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# What We Believe But Cannot Prove Todays Leading Thinkers On Science In The Age Of Certainty Edge Question Series

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*What We Believe But Cannot Prove Today's Leading Thinkers On Science In The Age Of Certainty Edge Question Series* 2022-03-24

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**MARISOL ASHLEY**

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And Other Essays in Popular Philosophy  
 Harper Collins  
 What We Believe but Cannot Prove Today's Leading

Thinkers on Science in the Age of Certainty  
 Harper Collins  
What We Believe But Cannot Prove  
 Harper Perennial  
 The follow-up to the acclaimed WHAT WE BELIEVE BUT CANNOT PROVE, a collection of thought-experiments by some of the most

eminent thinkers and scientists alive, including Richard Dawkins, Jared Diamond and Steven Pinker.  
150 Deep, Beautiful, and Elegant Theories of How the World Works  
 Vintage  
 Best-selling author and educator Karyn Henley invites the reader to explore

possible reasons why kids from Christian homes drop out of church when they graduate from high school.	is God's punishment. The usual answers fail. They don't support the truth that God loves everyone all the time. God Can't give a believable answer to why a good and powerful God doesn't prevent evil.	prevent evil singlehandedly. God can't stop evildoers, whether human, animal, organism, or inanimate objects and forces. In God Can't, Oord gives a plausible reason why some are healed, but many others are not. God always works to heal everyone, but sometimes our bodies, organisms, or other creatures do not cooperate with God's healing work. Or the conditions of
<u>Why We Believe What We Believe</u> Pocket Hurting people ask heart-felt questions about God and suffering. Some "answers" they receive appeal to mystery: "God's ways are not our ways". Some answers say God allows evil for a greater purpose. Some say evil	Author Thomas Jay Oord says God's love is inherently uncontrolling. God loves everyone and everything, so God can't control anyone or anything. This means God cannot	

creation are not right for the healing God wants to do. Some people think God causes or allows suffering to teach us lessons or build our character. God Can't disagrees. Oord says God squeezes good from the evil God didn't want in the first place. God uses pain and suffering without willing or even allowing it. Most people think God can overcome evil singlehandedly. In God Can't, Oord

says God needs cooperation for love to reign now and later. This leads to a better view of the afterlife called "relentless love." It rejects traditional ideas of heaven, hell, and annihilation. Relentless love holds to the possibility all creatures and all creation will respond to God's love. God Can't is written in understandable language. As a world-renown

theologian, Thomas Jay Oord brings credibility to the book's radical ideas. He explains these ideas through true stories, illustrations, and scripture. God Can't is for those who want answers to tragedy, abuse, and other evils that make sense! What They're Saying... "If conventional notions of God make less and less sense to you, you'll find Thomas Jay Oord's new book a breath of fresh air. Simply put,

<p>“God Can’t” presents an understanding of God that thoughtful, ethical people can believe in.” -- Brian D. McLaren, author of The Great Spiritual Migration "I did not want this book to end. I wish Dr. Oord had written it 100 years ago, or 1000 years ago... To find your understanding of life and your love for God renewed, read this book." -- Dr. Karen Strand Winslow, Ph.D., Biblical and Jewish Studies</p>	<p>Professor of Bible, Azusa Pacific University "As a clinical psychologist working with people in trauma, I owe Thomas Jay Oord an enormous debt of gratitude for recasting the so-called problem of evil in terms that are conceptually satisfying, theologically consistent, and pastorally liberating." -- Dr Roger Bretherton-Principal Lecturer at the University of Lincoln (UK), Chair of</p>	<p>the British Association of Christians in Psychology "Victims of trauma sometimes hear theological responses that imply their suffering is somehow "God’s will." A more careful theological reflection on the nature of the power of a God who is love can help. Oord gives us a clear and compelling alternative in this profoundly insightful and admirably concrete and accessible book." -- Dr.</p>
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Anna Case-Winters, Professor of Theology at McCormick Theological Seminary “I know of no book that speaks to suffering with the depth of theological sophistication and psychological sensitivity as *God Can't*. This book is a rare combination of depth and accessibility, truly written for the wounded. I recommend it to my students, parishioners, and therapy clients.” -- Dr.

Brad D. Strawn, Professor of the Integration of Psychology and Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary *God Can't* Macmillan Recent polls show that 96% of Americans believe in God. Why are people turning to religion in greater numbers than ever before? In *How We Believe*, Michael Shermer presents the results of an exhaustive empirical study in which

he asked 10,000 Americans how and why they believe and about details of their faith. The result offers fresh and startling insights into age-old questions. *A Novel* Penguin The world's leading scientific thinkers explore bold, remarkable, perilous ideas that could change our lives—for better . . . or for worse . . . From Copernicus to Darwin, to current-day

thinkers, scientists have always promoted theories and unveiled discoveries that challenge everything society holds dear; ideas with both positive and dire consequences . Many thoughts that resonate today are dangerous not because they are assumed to be false, but because they might turn out to be true. What do the world's leading scientists and thinkers consider to be

their most dangerous idea? Through the leading online forum Edge (www.edge.org), the call went out, and this compelling and easily digestible volume collects the answers. From using medication to permanently alter our personalities to contemplating a universe in which we are utterly alone, to the idea that the universe might be fundamentally inexplicable,

What Is Your Dangerous Idea? takes an unflinching look at the daring, breathtaking, sometimes terrifying thoughts that could forever alter our world and the way we live in it. Contributors include Daniel C. Dennett • Jared Diamond • Brian Greene • Matt Ridley • Howard Gardner and Freeman Dyson, among others Today's Leading Thinkers on Science in the Age of Certainty

Harper Collins More than one hundred of the world's leading thinkers write about things they believe in, despite the absence of concrete proof. Scientific theory, more often than not, is born of bold assumption, disparate bits of unconnected evidence, and educated leaps of faith. Some of the most potent beliefs among brilliant minds are based on supposition alone -- yet that is enough to push those

minds toward making the theory viable. Eminent cultural impresario, editor, and publisher of Edge (www.edge.org), John Brockman asked a group of leading scientists and thinkers to answer the question: What do you believe to be true even though you cannot prove it? This book brings together the very best answers from the most distinguished contributors. Thought-

provoking and hugely compelling, this collection of bite-size thought-experiments is a fascinating insight into the instinctive beliefs of some of the most brilliant minds today.

**The Most Intriguing Scientific Mysteries of Our Time**

Harper Collins  
A brilliant inquiry into the origins of human nature from the author of *Rationality, The Better Angels of Our Nature*, and *Enlightenment Now*.



"Sweeping, erudite, sharply argued, and fun to read..also highly persuasive." -- Time Updated with a new afterword One of the world's leading experts on language and the mind explores the idea of human nature and its moral, emotional, and political colorings. With characteristic wit, lucidity, and insight, Pinker argues that the dogma that the mind has no innate

traits-a doctrine held by many intellectuals during the past century-denies our common humanity and our individual preferences, replaces objective analyses of social problems with feel-good slogans, and distorts our understanding of politics, violence, parenting, and the arts. Injecting calm and rationality into debates that are notorious for ax-grinding and mud-slinging,

Pinker shows the importance of an honest acknowledgment of human nature based on science and common sense. **Can't Hurt Me** Humanist Press Suddenly, in the twenty-first century, religion has become a political power. It affects us all, whether we're religious or not. If we're not in danger of being blown up by a suicide bomber we've got leaders to whom God speaks,

ordering them to start a war. We're beset by people who demand that we give ourselves to Jesus while they smugly assure us of their own superiority and inherent goodness. We're surrounded by those who noisily reject science while making full use of the benefits science brings; by the 'spiritual' ones; the ones who believe in magic; and there's the militant atheists berating us all

for our stupidity. We wouldn't object to what people believed if only they'd keep it to themselves. We want to make up our own minds about what we believe, but it's difficult to do this. Everyone has to face the dilemma that we all die but no one knows for certain what death actually is. Is it the end of our identity or a doorway to another life? Whichever we choose, our choice is a fantasy that

determines the purpose of our life. If death is the end of our identity, we have to make this life satisfactory, whatever 'satisfactory' might mean to us. If it is a doorway to another life, what are the standards we have to reach to go to that better life? All religions promise to overcome death, but there's no set of religious or philosophical beliefs that ensures that our life is always happy and secure.

Moreover, for many of us, what we were taught about a religion severely diminished our self-confidence and left us with a constant debilitating feeling of guilt and shame. Through all this turmoil comes the calm, clear voice of eminent psychologist Dorothy Rowe. She separates the political from the personal, the power-seeking from the compassionate. She shows how, if we use

our beliefs as a defence against our feelings of worthlessness, we feel compelled to force our beliefs on to other people by coercion or aggression. However, it is possible to create a set of beliefs, expressed in the religious or philosophical metaphors most meaningful to us, which allow us to live at peace with ourselves and other people, to feel strong in ourselves without

having to remain a child forever dependent on some supernatural power, and to face life with courage and optimism. *Turning to One Another* Penguin Revised and Expanded Edition. In this age of supposed scientific enlightenment , many people still believe in mind reading, past-life regression theory, New Age hokum, and alien abduction. A no-holds-barred assault on popular

superstitions and prejudices, with more than 80,000 copies in print, *Why People Believe Weird Things* debunks these nonsensical claims and explores the very human reasons people find otherworldly phenomena, conspiracy theories, and cults so appealing. In an entirely new chapter, "Why Smart People Believe in Weird Things," Michael Shermer takes on science luminaries like

physicist Frank Tipler and others, who hide their spiritual beliefs behind the trappings of science. Shermer, science historian and true crusader, also reveals the more dangerous side of such illogical thinking, including Holocaust denial, the recovered-memory movement, the satanic ritual abuse scare, and other modern crazes. *Why People Believe Strange Things* is an

eye-opening resource for the most gullible among us and those who want to protect them. *What We Believe but Cannot Prove* David Goggins This book is intended to help you live your life, and to shed some light on your own values and ethics, if you don't believe in God. More than just a primer on Humanism, but not quite a full-blown treatise on philosophy, it offers some answers to those crucial

questions Socrates asked: What is true? And how shall we live our lives? Those of us who don't believe in the supernatural sometimes struggle to understand how we can ground ourselves ethically, and how to find truth, meaning, purpose and joy. This book offers ideas about how to know, without depending on Holy Scriptures or guidance from a deity, what it means to lead a good

and ethical life. "Humanism is a value system whose time has come: a positive philosophy for the surging proportion of the world's population who indicate 'None' as their religion but seek meaning, morality, and purpose in their lives. Michael Werner's statement of Humanism is clear, effective, and graceful, just right for our times." Steven Pinker, professor of psychology,

Harvard University author, "The Better Angels of Our Nature" and "How the Mind Works." "Mike Werner captures the depth and breadth of Humanism in his latest work. He shows us what love, reason, imagination and science can have in common. In doing so, he demonstrates what we all have to live for, strive for, and believe in." Roy Speckhardt, executive director, American Humanist

Association  
 “Outstanding  
 and a must  
 read for  
 everyone who  
 takes life  
 seriously.”  
 Rev. William  
 R. Murry,  
 former  
 president,  
 Meadville  
 Lombard  
 Theological  
 School,  
 University of  
 Chicago  
*Deep, Elegant,  
 Profound  
 Unanswered  
 Questions  
 About the  
 Universe, the  
 Mind, the  
 Future of  
 Civilization,  
 and the  
 Meaning of  
 Life* What We  
 Believe but  
 Cannot  
 Prove Today's

Leading  
 Thinkers on  
 Science in the  
 Age of  
 Certainty  
 WHY DO YOU  
 BELIEVE THE  
 THINGS YOU  
 BELIEVE? Do  
 you remember  
 events  
 differently  
 from how they  
 really  
 happened?  
 Where do your  
 superstitions  
 come from?  
 How do  
 morals  
 evolve? Why  
 are some  
 people  
 religious and  
 others  
 nonreligious?  
 Everyone has  
 thoughts and  
 questions like  
 these, and  
 now Andrew  
 Newberg and

Mark  
 Waldman  
 expose, for  
 the first time,  
 how our  
 complex views  
 emerge from  
 the neural  
 activities of  
 the brain.  
 Bridging  
 science,  
 psychology,  
 and religion,  
 they  
 demonstrate,  
 in simple  
 terminology,  
 how the brain  
 perceives  
 reality and  
 transforms it  
 into an  
 extraordinary  
 range of  
 personal,  
 ethical, and  
 creative  
 premises that  
 we use to  
 build  
 meaning,

value, spirituality, and truth into our lives. When you come to understand this remarkable process, it will change forever the way you look at the world and yourself. Supported by groundbreaking research, including brain scans of people as they pray, meditate, and even speak in tongues, Newberg and Waldman propose a new model for how deep convictions emerge and

influence our lives. You will even glimpse how the mind of an atheist works when contemplating God. Using personal stories, moral paradoxes, and optical illusions, the authors demonstrate how our brains construct our fondest assumptions about reality, offering recommendations for exercising your most important "muscle" in order to develop a more life-affirming, flexible range

of attitudes. You'll discover how to: Recognize when your beliefs are altered by others Guard against mental traps and prejudicial thinking Distinguish between destructive and constructive beliefs Cultivate the spiritual and ethical ideals Ultimately, we must always return to our beliefs. From the ordinary to the extraordinary, they give meaning to the mysteries of life, providing us with our

individual uniqueness and the ability to fill our lives with joy. Most important, though, they give us inspiration and hope, beacons to guide us through the light and dark corners of the soul.

A Scientist

Presents

Evidence for

Belief Harper

Collins

"What do you believe is true even though you cannot prove it?" This was the question posed by John Brockman to a group of leading

scientists and thinkers via his Edge.org website. The subsequent answers created a media storm and prompted a fiery debate about all aspects of science, technology and even the nature of "proof". WHAT WE BELIEVE BUT CANNOT PROVE brings together the very best answers from the most eminent contributors. Here is Ian McEwan on the absence of an afterlife; Richard Dawkins on

the relationship between design and evolution; and Jared Diamond on when humans first reached the Americas. Other contributions from luminaries like Steven Pinker, John Horgan and Martin Rees span the whole range of scientific endeavour and human experience, from the future of computing to the origins of intelligence; from insights into childhood behaviour to cutting-edge



cosmology. Thought-provoking and hugely compelling, this collection is both a fascinating insight into the instinctive beliefs of some of the most brilliant minds alive today -- and an invitation to answer the question yourself . . . *Faith Versus Fact* Simon and Schuster New York Times Bestseller Over 2.5 million copies sold For David Goggins, childhood was a nightmare - poverty,

prejudice, and physical abuse colored his days and haunted his nights. But through self-discipline, mental toughness, and hard work, Goggins transformed himself from a depressed, overweight young man with no future into a U.S. Armed Forces icon and one of the world's top endurance athletes. The only man in history to complete elite training as a Navy SEAL, Army Ranger, and Air Force Tactical Air

Controller, he went on to set records in numerous endurance events, inspiring *Outside* magazine to name him The Fittest (Real) Man in America. In this curse-word-free edition of *Can't Hurt Me*, he shares his astonishing life story and reveals that most of us tap into only 40% of our capabilities. Goggins calls this The 40% Rule, and his story illuminates a path that anyone can

follow to push  
past pain,  
demolish fear,  
and reach  
their full  
potential.

*Can a  
Scientist  
Believe in  
Miracles?* Holt  
Paperbacks  
One of TIME's  
Ten Best  
Nonfiction  
Books of the  
Decade "Meet  
the new  
Stephen  
Hawking . . .  
The Order of  
Time is a  
dazzling  
book." --The  
Sunday Times  
From the  
bestselling  
author of  
Seven Brief  
Lessons on  
Physics,  
Reality Is Not  
What It

Seems, and  
Helgoland,  
comes a  
concise,  
elegant  
exploration of  
time. Why do  
we remember  
the past and  
not the  
future? What  
does it mean  
for time to  
"flow"? Do we  
exist in time  
or does time  
exist in us? In  
lyric,  
accessible  
prose, Carlo  
Rovelli invites  
us to consider  
questions  
about the  
nature of time  
that continue  
to puzzle  
physicists and  
philosophers  
alike. For most  
readers this is  
unfamiliar

terrain. We all  
experience  
time, but the  
more  
scientists  
learn about it,  
the more  
mysterious it  
remains. We  
think of it as  
uniform and  
universal,  
moving  
steadily from  
past to future,  
measured by  
clocks. Rovelli  
tears down  
these  
assumptions  
one by one,  
revealing a  
strange  
universe  
where at the  
most  
fundamental  
level time  
disappears.  
He explains  
how the  
theory of

quantum gravity attempts to understand and give meaning to the resulting extreme landscape of this timeless world. Weaving together ideas from philosophy, science and literature, he suggests that our perception of the flow of time depends on our perspective, better understood starting from the structure of our brain and emotions than from the physical universe.

Already a bestseller in Italy, and written with the poetic vitality that made *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics* so appealing, *The Order of Time* offers a profoundly intelligent, culturally rich, novel appreciation of the mysteries of time. *Unbelievable* Cambridge University Press The renowned science writer, mathematician, and bestselling author of *Fermat's Last Theorem*

masterfully refutes the overreaching claims the "New Atheists," providing millions of educated believers with a clear, engaging explanation of what science really says, how there's still much space for the Divine in the universe, and why faith in both God and empirical science are not mutually exclusive. A highly publicized coterie of scientists and thinkers, including

Richard Dawkins, the late Christopher Hitchens, and Lawrence Krauss, have vehemently contended that breakthroughs in modern science have disproven the existence of God, asserting that we must accept that the creation of the universe came out of nothing, that religion is evil, that evolution fully explains the dazzling complexity of life, and more. In this much-needed book, science journalist Amir

Aczel profoundly disagrees and conclusively demonstrates that science has not, as yet, provided any definitive proof refuting the existence of God. *Why Science Does Not Disprove God* is his brilliant and incisive analyses of the theories and findings of such titans as Albert Einstein, Roger Penrose, Alan Guth, and Charles Darwin, all of whose major breakthroughs leave open the

possibility—and even the strong likelihood—of a Creator. Bolstering his argument, Aczel lucidly discourses on arcane aspects of physics to reveal how quantum theory, the anthropic principle, the fine-tuned dance of protons and quarks, the existence of anti-matter and the theory of parallel universes, also fail to disprove God. *Online Communities and the Construction*

<p><i>of Knowledge</i> Holt Paperbacks "What do you believe is true even though you cannot prove it?" This was the question posed by John Brockman to a group of leading scientists and thinkers via his Edge.org website. The subsequent answers created a media storm and prompted a fiery debate about all aspects of science, technology and even the nature of "proof". WHAT WE BELIEVE</p>	<p>BUT CANNOT PROVE brings together the very best answers from the most eminent contributors. Here is Ian McEwan on the absence of an afterlife; Richard Dawkins on the relationship between design and evolution; and Jared Diamond on when humans first reached the Americas. Other contributions from luminaries like Steven Pinker, John Horgan and Martin Rees span the</p>	<p>whole range of scientific endeavour and human experience, from the future of computing to the origins of intelligence; from insights into childhood behaviour to cutting-edge cosmology. Thought-provoking and hugely compelling, this collection is both a fascinating insight into the instinctive beliefs of some of the most brilliant minds alive today -- and an invitation to answer the question</p>
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yourself . . .

**What We Believe but Cannot Prove**

Henry Holt and Company  
 In 2007 the leading online forum for scientists and thinkers, [www.edge.org](http://www.edge.org), issued its third annual question: 'What are you optimistic about, and why?' As with its predecessors - 'What do you believe to be true but cannot prove?' and 'What is your dangerous idea?' -- the question created an

instant media storm, with global reaction to the answers posted by some of the world's most eminent scientists and thinkers.

**WHAT ARE YOU OPTIMISTIC ABOUT** is the third collection of answers to the Edge question. Featuring responses from Richard Dawkins, Brian Eno, Steven Pinker, Sir Martin Rees and Matt Ridley, and covering topics as diverse as the

decline of violence, the path to enlightenment and mankind's enduring ability to solve problems, this collection is guaranteed to make you look on the bright side. Global warming, the war on terror and rampant consumerism getting you down? Lighten up! And read some of the world's brightest brains on their reasons to be cheerful.

**The Ethics of Belief. [By William K. Clifford. A Paper Read Before the**

**Metaphysical Society.]**

Motilal Banarsidass Publ. Discover the universe's last unknowns—he re are the unanswered questions that obsess "the world's finest minds" (The Guardian) Featuring a foreword by DANIEL KAHNEMAN, Nobel Prize-winning author of Thinking, Fast and Slow This is a little book of profound questions (only questions!)—unknowns that address the secrets of our

world, our civilization, the meaning of life. Here are the deepest riddles that have fascinated, obsessed, and haunted the greatest thinkers of our time, including Nobel laureates, cosmologists, philosophers, economists, prize-winning novelists, religious scholars, and more than 250 leading scientists, artists, and theorists. In The Last Unknowns, John

Brockman, publisher of Edge.org, asks "a mind-blowing gathering of innovative thinkers" (Booklist): "What is 'The Last Question,' your last question, the question for which you will be remembered?" Featuring the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Guns, Germs, and Steel JARED DIAMOND • Nobel Prize-winning University of Chicago economist RICHARD

THALER • Harvard psychologist	the American Mind author	• Anatomy of Love author
STEVEN PINKER • religion scholar	JONATHAN HAIDT • Nobel Prize-winning physicist	HELEN FISHER • Noble Prize- winning NASA physicist
ELAINE PAGELS • author of Seven Brief Lessons on Physics	CARLO ROVELLI • Booker Prize-winning novelist	JOHN C. MATHER • psychologist JUDITH RICH HARRIS • Princeton physicist
SAM HARRIS • philosopher	ALISON GOPNICK • philosopher	FREEMAN DYSON • musician
DANIEL C. DENNETT • MIT theorist	REBECCA NEWBERGER GOLDSTEIN • New York Times columnist	BRIAN ENO • environmental scientist JENNIFER JACQUET • Duke economist
SHERRY TURKLE • decoder of the human genome	CARL ZIMMER • MIT cosmologist	DAN ARIELY • Oxford philosopher
CRAIG VENTER • The Coddling of	MAX TEGMARK • Whole Earth founder	A. C. GRAYLING • Harvard cosmologist
	STEWART BRAND • "Marginal Revolution" economist	LISA RANDALL • anthropologist
	TYLER COWEN	MARY



CATHERINE BATESON • Emotional Intelligence author DANIEL GOLEMAN • Harvard geneticist GEORGE CHURCH • Blueprint author NICHOLAS A. CHRISTAKIS • Stanford political scientist MARGARET LEVI • economist ALAN S. BLINDER • publisher TIM O'REILLY • theoretical cosmologist JANNA LEVIN • Serpentine Gallery owner HANS ULRICH OBRIST • Wired	founding editor KEVIN KELLY • Cambridge astrophysicist MARTIN REES, and more than 200 others. <b>Ideas That Will Shape the Future</b> InterVarsity Press Drawn from the cutting- edge frontiers of science, This Explains Everything will revolutionize your understanding of the world. What is your favorite deep, elegant, or beautiful explanation? This is the question John Brockman, publisher of	Edge.org ("The world's smartest website"—The Guardian), posed to the world's most influential minds. Flowing from the horizons of physics, economics, psychology, neuroscience, and more, This Explains Everything presents 150 of the most surprising and brilliant theories of the way of our minds, societies, and universe work. Jared Diamond on biological electricity • Nassim Nicholas Taleb
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on positive stress •  
 Steven Pinker on the deep genetic roots of human conflict •  
 Richard Dawkins on pattern recognition •  
 Nobel Prize-winning physicist Frank Wilczek on simplicity •  
 Lisa Randall on the Higgs mechanism •  
 BRIAN Eno on the limits of intuition •  
 Richard Thaler on the power of commitment •  
 V. S. Ramachandran on the "neural code" of consciousness •  
 Nobel Prize winner ERIC KANDEL on the power of psychotherapy •  
 Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi on "Lord Acton's Dictum" •  
 Lawrence M. Krauss on the unification of electricity and magnetism •  
 plus contributions by Martin J. Rees • Kevin Kelly • Clay Shirky • Daniel C. Dennett •  
 Sherry Turkle • Philip Zimbardo •  
 Lee Smolin • Rebecca Newberger Goldstein •  
 Seth Lloyd • Stewart Brand •  
 George Dyson • Matt Ridley