (i.e., "Golden Eagle Snatches Kid" and the Lee Harvey Oswald backyard photo) to illustrate techniques that can be used to authenticate photos. He provides the intuition and background as well as the mathematical and algorithmic details needed to understand, implement, and utilize a variety of photo forensic techniques to trace the origins of any photographs.

MAINTENANCE ARCHITECTURE
Hilary Sample

Hilary Sample -- principle at MOS Architects and Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Architecture and Planning at Columbia University -- has written a book unlike any other book on architecture. It examines what is a constant and pervasive issue in architecture, but one that up until now has not been given serious treatment: buildings need to have their window washed, their plumbing fixed, their floors cleaned. Good architecture depends on good maintenance. Architects are becoming ever-more responsible for the performance of their buildings long after their completion, and the fluid and pervasive environment of images today constantly calls into question the relationship between images and buildings. The result is a collection of short vignettes woven through a larger narrative about the relationship between architecture, culture, and maintenance.
COGNITIVE SCIENCE

LIVING ZEN REMINDFULLY: Retraining Subconscious Awareness  
James Austin, M.D.
In this latest book by one of the foremost scholars of neural Zen, Austin follows the path set out in his previous MITP books and explores Zen as an everyday practice rather than a mystical experience. Mindfulness has become a popular subject as of late, and this book serves as a corrective to mindless mindfulness. Austin frames mindfulness not simply as a means of being consciously aware of events in the immediate now, but as the need to further use Zen to develop regular, ongoing daily practices and to unlearn unfruitful habits. He incorporates the latest neuroscientific research on allocentric awareness (the centering of intentions and actions on others as opposed to one’s self) and memory and its relation to the subconscious such as the works of Japanese poet Matsuo Bashō and influential Zen Buddhist Hakuin Ekaku.

THE RATIONALITY QUOTIENT (RQ): Toward a Test of Rational Thinking  
Keith E. Stanovich, Richard F. West, and Maggie E. Toplak
It is a startling oddity of modern psychology that the Nobel Prize was awarded (to Daniel Kahneman in 2002) for studies of a cognitive characteristic (rational thinking) that is entirely missing from the most well-known mental assessment device in the behavioral sciences—the intelligence test. This imbalance has been redressed in the last few decades because of some remarkable work in behavioral decision theory, cognitive science, and related areas of psychology. The authors bring this work together by producing here the first comprehensive assessment measure for rational thinking, the CART (Comprehensive Assessment of Rational Thinking). In The Rationality Quotient (RQ), they describe the theoretical underpinnings of CART—rooted in the heuristics and biases research literature and in the conceptual distinction between rationality and intelligence; cover the background literature and research on each of the 20 subtests of the CART; and reveal comprehensive studies of the CART along with the social and practical implications of a rational thinking test.

NEUROPLASTICITY Retraining Subconscious Awareness  
James Austin, M.D.
Fifty years ago, neuroscientists thought that a mature brain was fixed like a fly in amber, unable to change. Today, we know that our brains and nervous systems change throughout our lifetimes. Neuroplasticity has captured the imagination of a public eager for self-improvement—and has inspired countless Internet entrepreneurs who peddle dubious “brain training” games and apps. In this book, Costandi offers a concise, engaging overview of neuroplasticity for the general reader, describing how our brains change continuously in response to our actions and experiences and how adult brains can grow new cells. He describes the kind of brain training that can bring about improvement in brain function. It’s not gadgets and games that promise to “rewire your brain” but such sustained cognitive tasks as learning a musical instrument or a new language.

COMPUTATIONAL MODELS OF REFERRING: A Study in Cognitive Science  
Kees van Deemter
An argument that computational models can shed light on referring, a fundamental and much-studies aspect of communication. The book can be read as a case study in cognitive science and across the cognitive sciences, including philosophy, experimental psychology, formal logic, and computer science.

"Kees van Deemter's book is wonderfully comprehensive in two dimensions: it provides a discussion of a broad range of referential phenomena often discussed only in isolation, and it artfully combines perspectives on these phenomena from the full range of disciplines that have something to contribute. The book will become the go-to guide for anyone wanting to explore computational models of reference."
— Robert Dale, Chief Technology Officer, Arria NLG; author of Generating Referring Expressions
Can there be such a thing as an impossible human language? A biologist could describe an
impossible animal as one that goes against the physical laws of nature (entropy, for example, or
gravity). Are there any such laws that constrain languages? Andrea Moro searches for the indelible
“fingerprint” of human language and shows how the very notion of impossible languages helped
shape research on the ultimate aim of linguistics: to define the class of possible human languages.
He takes us beyond the boundaries of Babel, to the set of properties that, despite appearances, all
languages share, and explores the sources of that order, drawing on scientific experiments he
himself helped design. Moro compares syntax to the reverse side of a tapestry revealing a hidden
and apparently intricate structure. He describes the brain as a sieve, considers the reality of
(linguistic) trees, and listens for the sound of thought by recording electrical activity in the brain.
Words and sentences, he tells us, are like symphonies and constellations: they have no content of
their own; they exist because we listen to them and look at them. We are part of the data.

Andrea Moro (Institute for Advanced Study, Pavia, Italy)

THE PRICE OF LINGUISTIC PRODUCTIVITY: How Children Learn to Break the Rules of Language
Charles Yang (University of Pennsylvania, author of The Infinite Gift)

All languages have exceptions alongside overarching rules and regularities. How does a young child tease them apart within
just a few years of language acquisition? Eminent linguist Charles Yang draws an economic analogy and argues that just as the
price of goods is determined by the balance between supply and demand, the price of linguistic productivity arises from the
quantitative considerations of rules and exceptions. The learner adopts a productive rule only if it results in a more efficient
organization of language for him or her, with the number of exceptions falling below a critical threshold. Supported by a wide
range of cases and evidence, Yang’s “Tolerance Principle” offers a unified account of many long-standing puzzles in linguistics
and psychology, including why children effortlessly acquire rules of language that perplex otherwise capable adults. His focus
on computational efficiency provides novel insight on how language interacts with the other components of cognition and how
the ability for language might have emerged during the course of human evolution.

Daniel Harbour’s comprehensive and groundbreaking formal theory of grammatical person, upends understanding of a
universal and ubiquitous grammatical category. Breaking with much past work, Harbour establishes three core theses, one
empirical, one theoretical, and one metatheoretical. Together, these redefine the data subsumed under the rubric of “person,”
simplify the feature inventory that a theory of person must posit, and restructure the metatheory in which feature theory as a
whole resides. At its heart, Impossible Persons poses a simple question of the possible versus the actual: in how many ways
could languages configure their person systems, in how many do they configure them, and what explains the size and shape of
the shortfall? Harbour’s thesis—that the primary object of study for persons are partitions, not syncretisms—transforms a sea of
data into a categorical problem of the attested and the absent. Harbour’s results establish an important metatheoretical
corollary concerning the balance between richness of feature semantics and restrictiveness of feature inventories.

Daniel Harbour (Queen Mary University of London)

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