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May 2019

We Review the  
Best of the Latest  
Books

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# May 2019

## Table of Contents

Arts & Crafts / Quilting / Human  
Rights / International

[Visioning Human Rights in the New  
Millennium: Quilting the World's  
Conscience by Carolyn L. Mazloomi  
PhD \(Schiffer Publishing Ltd\)](#)

Business & Economics /  
Management / Finance

[How Finance Works: The HBR Guide  
to Thinking Smart about the  
Numbers by Mihir Desai \(Harvard  
Business Review Press\)](#)

Children's Books / Age Range: 5-8 /  
Grade Level: K-3 / Humorous stories

[Chip and Curl: The Great Potato  
Rice by Cathy Breisacher, illustrated  
by Joshua Heinsz \(Sleeping Bear  
Press\)](#)

Health & Wellness / Self-Help /  
Religion & Spirituality / Guides

[The Energy Codes: The 7-Step  
System to Awaken Your Spirit, Heal  
Your Body, and Live Your Best Life by  
Dr Sue Morter, with a foreword by Jill  
Bolte Taylor PhD \(Atria Books\)](#)

Humanities / History / Philosophy /  
Biographies & Memoirs

[Diderot and the Art of Thinking  
Freely by Andrew S. Curran \(Other  
Press\)](#)

Law / Criminal Justice / Education &  
Training

[Criminal Courts: A Contemporary  
Perspective 3rd edition by Craig T.  
Hemmens, David C. Brody, & Cassia  
Spohn \(Sage Publications\)](#)

Law / Estates & Trusts / Self-Help /  
Guides

[The Trustee's Legal Companion: A  
Step-by-Step Guide to Administering  
a Living Trust, 5th edition by Liza  
Hanks Attorney & Carol Elias Zolla  
Attorney \(Nolo\)](#)

Literature & Fiction / Mysteries

[Stick Together by Sophie Hénaff,  
translated from the French by Sam  
Gordon \(The Awkward Squad Series,  
Book 2: MacLehose Press, Quercus\)](#)

Outdoors & Nature / Guides /  
Reference

[Peterson Reference Guide to  
Sparrows of North America by Rick  
Wright \(Peterson Reference Guides  
Series: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt\)](#)

Outdoors & Nature / Social Science  
/ Textbooks

[Essentials of Ecology, 7th edition by  
G. Tyler Miller & Scott Spoolman](#)

[\(National Geographic, Cengage Learning\)](#)

Politics / Philosophy

[How to Be a Conservative by Roger Scruton \(Bloomsbury Continuum\)](#)

Psychology / Social / Race Relations

[Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do by Jennifer L. Eberhardt PhD \(Viking\)](#)

Religion & Spirituality / Buddhism

[Moonbeams of Mahāmudrā by Dakpo Tashi Namgyal, with Dispelling the Darkness of Ignorance by Wangchuk Dorje, the Ninth Karmapa, translated, annotated and introduced by Elizabeth Callahan, with forewords by The Seventeenth Karmapa and Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche \(Snow Lion\)](#)

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Philosophy / Race Relations

[America's Unholy Ghosts: The Racist Roots of Our Faith and Politics by Joel Edward Goza \(Cascade Books\)](#)

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Theology / Philosophy

[On the Origin of Consciousness: An Exploration through the Lens of the Christian Conception of God and Creation by Scott D. G. Ventureyra \(Wipf & Stock Publishers\)](#)

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Theology

[Reformed Systematic Theology, Volume 1: Revelation and God by Joel Beeke & Paul M. Smalley \(Reformed Systematic Theology Series, Vol. 1: Crossway\)](#)

Teaching & Learning / K-8

[Partnering with Families for Student Success: 24 Scenarios for Problem Solving with Parents by Patricia A. Edwards, Rand J. Spiro, Lisa M. Domke, Ann M. Castle, Kristen L. White, Marliese R. Peltier, & Tracy H. Donohue, with a foreword by Joyce L. Epstein \(Teachers College Press\)](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Arts & Crafts / Quilting / Human Rights / International

[Visioning Human Rights in the New Millennium: Quilting the World's Conscience](#) by Carolyn L. Mazloomi PhD (Schiffer Publishing Ltd)

[Visioning Human Rights in the New Millennium](#) is a call for action in the global struggle for human rights. Through artistic expression, utilizing the canvas of quilts, the artists interpret the thirty articles of the Declaration of Human Rights. A powerful way to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations Human Rights Declaration, [Visioning Human Rights in the New Millennium](#) reminds viewers of its impact and each of its 30 principles, using intriguing art quilts. Sometimes taking viewers by surprise, the 75 textile artists visualize the global struggle for human rights with their interpretations of the Declaration, ratified in 1948, which represents the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are innately entitled. Author Carolyn L. Mazloomi, among the most influential historians of African American quilts, received the Bess Lomax Hawes NEA National Heritage Fellowship Award. The founder of Women of Color Quilters Network, she is the author of eight books on quilts.

The themes of the 91 works include the first recorded initiation of human rights in Persia in 539 BCE, the plight of child soldiers and child brides, unlawful incarceration, the right to privacy, fair labor practices, freedom from torture, and the right of all world citizens to food, education, shelter, and healthcare. Together with the text of each Rights Declaration article, a message from the artist explains each quilt's inspiration and meaning. The United Nations (UN) Declaration of Human Rights had its genesis on February 16, 1946, when the UN established a Human Rights Commission. Its establishment was precipitated by the horrific human rights violations suffered by victims of World War II. Eleanor Roosevelt was a member of the commission and would go on to be elected its chairperson. Roosevelt brought to the table her compassion and commitment to human dignity, her empathy for the plight of the refugees of World War II, and her experience in politics and lobbying. The Universal Declaration has served as a gathering point for individuals who are victims of oppression and human rights violations, such as Nelson Mandela in South Africa, Lech Walesa in Poland, Ai Weiwei in China, and groups of people such as those involved in the Me Too and Black Lives Matter movements. The Universal Declaration is the yardstick by which performance of the United Nations and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) is measured, and has inspired more than twenty-five legally binding human right treaties globally. Mazloomi says she was inspired to write [Visioning Human Rights in the New Millennium](#) because of her admiration for Eleanor Roosevelt and her belief that if women were fully empowered, they would transform the world into a

peaceful place. Every day, all over the world, women make peace between their children, their families, and their communities; however, when it comes to being included in negotiating and signing peace deals, they are excluded. In [Visioning Human Rights in the New Millennium](#), fiber artists render works that connect the viewer in an immediate visual dialogue with issues that might not otherwise be accessible, transcending language barriers and negotiating difficult topics with diverse audiences. The artists engage viewers in human rights discourse in a powerful way. The arts allow everyone to articulate and challenge oppressions and tend their imaginations. Quilters quilt their joy, their struggles, their concerns and their vision for a brighter future. Furthermore, the freedom to participate in arts and cultural work is itself a human right, Article 19 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights allows everyone the right to express their thoughts through any medium of their choosing. The right to experience, develop, and articulate their cultures is a necessary component of realizing the full range of human rights to which people are all entitled by virtue of being human. All people have the right to develop, participate in, and enjoy cultural lives. Article 27 of the Declaration enshrines the right of everyone to participate in the cultural life of the community in which they live. The objective of [Visioning Human Rights in the New Millennium](#) is to educate and inspire people to understand the meaning of human rights in its best practice, as well as human rights violations around the world, and the terrible consequences resulting from intolerance and bigotry. Many of the artists featured in [Visioning Human Rights in the New Millennium](#) have been creating quilts for decades and have been exhibited in many museums and

galleries around the country. These artists are committed to their medium and craftsmanship and, more importantly, are interested in human rights issues affecting people around the world. Notably, many of the artists have felt the sting of discrimination in one form or another. Many have experienced violations of their human rights.

There is particular interest in certain Articles of the Declaration, which resulted in more than one quilt work on some topics. Of specific interest to African American quilters in [Visioning Human Rights in the New Millennium](#) are Articles 1 and 3 of the Declaration, which state that all human beings are born free and equal and are entitled to the right to life, liberty, and security. For centuries, peoples of African descent were subjected to the largest forced migration in human history as a result of the European slave trade. They have suffered racial discrimination and unfair treatment for hundreds of years. The piece *Equality and Freedom Executive Order Proclaimed* by the Source by Mayota Hill, a woman of deep faith, speaks to freedom given by a higher power. The artist proclaims that the 'source' of all life, God, by virtue of our birth, has made all human beings free.

In the quilt *The Lesson and the Equation* by Tierney Davis Hogan, the artist recalls strong life lessons given to her and her siblings by their father, who grew up in the rural segregated South. He instilled in his children the courage to stand up against racism and fight back not with violence, but respectful dialogue. Several featured quilters are social workers and healthcare workers and have created work reflecting the theme of Article 25, which states that all people have the right to food and shelter. Marion Coleman, a retired social

worker, made the quilt *Living in the Shadows*, which depicts four scenes of despair: a mother and her hungry children, people in line to receive free food, a homeless couple sitting on a sidewalk, and a lone elder with no home to go to. The images are stark reminders that all people need to be cared for properly.

The image of a young woman sleeping on a park bench, with only newspaper shielding her body from the cold, was made by Valerie White. *Park Bench Rescue* addresses the fact that there are more than 565,000 men, women, and children who are homeless in the United States. White's work calls attention to the shocking fact that the United States has the highest rate of homeless people of any industrialized country in the world.

Linda Ali, a retired pediatric nurse practitioner, pictures the solitary figure of a young girl crying. She used tear-shaped crystals on a hand-appliquéd figure to mimic tears. The title of the work is *A Crying Shame*. Ali brings to the forefront that many countries fail to take care of their greatest asset – the children.

Many of the featured quilters are elementary school, secondary school, or college teachers and very much interested in the right of individuals to education, as indicated in Article 26 of the Declaration. *Plant a Seed* by Beverly Smith shows five little African American girls, neatly attired in their school uniform, with books in hand, ready for a day at school. Smith is a public school teacher who teaches art in a middle school. Her pieces symbolize the importance of educating girls, because girls in many countries are denied the right to an education. Hilda Vest made a quilt to honor Malala Yousafzai, the youngest person to receive a Nobel Prize. Malala was shot by the Taliban

because she refused to stop going to school, and she spoke out against the Tallinn's effort to force young girls out of the classroom.

Being able to read and write in the African American community has important significance. There were laws in the South that declared that teaching an enslaved person to read was punishable by law. People could be fined or even placed in jail for the offense. Wendell Brown, a college art teacher, designed the quilt *Learning Always Instilled Freedom* to celebrate a long tradition of education in his family. The quilt shows young children and their teachers, dressed in their best clothes, ready to take a photograph on their first day of school. This 'first-day picture' was a time-honored tradition at African American school in the South, as well as many others.

*A revealing look ... many of the images are unforgettable, forcing one to think about the pain of others because of human rights violations. Powerful!* – Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies

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knowledge and skills they need to understand how finance works. These include:

- How different financial levers can affect a company's

*a must-read for business students and aspiring business leaders – or anyone looking to deepen their understanding of finance. – Marne Levine, Chief Operating Officer, Instagram*

*Professor Mihir Desai's advice – both practical and witty – was an inspiration when I was a student at Harvard Business School... I'm thrilled that he's written this book so that even more people can benefit from his wisdom! – Sarah Kauss, founder and CEO, S'well*

*Mihir Desai's book on how finance works is masterful at laying bare the simple truths and the commonsense principles that underlie much of finance... readers, no matter what their background or interests, will come out more informed and enlightened by the journey. –*

*Aswath Damodaran, Professor of Finance, NYU Stern School of Business; author, [The Little Book of Valuation](#)*

*For anyone who wants to be able to utilize financial information... [How Finance Works](#) provides clarity and guidance to what can be, for many, an intimidating arena. – David Wolfson, Executive Director, Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy*

*Finally, someone has provided a mechanism for gaining intuition about finance for those of us who deliberately avoided any financial studies in school. – Michael Jaff, MD, President, Newton-Wellesley Hospital*

*Professor Desai has accomplished a rare feat: transforming the typically complex and often dry subject of finance into a lively and accessible tour de force, without trivializing its importance. – Cyrus Taraporevala, President and CEO, State Street Global Advisors*

*Mihir manages to make finance fun and accessible – and, by the end of it, you'll be a fan.*

*– and, by the end of it, you'll be a fan. (I)8.4 (I)-0. (I)TJ±0.001 Tc -0.004 Tw -.174 -1.217 Td(ha)-2.8 (v)-*

writer, and designer with an MFA in Illustration Practice from Maryland Institute College of Art.

Which spud peels ahead to cross the finish line first in [Chip and Curly](#)? Young readers learn that, in some things, no matter how you slice it, everyone can be a winner.

*One potato, two potato, three potato, four. Five potato, six potato, seven potato, more – more potato puns than you can count, as a young spud strives to win the sack race at the Spud City Festival. After training all year to win the Golden Bushel Award, Chip learns he must beat Curly, the new spud in town. From pre-race to finish, Breisacher and Heinsz use their setup to share verbal and brightly colored visual puns that children will enjoy.* – Kirkus Reviews

[Chip and Curly](#) is a silly book filled with potato puns that will make readers crave French fries and laugh out loud. Young readers learn the importance of helping others, even when competing and that when they work together everyone can be a winner. <>

Health & Wellness / Self-Help / Religion & Spirituality / Guides

**[The Energy Codes: The 7-Step System to Awaken Your Spirit, Heal Your Body, and Live Your Best Life](#)** by Dr Sue Morter, with a foreword by Jill Bolte Taylor PhD (Atria Books)

Readers can transform their lives with this seven-step guide – grounded in energy medicine, neurobiology, and quantum physics – to awaken their health and potential through energy healing.

Eighteen years ago, health practitioner Dr. Sue Morter says she had a profound awakening. While meditating, she spontaneously accessed an energy field – a level of consciousness – beyond

anything she had ever imagined. That dramatic experience changed her life, freeing her from years of struggle and pain.

Morter is an international speaker, master of bioenergetic medicine, and quantum field visionary. She is the founder of the Morter Institute for Bioenergetics, an international destination for healing and wellness education.

That experience also set Morter on a mission to discover how to create such radical transformation for her patients. Through years of advanced study and research in energy healing and medicine, she developed the Energy Codes, a life-changing program that has now enabled people all over the world to overcome pain, disease, fatigue, anxiety, and depression and to awaken their innate creativity, intuition, and inner power.

Bridging ancient healing practices with cutting-edge science, [The Energy Codes](#) offers a road map to help readers experience deep healing in their lives. Grounded in practical, accessible exercises, including yoga, breathwork, meditations, and Bio-Energetic Synchronization Technique (B.E.S.T.) protocol, [The Energy Codes](#) helps readers activate untapped energy and neurocircuitry in their body, empower their hidden potential, and become one with their essential selves. As a child, Morter says she was able to see peoples' energy patterns as light around them. As an adult, she followed in the footsteps of her father, a chiropractic doctor who developed the B.E.S.T. protocol, which syncs up energy that has been dispersed by stressful experiences and gets it flowing through the body again, allowing self-healing to occur automatically.

Beginning by analyzing personalities and how they are built, Morter argues

that dysfunction comes because people's personalities don't always fit their true natures, noting that "Many of us become interested, at some point, in who we are and why we are here." Drawing from ancient traditions and the sciences of quantum physics, neurobiology and energy healing, the Energy Codes include: The Feeling Code, which helps people through friction; The Clearing Code, which helps access subconscious reasons for being stuck; The Heart Code, which guides them to a different practice of love, eliminating conditionality, attachment, and bargaining; The Breath Code, all about breathing and thus bringing more life in; The Chemistry Code, for maintaining the body's pH balance to bring the body into its natural state of calmness; and The Spirit Code, to connect with the deep core wisdom in the body's system. Included in [The Energy Codes](#) are tips on making the Energy Codes a habit and a new way of life.

[The Energy Codes](#) offers deep insights and powerful, practical techniques that brilliantly merge the ever-blending worlds of science and spirituality to help reveal the truth of our being and the depths of our greatness. In this phenomenal book, which I strongly encourage you to read, Dr. Sue Morter will help guide you to living more fully and expressing your true potential. – Jack Canfield, coauthor of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series and *The Success Principles*

[The Energy Codes](#) by Dr. Sue Morter offers shockingly simple, yet wonderfully masterful, explanations that turn all the *What's True* info into a single How-To revelation that can change lives virtually overnight. Spiritual knowledge is one thing, spiritual tools are another. For those ready and willing to build a new life, here are the tools. Powerful, incisive,

extraordinary writing. – Neale Donald Walsch, author of *Conversations with God*

Brilliant and relatable, [The Energy Codes](#) is filled with powerful, profound and transformational principles and practices that are both accessible and relevant. Dr. Sue Morter is an extraordinary enlightened visionary, bridging the gap between heaven and earth, and inviting us fully into our creatorship. I highly recommend this book! – Anita Moorjani, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Dying To Be Me*  
Dr. Sue Morter, one of the most exciting and original health practitioners out there, takes a truly holistic view of health by focusing on the body's dynamical and interconnected energy systems, including the role of the soul's purpose and the power of certain key movements to radically shift energy. Take a daily dose of the seven principles in [The Energy Codes](#) and enjoy a powerful prescription for living in radiant wellness and harmony. – Lynne McTaggart, internationally bestselling author of *The Field*, *The Intention Experiment* and *The Power of Eight*  
In the midst of a growing transition in human health and consciousness, Dr. Sue Morter's [The Energy Codes](#) establishes new ground with a multi-disciplinary approach to healing. Blending the movement arts of yoga with energizing breathwork, deep belief, and heart expanding meditations, she takes her readers into the greatest healing experience of all – the lifting of the mind into a heightened discovery of the true self and mission. – James Redfield, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Celestine Prophecy*  
[A] valuable 7 'codes' exercise program that enables you to fully express your creative magic in manifesting your life. Dr. Morter's book is a virtual scientific

*treasure map for finding health, happiness, and love at the end of the rainbow.* – Bruce H. Lipton, PhD, cell biologist and author of the bestselling *The Biology of Belief*, *Spontaneous Evolution*, and *The Honeymoon Effect* Grounded in practical, revolutionary, accessible exercises, including yoga, breathwork, meditations, and Mörter's B.E.S.T. protocol, [The Energy Codes](#) offers a detailed road map to help readers experience deep healing in their lives – by changing their energy. <>

Humanities / History / Philosophy /  
Biographies & Memoirs

[Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#) by  
Andrew S. Curran (Other Press)

[Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#) is a spirited biography of the prophetic and sympathetic philosopher who helped build the foundations of the modern world.

Denis Diderot (1713-1784) conceived of natural selection almost a hundred years before Darwin, pondered genetic manipulation two hundred years before Dolly the Sheep, and inspired the likes of Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, and Charles Pierre Baudelaire.

Diderot is often associated with the decades-long battle to bring the world's first comprehensive *Encyclopédie* into existence. But his most daring writing took place in the shadows. Thrown into prison for his atheism in 1749, Diderot decided to reserve his best books for posterity – for today's readers, in fact. In the astonishing cache of unpublished writings left behind after his death, Diderot challenged virtually all of his century's accepted truths, from the sanctity of monarchy, to the racial justification of the slave trade, to the norms of human sexuality.

In [Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#), a thematically organized biography,

Andrew S. Curran vividly describes Diderot's tormented relationship with Rousseau, his curious correspondence with Voltaire, his passionate affairs, and his often iconoclastic stands on art, theater, morality, politics, and religion. But what the book brings out most brilliantly is how the writer's personal turmoil was an essential part of his genius and his ability to flout taboos, dogma, and convention.

Curran is the William Armstrong Professor of the Humanities at Wesleyan University. Curran is a Fellow in the history of medicine at the New York Academy of Medicine and a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques. Award-winning historian Curran breaks the paradigm of the biography, offering both an in-depth, yet accessible and entertaining account of the life of one of the eighteenth-century's major intellectual thinkers. At a moment when we are once again confronting major questions of freedom, global responsibility, and human authenticity in a fractious and technology-driven world, [Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#) follows the passionate, stubborn, and heretical philosopher from the Newton-influenced, politically changing world of his birth, through his contradictory roles as aspiring priest, hopeless romantic, unapologetic adulterer, author, and swindler. Readers see a skeptical young student discovering the works of Voltaire, Bacon, Locke, and Newton, rejecting God and religion, evolving into a renowned intellectual both extolled and denounced for his views.

At age 35, Diderot published *Letter on the Blind*, in which he revealed his atheism, and for which he was arrested and spent several months in jail. After his release, Diderot saved his most radical thoughts for his secret works. Publicly, he focused much of the next 25 years as

the lead editor and contributor to the most controversial (and profitable) book of the eighteenth-century: the *Encyclopedie*, a living, breathing text containing over 70,000 articles of the world's knowledge, designed with thousands of cross references connecting arcane areas of study. As Curran outlines in [Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#), its publication was rife with scandals, near-cancellations, and confiscations, involving the Sorbonne, the Paris Parliament, the Jesuits the Jansenists, the King, and the Pope himself. When the last of its volumes was published in 1765, Diderot believed they had brought the world's knowledge, and therefore intellectual freedom, to everyone, from France to Russia and across the Atlantic.

For Diderot acolytes, [Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#) offers a new perspective on the historical moment of which Diderot was a part; for neophytes, it will serve as a compelling introduction to a complex and enduring philosophical figure and Enlightenment Paris. Curran admires Diderot but unhesitatingly explores his flaws: his double standards on infidelity, stubbornness, and his compulsive tendencies. In fact, as the book argues, the ideals that made Diderot so controversial and targeted in life are precisely what have rendered him one of the most important philosophers of the Enlightenment; studied so long after his death. Diderot stands out not just for rejecting God, but for relentlessly exploring the philosophical puzzles and moral quandaries central to the human condition.

Curran reveals a talkative, enthusiastic man who spent his life relentlessly and obsessively pursuing knowledge and trying to share it with the world. Diderot debated materialism and politics with Catherine the Great (often slapping the

Empress's thigh during particularly animated discussions), argued the merits of Shakespeare with Voltaire, and had a close friendship and very public falling out with the great philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau. [Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#) reveals a complex and contradictory man in constant motion who spent his life learning, considering, writing, and debating philosophy, art colonialism, marriage, love, and politics – often with absolute conviction.

An Amazon Best Book of January 2019: *In [Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#), Andrew Curran's spirited biography, Diderot emerges from the page as not just an Enlightenment philosopher, a contemporary of Rousseau and Voltaire, and the lead writer of the Encyclopédie – he also steps out as a truly free thinker and master of dissent, even for today's times. Although he had many followers, including Catherine the Great, Diderot chose, probably wisely, to record some of his most provocative thoughts in unpublished novels. Author Curran uncovers these writings for us, sifting through Diderot's thoughts and arguments, adding context, and sweeping us up in Diderot's words, his times, and his ideas. It is a relatively fun read and a fascinating journey. For a philosopher living during the Enlightenment, Denis Diderot sure was a Renaissance man.* – Chris Schluep, Amazon Book Review

*Making sense of these mercurial works is not easy, and situating them in such a life as Diderot's is even more challenging, so it is remarkable that...Curran succeeds admirably in both regards...the most accessible version of the life and work of this protean figure...excellent.* – New York Review of Books

*[The Encyclopédie's] publication history is elegantly untangled by Mr. Curran,*

whose clear style and interest in the psychology of it all transforms it into a lively narrative...you are bound to be exhilarated by [Diderot's] creativity. – *Wall Street Journal*

[A] marvelous account of the philosophe's life and work. But this is much more than a biography, as Curran renders in vivid detail the social and intellectual life of eighteenth-century France... Readers will be left with a new appreciation for Diderot. – *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

A lively biography... An intellectually dense and well-researched yet brisk journey into one of history's most persuasive dissenters. – *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

Absorbing... In this extremely well-written biography, Curran vividly portrays Diderot as a brilliant man filled with contradictions and passions who acted as a central figure in the advancement of intellectual freedom. – *BookPage*, starred review

In this new biography, Curran looks to remind us just what a radical Diderot was in his time. – *New York Times Book Review*

[Curran's] fluent and spirited book surpasses its predecessor in finding a center of gravity in the Enlightenment's most kaleidoscopic thinker. – *New Republic*

As befits the biography of an author who labored to make his treatment of ponderous philosophical questions as amusing as possible, [Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#) entertains... More than a biography, it constitutes a stepping stone into the French Enlightenment. – *History Today*

An exuberant exploration of this endlessly fascinating writer – we need our Diderots now more than ever. – Sarah Bakewell, *New York Times* bestselling author of *At the Existentialist Café*

Andrew Curran has given us an invigorating and wide-ranging new biography of the brilliant *Encyclopédiste*, bringing to life his complicated relationships and the ideas he explored throughout his protean intellectual career. – Leo Damrosch, author of *Eternity's Sunrise: The Imaginative World of William Blake*

[Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#) not only offers an absorbing sketch of life in eighteenth-century France; it provides dazzling insight into critical issues including the existence of God and freedom of speech. Among the many things that this book accomplishes, it gives readers a taste of the emancipatory power of philosophy. – Thierry Hoquet, author of *Revisiting the Origin of Species: The Other Darwins*

Curran narrates with verve the story of Diderot's life, but also his late masterpieces, unknown in their own time and written for posterity. [Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#) gives us, as hoped, a Diderot for today. – Sophia Rosenfeld, author of *Common Sense: A Political History*

Employing a deft conversational quality to his writing, Curran's latest is a timely reminder that philosophy, and the preeminent figures who dedicated lifetimes to grapple with its concepts and mark its history, still have much to say about real life. Accessible, entertaining, [Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#) offers a fresh perspective on Enlightenment Paris. Diderot's work has echoed throughout history, and this unique biography captures both his prolific life and his lasting impact. <>

Law / Criminal Justice / Education & Training

**[Criminal Courts: A Contemporary Perspective 3<sup>rd</sup> edition](#)** by Craig T. Hemmens, David C. Brody, & Cassia Spohn (Sage Publications)

Written by three nationally recognized experts in the field, [Criminal Courts](#), 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, explores all conventional topics – court structure, courtroom actors, and the trial and appeals process – as well as others seldom covered, such as specialty courts and the goals and functions of the law. Authors Craig Hemmens, David C. Brody, and Cassia Spohn take a comprehensive and accessible approach which allows instructors to cover all of the ‘standard’ material and the option to add selections they consider interesting and relevant to their particular course. Hemmens is Department Chair and Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology and Criminal Justice at Washington State University. He currently serves as Editor of the *Criminal Law Bulletin*, and previously served as the editor of the *Journal of Criminal Justice Education* and as President of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Brody is a Professor of Criminal Justice at Washington State University and Spohn is School Director and Foundation Professor of Criminal Justice at Arizona University.

Packed with contemporary examples and new pedagogical tools, the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of [Criminal Courts](#) has been thoroughly revised with the most up-to-date content and resources to give students a comprehensive understanding of the criminal courts system.

This is a textbook for an undergraduate criminal justice/criminology course on courts. It is comprehensive in its treatment of courts, covering all the areas that are generally covered in courts textbooks intended for criminal justice courses. [Criminal Courts](#) covers several areas: (a) criminal court processes; (b) the courtroom actors and their different roles; (c) court structures

and operation, in both the federal and state systems and from trial through appeal; and (d) the nature of legal and judicial reasoning. In addition, it covers related areas often not covered in courts textbooks. These include judicial decision making, specialized courts, and comparative court systems.

The first section of [Criminal Courts](#) (Chapters 1-5), provides a discussion of the judicial function, the role and purpose of law, sources of law, the different types of law, and the structure of the American court system. These topics are essential building blocks for the detailed discussion of the criminal courts system and its participants. The authors first explain why it is important to study courts and the decisions that court actors make as they process criminal cases. They discuss the origins of the modern court system, which can be traced back hundreds of years to early Roman law and to English common law. They also explain how the traditional view of courts, in which courts and court actors simply apply the law, is inadequate; because laws are often vague and ambiguous, courts also make law. They then discuss two competing views of the criminal justice system – the crime control model and the due process model – and explain how these models can be used to examine and analyze the criminal court system. They then provide an overview of the historical development of the court system, and they discuss the structure and organization of federal and state courts today. This is followed by an introduction to each of the courtroom actors and the roles they play as well as a discussion of the path that the typical criminal case follows as it is processed through the court system. They also include a chapter on specialized, or problem-solving, courts. They explain that these courts – drug

courts, domestic violence courts, and juvenile courts – take a broader and more comprehensive approach to delinquency and criminality; they also attempt to address the underlying social and economic factors that contributed to the defendant's involvement in crime. The second section of [Criminal Courts](#) (Chapters 6-10), provides an in-depth discussion of the various participants in the criminal court system judges, prosecutors, defense attorney, criminal defendants, crime victims, and the jury. The authors explain that the judge plays an important but limited role in the criminal process; the power of judges is constrained by rules that require them to be fair and unbiased, by procedures to disqualify or remove them if they are not impartial, and by appellate court rulings on questions of law and procedure. The book also discusses the methods of selecting judges, the effects of recruiting more women and racial minorities to the bench, and the consequences of using nonlawyer judges. It discusses the inadequacies of the traditional adversarial model and explains that criminal case processing is characterized more by cooperation and consensus than by conflict. The authors' discussion of prosecuting attorneys focuses on their highly discretionary and largely invisible charging decisions and the factors that affect these decisions. They also discuss legal and practical constraints on prosecutorial discretion. Their discussion of defense attorneys includes an examination of the right to counsel and of Supreme Court decisions interpreting the right as well as an examination of research comparing the effectiveness of private attorneys and public defenders. Their discussion of jurors focuses on the jury selection process, with an emphasis on the issue of racial discrimination in the selection of jurors.

They also examine the role of jury consultants, the factors that jurors take into consideration during deliberations, and the practice of jury nullification. The third section of [Criminal Courts](#) (Chapters 11-14), discusses the pretrial, trial, and post-trial processes. The authors cover a diverse range of court-related topics, including the courtroom workgroup, courtroom legal culture, and plea bargaining. They next discuss the goals of sentencing, focusing on retributive and utilitarian justifications for punishment. They also examine the judge's options at sentencing and summarize the results of research analyzing the factors that judges take into account as they attempt to fashion sentences that fit offenders and their crimes. They discuss the rules that guide the appellate process and explain how the writ of habeas corpus has evolved over time.

[Criminal Courts](#) provides several pedagogical tools designed to help undergraduate students gain a fuller understanding of the criminal court system. These include:

- Several chapters feature a "View From the Field" concerning a topic covered in the text written from the perspective of a participant in the process. This provides students with an enhanced understanding of the rules and processes covered in the text, while explaining the nuances of the court process and the interinstitutional aspect of the criminal justice and court systems.
- Several chapters feature a "Current Controversy" related to the chapter's topic. This serves both to foster thought and discussion and to increase interest in the subject matter. The discussion is presented in a

neutral manner with equal coverage to the various theoretical, political, or ideological positions raised by the issue.

- Several chapters feature a "Comparative Courts" item related to the topic. This feature includes a discussion of how a foreign court system deals with the topic. This feature provides students with some context for their study of the American court system and allows instructors to engage students in a compare/contrast pedagogical exercise.
- Several chapters include a discussion of "Current Research" related to the subject matter. These discussions are written with undergraduate readers in mind and focus on how research can help policy makers and court system workers evaluate and implement processes and programs.
- Several chapters feature a "Movies and the Courts" discussion of famous movies depicting the court system and how these movies correctly and incorrectly portray the court system.

In addition to these highlighted pedagogical features, each chapter includes tables and figures throughout; chapter opening photographs that set the stage for the chapter to come; key terms; chapter summaries; discussion questions; and lists of relevant Internet sites at the end of each chapter. Additional items in [Criminal Courts](#) include a glossary, list of cases cited, references and suggested readings, case index, and general index. A password-protected site for instructors features an extensive test bank,

PowerPoint presentations, lecture notes, sample syllabi, and access to selected SAGE journal articles as well as video and web resources. An open-access student study site provides access to several study tools, including eFlashcards, web quizzes, and selected SAGE journal articles as well as video and web resources.

*This is a well-written, well-arranged, and very informative book. It will definitely be an asset to students taking this course. – Emil Moldovan, M.P.A., Radford University*

*This book is very well written, informative, to the point, and discusses the courts from a general perspective... The authors are scholars in the field, and their work has been and will be respected for years to come. The ancillary resources are very helpful, detailed, and in abundance. – Author: Mai E. Naito*

*This text is both affordable for students and presents material in an easy to understand format. The boxes on research articles present students with summaries of research on court processing without overwhelming lower-level undergraduates with entire articles to read. The boxes with high profile cases help students apply the concepts covered in a chapter to real-life examples. Finally, the course site has excellent resources for both students and instructors. – Author: Danielle M. Romain*

*Material covered in a balanced way... Great pedagogical features and illustrations – Author: Elizabeth Perkins*  
[Criminal Courts](#), 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, thoroughly revised and updated, provides students with an understanding of the foundational concepts and enables them to hold a detailed discussion about the criminal courts system and the participants involved. The comprehensive and accessible

approach used in the book allows instructors to cover all the standard material and also to add selections they consider interesting and relevant to their particular course. <>

Law / Estates & Trusts / Self-Help / Guides

**[The Trustee's Legal Companion: A Step-by-Step Guide to Administering a Living Trust, 5<sup>th</sup> edition](#)** by Liza Hanks Attorney & Carol Elias Zolla Attorney (Nolo)

Living trusts are popular estate planning tools, but when a person is chosen to serve as a trustee, they probably won't know where to begin. [The Trustee's Legal Companion](#) has everything they need to get organized, get started, and get the job done.

The authors – attorneys who have helped many a bewildered trustee – show readers, step by step, how to administer a living trust with confidence. Liza Hanks is a Mountain View, California attorney. Carol Elias Zolla is an attorney who practices only in the field of estate planning and administration. Both are certified as Specialists in Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. According to Hanks and Zolla, in the old days, only wealthy families created trusts. Those were the folks with the family attorney who knew everyone's names and could be counted on to give advice at every turn. These days, all sorts of people create trusts, many of whom don't have the luxury of a family lawyer and who don't know the first thing about what will happen when the trust actually has to be wrapped up someday. As a result, every day people find themselves stuck with a job that they don't know much about, aren't sure that they can handle, and yet, for many reasons, feel honor bound to take on. That's why they wrote [The Trustee's Legal Companion](#).

Hanks and Zolla say they don't blame readers if they are wondering how on earth to get this done properly, efficiently, and with a minimum of drama. They can consider [The Trustee's Legal Companion](#) their trusty companion. It's full of practical advice that will help them handle it smoothly, whether they are administering a trust that's going to get settled quickly or one that lasts for years. They show readers how to:

- Decide whether or not to take on the job of trustee.
- Understand their legal duties.
- Develop good relationships with the trust beneficiaries.
- Find and work with legal and tax experts.
- Get organized.
- Keep good records and avoiding challenges to their actions.
- Identify and collect trust assets.
- Deal with life insurance, retirement assets, and other nontrust assets.
- Find and work effectively with expert advisers.
- Set up ongoing trusts for the benefit of the surviving spouse, children, or someone with a disability.
- Invest trust assets properly.
- Handle income tax returns for the deceased person and for the trust (and get help with estate tax returns).
- Prepare proper trust accounting reports.
- End the trust and distribute assets to the beneficiaries.

[The Trustee's Legal Companion](#) serves as a resource for those who have been given the responsibility of administering a living trust by carrying out another person's last wishes, pay their remaining debts and taxes, and distribute their property to relatives and friends. It

*provides practical, accessible advice and tips on activities such as understanding a trustee's legal duties, identifying and collecting trust assets, finding and working with advisers, investing trusts properly, handling income tax returns for the deceased and the trust, and preparing proper trust accounting reports. The authors are estate planning attorneys with over 20 years of experience, collectively.* – Eithne O'Leyne, Editor Ringgold, Inc. ProtoView

Readers learn the ins and outs of being trustees with this guide to the complex tasks that face every trust administrator. Readers can use this book as a do-it-yourself guide so they can do much of the work without hiring help. Or they can use it as a way to work effectively with attorneys, accountants, and financial advisers. However they choose to use it, [The Trustee's Legal Companion](#) will help them along the way. <>

Literature & Fiction / Mysteries

[Stick Together](#) by Sophie Hénaff, translated from the French by Sam Gordon (**The Awkward Squad Series, Book 2**: MacLehose Press, Quercus)

In [Stick Together](#), the second book in the *Awkward Squad Series*, Officer Anne Capestan and her squad of misfits must turn their attention to a more personal case – the murder of a lifelong member of the Paris police force who had no shortage of enemies.

Author Sophie Hénaff is a journalist, author, and former Lyonnaise bar owner. She began her journalism career as a critic at *Lyon Poche*, before moving to Paris to write for *Cosmopolitan*, where she established her own humor column, "La Cosmolite." The book was translated from the French by translator Sam Gordon.

Hénaff's first novel, *The Awkward Squad*, offered a wry look at Parisian policing

and the infinite twists of the bureaucracy. In it Commissaire Anne Capestan took charge of a cold-case squad populated by departmental castoffs who couldn't be fired and refused to quit.

So in [Stick Together](#) after their successful solving of three cold cases and exposing corruption at the very highest levels of the Paris police force, Officer Capestan's team of oddballs and no-hopers should be in a celebratory mood. However, now despised by their colleagues at 36, quai des Orfevres and worried for their future, morale has never been lower among the members of the Awkward Squad.

Capestan is doing her best to motivate the team, but even she cannot maintain a cheerful facade when she has been assigned to investigate the murder of Officer Serge Rufus, the father of her ex-husband. Worse, it soon appears that his murder is linked to two other victims, both of whom were warned by the killer before they struck. Can Capestan in [Stick Together](#) marshal the forces to solve another hopeless mystery, or will her team's previous success be proven just a fluke? *Capestan is a delightful creation, the members of her team amusing and the book lively.* – Marcel Berlins, *The Times Sterling* sequel to 2018's *The Awkward Squad*... *Full of heart, wit, and lovable characters, Hénaff's quirky procedural is a winner.* – *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

*Author Hénaff is a humor writer for Cosmopolitan, and she brings her keen wit to this chic, quirky, and quasi-noir visit to the City of Lights. There is strong appeal here to fans of Chris Ewan's Good Thief and Jussi Adler-Olsen's Department Q series.* – *Booklist* As *The Times Crime Club* said about *The Awkward Squad*, original and amusing,

[Stick Together](#) is French noir with a sly smile. <>

Outdoors & Nature / Guides / Reference

[Peterson Reference Guide to Sparrows of North America](#) by Rick Wright

**(Peterson Reference Guides Series:**

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Sparrows are as complicated as they are common. [Peterson Reference Guide to Sparrows of North America](#) is a guide to identifying 76 kinds, along with a fascinating history of human interactions with them.

Author Rick Wright, formerly assistant professor of German at the University of Illinois and associate professor of medieval studies at Fordham University, leads Birds and Art tours in Europe and the Americas for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours.

Wright asks, what exactly is a sparrow?

All birders, and many non-birders, have essentially the

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dedicated observers for each of the taxa presented. (There is even a separate index of people's names – what one might call 'the Passerellidae people' – at the end of the book!) Even the sections on range and geographic variation are historical, often providing a summary of the expansions and contractions in ranges over time. – Wayne Peterson and Paul Baicich, Birding Community eBulletin

A book to be devoured. – Alain Clavette, CBC Radio

**Peterson Reference Guides** offer authoritative, comprehensive information including detailed text, maps and superior illustrations. Written by expert authors, the guides are an unparalleled resource for understanding specific groups of animals. [Peterson Reference Guide to Sparrows of North America](#) is sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. <>

Outdoors & Nature / Social Science / Textbooks

[Essentials of Ecology, 7<sup>th</sup> edition](#) by G. Tyler Miller & Scott Spoolman (National Geographic, Cengage Learning)  
In the new edition of [Essentials of Ecology](#), authors G. Tyler Miller and Scott Spoolman have partnered with the National Geographic Society to develop a text designed to equip students with the inspiration and knowledge they need to make a difference solving today's environmental issues.

Miller has written 62 textbooks for introductory courses in environmental science, basic ecology, energy, and environmental chemistry. Miller, who taught college for 20 years, developed one of the nation's first environmental studies programs, and developed an innovative interdisciplinary

undergraduate science program before deciding to write environmental science textbooks full time in 1975. Currently, he is the president of Earth Education and Research, devoted to improving environmental education. Spoolman, a writer and textbook editor with more than 30 years of experience in educational publishing, has also worked as a consulting editor in the development of over 70 college and high school textbooks in fields of the natural and social sciences. He has worked with Miller since 2003 as a contributing editor on earlier editions of *Living in the Environment*, *Environmental Science*, and *Sustaining the Earth*.

The content of [Essentials of Ecology](#) highlights important work of National Geographic Explorers, and features over 100 new photos, maps, and illustrations that bring course concepts to life. Using sustainability as the integrating theme, [Essentials of Ecology 7<sup>th</sup> edition](#), covers scientific principles and concepts, ecosystems, evolution, biodiversity, and population ecology. In addition to the integration of new and engaging National Geographic content, every chapter has been thoroughly updated and 6 new Core Case Studies offer current examples of environmental problems and scenarios for potential solutions.

One result of this new collaboration is the addition of many stunning and informative photographs, numerous maps, and several new stories of National Geographic Explorers. With these new tools, Miller and Spoolman say they continue to tell of the good news from various fields of environmental science, hoping to inspire young people to commit themselves to making the world a more sustainable place to live for their own and future generations.



concept-centered approach used [Essentials of Ecology, 7th edition](#), transforms complex environmental topics and issues into key concepts that students can understand and remember. Students are engaged, interacting with real issues to help them think critically about the world around them. Overall, by framing the concepts with goals for more sustainable lifestyles and human communities, students see how promising the future can be and their important role in shaping it. <>

Politics / Philosophy

[How to Be a Conservative](#) by Roger Scruton (Bloomsbury Continuum)

*Roger Scruton is that rarest of things: a first-rate philosopher who actually has a philosophy ... one of the few intellectually authoritative voices in modern British conservatism* – Jesse Norman, *The Spectator*

In [How to Be a Conservative](#) renowned philosopher Roger Scruton explains how to live as a conservative in spite of the pressures to exist otherwise. Drawing on his own experience as a counter-cultural presence in public life, Scruton argues that while humanity might survive in the absence of the conservative outlook, it certainly won't flourish.

Professor Scruton is Visiting Professor of Philosophy at the University of Oxford and Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, Washington DC. He writes regularly for *The Times*, *Daily Telegraph* and *The Spectator* and was for many years the wine critic of *The New Statesman*.

The conservative temperament is an acknowledged feature of human societies everywhere. But it is largely in English-speaking countries that political parties and movements call themselves conservative. This curious fact reminds readers of the enormous and

unacknowledged divide that exists between those places that have inherited the traditions of English common-law government, and those that have not.

Scruton in [How to Be a Conservative](#) says that in explaining and defending conservatism, he is addressing his remarks primarily to the English-speaking world. He is assuming a readership for whom common-law justice, parliamentary democracy, private charity, public spirit and the 'little platoons' of volunteers describe the default position of civil society, and who have yet to become entirely accustomed to the top-down authority of the modern welfare state, still less to the transnational bureaucracies that are striving to absorb it.

According to Scruton, there are two kinds of conservatism, one metaphysical, the other empirical. The first resides in the belief in sacred things and the desire to defend them against desecration. In the concluding chapters of [How to Be a Conservative](#) he returns to this idea. But for most of the pages he is concerned with more down-to-earth matters. In its empirical manifestation, conservatism is a more specifically modern phenomenon, a reaction to the vast changes unleashed by the Reformation and the Enlightenment. The conservatism Scruton defends tells people that they have collectively inherited good things that they must strive to keep. In the situation in which they, the inheritors both of Western civilization and of the English-speaking part of it, find themselves, they are well aware of what those good things are. The opportunity to live their lives as they will; the security of impartial law, through which their grievances are answered and their hurts restored; the protection of the environment as a shared asset, which cannot be seized or destroyed at

the whim of powerful interests; the open and enquiring culture that has shaped schools and universities; the democratic procedures that enable them to elect their representatives and to pass their own laws – these and many other things are familiar and taken for granted. All are under threat. And conservatism is the rational response to that threat. Maybe it is a response that requires more understanding than the ordinary person is prepared to devote to it. But conservatism is the only response that answers to the emerging realities, and in [How to Be a Conservative](#) Scruton says why it would be irrational to adopt any other.

Conservatism starts from a sentiment that all mature people can readily share: the sentiment that good things are easily destroyed, but not easily created. In respect of such things, the work of destruction is quick, easy and exhilarating; the work of creation slow, laborious and dull. That is one of the lessons of the twentieth century. It is also one reason why conservatives suffer such a disadvantage when it comes to public opinion. Their position is true but boring, that of their opponents exciting but false.

Scruton leads into [How to Be a Conservative](#) with a description of his childhood. His father was a working class guy, a labor voter by habit who distrusted the aristocracy in a way that only an English workingman can. Nonetheless, he was quite conservative in his own way. Scruton has a good quote to the effect that people tend to be conservative in the matters that are closest to them. His father worked with his hands, and was conservative when it came to architecture. He savored hanging on to what was good, old and true in English church and secular architecture.

The second chapter introduces the

theme of conservatism. People grow up in a web of relationships that is already in place, supporting them as they grow. From the inside out, it includes parents, extended family and clan, neighborhood groups and civic associations, church, local and provincial governments and finally national government. To that have been added supranational organizations such as the European Union, WTO and the United Nations. The next six chapters of [How to Be a Conservative](#) address the ways in which conservatism turns out to be form of social organization that best fits human nature. Humans are not atomistic, free-floating and independent creatures of the Enlightenment, but they are born to be and function best as interdependent members of society. The chapters are:

- The Truth in Nationalism
- The Truth in Socialism
- The Truth in Capitalism
- The Truth in Liberalism
- The Truth in Multiculturalism
- The Truth in Environmentalism
- The Truth in Internationalism
- The Truth in Conservatism

A theme that appears throughout [How to Be a Conservative](#) is that conservatism is a rearguard action. He is concerned that it is a losing battle, but a battle worth fighting nonetheless.

*A persuasive and poignant little book – Ferdinand Mount, [The Oldie](#)*

*To the question of what conservatism ought to be about, Scruton brings audacity and wit – [Daily Telegraph](#)*

A highly personal and witty book, [How to Be a Conservative](#) is not only a blueprint for modern conservatism. It is a heartfelt appeal on behalf of old fashioned decencies and values, the bedrock of our weakened, but still enduring civilization. <>

Psychology / Social / Race Relations

**Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do** by Jennifer L. Eberhardt PhD (Viking)

**Biased** is featured on CBS This Morning, NPR's All Things Considered, *TIME Magazine*, and Democracy Now. People don't have to be racist to be biased. Unconscious bias can be at work without people realizing it, and even when readers genuinely wish to treat all people equally, ingrained stereotypes can infect their visual perception, attention, memory, and behavior. This has an impact on education, employment, housing, and criminal justice.

In **Biased**, with a perspective that is at once scientific, investigative, and informed by personal experience, Jennifer Eberhardt offers readers insights into the dilemma and a path forward. Eberhardt is a professor of psychology at Stanford and a recipient of a 2014 MacArthur 'genius' grant. She has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was named one of Foreign Policy's 100 Leading Global Thinkers. She is co-founder and co-director of SPARQ (Social Psychological Answers to Real-World Questions), a Stanford Center that brings together researchers and practitioners to address significant social problems. Eberhardt's research takes place in courtrooms and boardrooms, in prisons, on the street, and in classrooms and coffee shops. She shows readers the subtle – and sometimes dramatic – daily repercussions of implicit bias in how teachers grade students, or managers deal with customers. Bias has an enormous impact on the conduct of criminal justice, from the rapid decisions police officers have to make to sentencing practices in court. Eberhardt's work and **Biased** are both

influenced by her own life, and the personal stories she shares emphasize the need for change.

In **Biased**, Eberhardt presents her ground-breaking and often shocking research and data on an urgent issue and demonstrates how our unconscious biases powerfully shape our behavior, leading to racial disparities from the classroom to the courtroom to the boardroom. Using scientific research and powerful stories Eberhardt discusses:

- Why the potential for bias is present in everyone, even the most open-minded.
- A new framework for a volatile topic by connecting racial bias with the scientific study of the brain.
- The bias that associates black people with criminality: how it creates devastating disparities between blacks and whites in the criminal justice system, but also in society as a whole, including a person's professional, housing, and education opportunities.
- How businesses are beginning to address the problem of unconscious bias. Eberhardt uses companies like AirBnB, NextDoor, and Starbucks as case studies for how successful or unsuccessful these initiatives have been so far.

The topic of racial bias can be difficult and uncomfortable to discuss, often inspiring reactions of tribalism, resentment, blaming, and suspicion. By examining bias using a scientific framework while giving due consideration to the historical weight and centrality of the problem in the country, Eberhardt in **Biased** offers practical, actionable suggestions for reform. Given unprecedented access to data, including footage from police body cameras, Eberhardt has worked

with law enforcement across the country in an effort to equip them with the tools they need to detect and resist their own biases. She has also acted as a consultant on the anti-bias initiatives of several large companies. Refusing to shy away from the tragic consequences of prejudice, Eberhardt in [Biased](#) addresses how racial bias is not the fault of or restricted to a few 'bad apples,' but present at all levels of society in media, education, and business.

*A fascinating new book... [Eberhardt is] a genius.* – Trevor Noah, *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*

*In accessible language and compelling examples, Dr. Eberhardt draws on copious empirical research to challenge the idea of human objectivity and the tragic outcomes of this false belief.... This book should be required reading for everyone.* – Robin DiAngelo, author of *White Fragility*

*Powerful... useful for those new to the topic as well as those well-versed in the topic... Eberhardt abandons the jargon-speak of academic research and speaks to the reader's head, heart, and soul... [and] will make you think about the news, your neighborhood, your work place and yourself with fresh eyes.* – *Forbes*

*An immensely informative and insightful analysis of race-based stereotypes. [Eberhardt] also offers practical suggestions for managing mechanisms of prejudice that 'are rooted in the structures of our brains.'* – *Psychology Today*

*Explores the reasons for bias of all kinds – racial, religious, gender and more – and lays out research-based strategies that can short-circuit our initial prejudices.* – *New York Post*

*[A] timely, exhaustive investigation of how bias infiltrates every sector of public and private life... Eberhardt offers tips for*

*reforming business practices, police departments, and day-to-day interactions in pursuit of a fairer world for everyone.* – *Esquire.com*

*Combining storytelling with a deep dive into the science of implicit bias, Eberhardt explains how bias and prejudice form – and she describes their pernicious effects on all of us. But she doesn't stop at the problem: Her book shines a spotlight on what we can do to fight bias at a personal and institutional level.* – *Greater Good Magazine*

*Compelling and provocative, this is a game-changing book about how unconscious racial bias impacts our society and what each of us can do about it.* – *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review  
*Jennifer Eberhardt's work is essential to helping us understand racial inequalities in our country and around the world.* – Michelle Alexander, author of *New York Times* bestseller *The New Jim Crow*

*This book helps us to scientifically view how racial bias works in our own minds and throughout society. We could not ask for a better guide to understand this reality than Jennifer Eberhardt. Her research reveals critical information that can help leaders better understand how biases can impact our judgment and how we are perceived by the communities we are sworn to serve.* – Kamala D. Harris, United States Senator from California

*Jennifer is one of the great thinkers and one of the great voices of our time... I believe her book will change the conversation on race in our society – and perhaps our society itself.* – Carol Dweck, author of *New York Times* bestseller *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*

[Biased](#) is deeply relevant to education and other fields of work, within the U.S. and globally. Dr. Eberhardt's work offers a touchstone for educators, leaders, lawmakers, and all those who want a

society that serves everyone equally. – Linda Darling-Hammond, author of *The Flat World and Education: How America's Commitment to Equity will Determine our Future*

*This is not someone who is just doing work in the ivory tower of a university. This is someone who is really out in the trenches working with police departments and the criminal justice system.* – Chris Magnus, Chief of Police, Tucson, Arizona

*The hope for progress is greatly increased by Jennifer Eberhardt's groundbreaking new book on implicit bias. [Biased](#) presents the science of bias with rare insight and accessibility, but it is also a work with the power and craft to make us see why overcoming racial bias is so critical.* – Bryan Stevenson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Just Mercy*

The good news is that people are not hopelessly doomed by their innate prejudices. In [Biased](#), Eberhardt reminds readers that racial bias is a human problem – one all people can play a role in solving. She offers practical suggestions for reform and new practices that are useful for organizations as well as individuals. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Buddhism  
[Moonbeams of Mahāmudrā](#) by Dakpo Tashi Namgyal, with **Dispelling the Darkness of Ignorance** by Wangchuk Dorje, the Ninth Karmapa, translated, annotated and introduced by Elizabeth Callahan, with forewords by The Seventeenth Karmapa and Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche (Snow Lion)  
[Moonbeams of Mahāmudrā](#) is a new translation of Tibet's most important manual for Mahāmudrā view and meditation.

This classic Buddhist work, written in the sixteenth century, comprehensively presents the entire scope of the Tibetan

Kagyu Mahāmudrā tradition. These profound yet accessible instructions focus on becoming familiar with the nature of one's mind as the primary means to realize ultimate reality and thus attain buddhahood. Dakpo Tashi Namgyal's manual for the view and practice of Mahāmudrā is widely considered the single most important work on the subject, systematically introducing the view and associated meditation techniques in a progressive manner.

Dakpo Tashi Namgyal (1513–1587) was the first recognized reincarnation of Gampopa and an important master of the Dakpo Kagyu tradition. He wrote two highly acclaimed texts on Mahāmudrā practice: [Moonbeams of Mahāmudrā](#) and *Clarifying the Natural State*.

[Moonbeams of Mahāmudrā](#), along with the Ninth Karmapa Wangchuk Dorje's *Dispelling the Darkness of Ignorance*, are to this day some of the most studied texts on Mahāmudrā in the Kagyu monasteries throughout Tibet and the Himalayas. Elizabeth M. Callahan, a renowned translator of classical Kagyu literature, has provided new translations of these two texts along with ancillary materials and annotations.

Callahan is a Tibetan translator of the Kagyu tradition. She completed two three-year retreats at Kagyu Thubten Chöling in New York, is a student of Khenpo Tsültrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, and has been a Tsadra Foundation Fellow since 2002. Her previous translations include *The Treasury of Knowledge: Frameworks of Buddhist Philosophy* by Jamgön Kongtrul and *The Profound Inner Reality* by the Third Karmapa Rangjung Dorje.

*This remarkable text, [Moonbeams of Mahāmudrā](#), contains the essence of the entire Buddhist tradition as it has come to us from India and Tibet. The*

*author, Dakpo Tashi Namgyal, clearly lays out the profound path of Mahāmudrā with both the analytical style of a scholar and the experiential style of a meditator. This unique approach is, at the same time, profound, practical, and completely accessible. It is my sincere wish that this new translation will inspire and benefit all who encounter it. – Yongey Mingyur Rinpoche*

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'ideational roots of race hate' and *Ghosts* does just that by examining a philosophical 'trinity' – Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Adam Smith – whose works collectively helped to institutionalize, imagine, and ingrain racist ideologies into the hearts and minds of the American people. Author Joel Edward Goza is a writer, minister, and advocate working from Houston's 5<sup>th</sup> Ward.

[\*\*America's Unholy Ghosts\*\*](#) is a book about the frightening power of ideas and unearths the way brilliant philosophers ingrained racist instincts into America's religious and political life. This book is also about Martin Luther King Jr.'s fight to uproot racism and inequality from the American experiment by writing the conscience of the Prophetic Black Church onto American hearts, minds, and the laws of the land.

[\*\*America's Unholy Ghosts\*\*](#) comes to a close exploring what Americans across racial and religious divides can learn from the Prophetic Black Church's ongoing struggle to continue King's mission to end America's addiction to racism and inequality – evils 'lurking within our body politic from its very beginning.'

One reason to read [\*\*America's Unholy Ghosts\*\*](#) is that it provides a deeply researched narrative that combines philosophy, history, and cultural analysis to deepen the understanding of race, religion, and politics in American life. Yet what separates this work is the location from which the research occurred and where the narrative was woven. There are truths of the nation that one only learns by living and working in places like the Fifth Ward, by watching too many of the community's children fall through the cracks of America's broken promises.

In such a context, Goza researched and wrote [\*\*America's Unholy Ghosts\*\*](#) as his

heartbreak made him question the American way of life and trained him to think against the grain of cultural common sense. The more clearly he saw the ways American politics and religion warred against his community, the more desperate he grew to see through the rhetoric that justified both the inequalities and the indifference. American-made suffering acts as the historical whetting stone that sharpens the Black Church's prophetic edge, and it is this prophetic edge that he provides to readers of [\*\*America's Unholy Ghosts\*\*](#). Goza says he writes because if our nation's racist instincts continue to haunt our land, so too does our desire for a faith and politics marked by mercy, justice, and equity. [\*\*America's Unholy Ghosts\*\*](#) embodies a hope that a deeper understanding of America's racist roots and learning from the Prophetic Black Church can empower those who labor to replace racial inequalities and enmity with equity and intimacy. Goza writes to goodhearted white folks – whether spiritual or secular – desiring to break the grip of the generational sin that is white supremacy. He writes for white folks to understand that the problems of racism run much deeper than the matters of the heart and implicates the very way people imagine and manage their lives together on America's blood-soaked soils.

He says he also writes for those who know through experience the nation's racial sickness all too intimately. He writes for those who sit in for-profit prisons for non-violent crimes, for black and brown children whose great giftedness is allowed too little room to thrive. He writes for black mothers and grandmothers, fathers and grandfathers who give everything everyday and whose sacrifices too often fail to protect those they love from the cruelties of America's injustice. He writes to help

reveal the roots of our land's racist delusions and to join the work of breaking the hold of racist thinking on our shared lives.

*Goza's ability to sharply discern and clearly explain ideas underlying American thinking will open important conversations about the nature of equality.* – Publishers Weekly starred review

**[America's Unholy Ghosts](#)** is for anyone daring to be antiracist, daring to end racial inequity. – Ibram X. Kendi, author of National Book of the Year Award for *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*

**[America's Unholy Ghosts](#)** is a paradigm shifter... A tour de force. – Michael O. Emerson, author of *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America*

*We'll be coming to terms with and benefiting from this book for a long time, thank God.* – Will Willimon, author of *Who Lynched Willie Earle: Preaching to Confront Racism*

*The depth of thought and writing are so savory that I find myself going over the lines again to make sure that I have received the full force of what*

**[America's Unholy Ghosts](#)** puts before us. – Cleophus J. LaRue, Princeton Theological Seminary, author of *The Heart of Black Preaching*

*Goza writes... with the passion of a modern-day racial justice apostle, and with the mind of a philosopher unraveling some of the oldest ideas to justify racism and poverty.* **[America's Unholy Ghosts](#)** is an urgent offering to its readers who seek exorcism and rebirth for a new nation. – Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Harvard Kennedy School, author of *The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime and the Making of Modern Urban America*

If our nation's racist instincts still haunt our land, so too do our hopes and desires for a faith and politics marked by mercy, justice, and equity – and there is no better guide to that land than the Prophetic Black Church and the one who saw such a land from the mountaintop than **[America's Unholy Ghosts](#)**. The book attacks the ideological roots of America's racialized faith and politics that prevented people from hoping for a better way forward than segregated communities of a heartless law and order. Goza knows what he is talking about because he has lived it. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Theology / Philosophy

**[On the Origin of Consciousness: An Exploration through the Lens of the Christian Conception of God and Creation](#)** by Scott D. G. Ventureyra (Wipf & Stock Publishers)

Have you ever thought about how self-consciousness (self-awareness) originated in the universe?

Understanding consciousness is one of the toughest 'nuts to crack.' In recent years, scientists and philosophers have attempted to provide an answer to this mystery. The reason for this is simply because it cannot be confined to solely a materialistic interpretation of the world. Some scientific materialists have suggested that consciousness is merely an illusion in order to insulate their worldviews. Yet, consciousness is the most fundamental thing we know, even more so than the external world since we require it to perceive or think about anything. Without it, reasoning would be impossible.

The widely published Dr. Scott Ventureyra, in **[On the Origin of Consciousness](#)**, explores the idea of the Christian God and Creation in order to tackle this most difficult question. He

demonstrates that theology has something significant to offer in reflection of how consciousness originated in the universe. He also says that the Christian conception of God and Creation provide a plausible account for the origin of self-consciousness.

The origin of consciousness intimates some of the most profound questions a human person can ask. It is deeply interconnected to many perennial questions, although refined through the constant development of our understanding of ourselves and the cosmos. There is no definitive consensus amongst theologians, philosophers, and scientists. Despite there being disagreements, as there typically are with theological, philosophical, and scientific issues, this does not mean that progress in learning more about ourselves and reality is not possible, at least in the sense that we can inch our way closer to the truth.

#### [On the Origin of Consciousness](#)

endeavors to develop a theological understanding of the origin of consciousness through the Christian conception of God and creation. This is something that had not been explored until now with any great depth, aside from the work of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. This book is primarily a work of theology set in the science-theology interaction and, as such, has strong ties to several branches of both philosophy and science.

[On the Origin of Consciousness](#) affirms that God is the Creator of all, both things visible and invisible (Col 1:16). Any meaningful work of Christian theology presupposes the truth of Christian theism, but it is a work that engages deeply with the rational endeavor of natural theology, which has traditionally relied on different philosophical tools and concepts. Natural theology is a

rational means to infer the existence of God and the purposiveness in nature through empirical observation of the created world and human intellect. Moreover, the current enterprise of natural theology not only relies on philosophical reasoning, but also modern science. It should be stated that this book is of an exploratory nature and as such, is meant to initiate a dialogue on the examination of the origin of consciousness from the perspective of Christian theological interactions with science. It does not intend to have a final say on the matter, its purpose being to inspire future research into one of the most difficult areas of human intellectual endeavors. There are two broad prongs Ventureyra explores with respect to [On the Origin of Consciousness](#). The first has to do with a methodological question, namely, what fruitful contribution can Christian theology provide the sciences? Put more specifically, in which ways can the Christian conception of God and creation shed light on potential research avenues into the discernment of the origin of consciousness? It is his contention that through a developed understanding(s) of science, philosophy, and theology, people can answer this question in a more precise fashion than was possible in the past. The question of consciousness, as Ventureyra demonstrates throughout the book, requires the cooperation of a variety of disciplines within theology, philosophy, and science. It cannot be examined adequately in isolation, i.e., as a purely scientific question since it overlaps with both theology and philosophy.

[On the Origin of Consciousness](#) affirms that Christian theology is not in conflict with, but can support, scientific hypotheses and conclusions. Indeed, scientific theories dealing with the subject of origins will inevitably have

theological implications and points of intersection. The very interactions of these three disciplines form a synergy, including interdependence with one another.

The structure of [On the Origin of Consciousness](#) is important to the development of its twofold argumentation. First it explores the fruitfulness of theology influencing the sciences with respect to the origin of consciousness. Secondly it elucidates why the Christian conception of God and creation gives a plausible, though not definitive, explanation for the origin of consciousness. Therefore, it will be important to first establish Robert J. Russell's "Creative Mutual Interaction" (CMI) before moving onto other components of the book. From there Ventureyra examines the importance of philosophy in the science and theology interaction. Understanding God's role as Creator with respect to creation and evolution is vital to understanding the origin of consciousness, since it demonstrates the method which God employed to bring about consciousness. From there he analyzes Teilhard's thought as a test case regarding evolution and complexity to consciousness in understanding the origin of consciousness. Having examined the test case it is important to present the arguments from philosophical theology, natural theology, and systematic theology that explain why the Christian conception of God and creation make it possible to understand the origin of consciousness. Then he applies the findings to the CMI model for the origin of consciousness. Finally, a look at some prominent Christian views on consciousness, which can be applied to understanding the origin of consciousness, is reviewed. Although [On the Origin of Consciousness](#) is primarily a work of

theology, it interacts with many other relevant disciplines. Since this book is at the interface of the science-theology dialogue, several scientific concepts in cosmology, biology, chemistry, and neuroscience are explored. It also involves reflection on some of the sub-disciplines of these fields. This work engages with philosophical theology, philosophy of religion, philosophy of science, and philosophy of mind. Indeed, due to the very nature of the subject, there is an inevitable engagement with many different concepts and academic disciplines. The method of theology used in this book consists of a series of arguments from natural theology, philosophical theology, and systematic theology showing that the Christian conception of God and creation provides both a plausible explanation and a guarantor for the origin of consciousness. The conclusion offers a series of reflections, including a thread that ties all the parts of [On the Origin of Consciousness](#) together and explains why the Christian God provides a plausible explanation for the origin of consciousness.

*In [On the Origin of Consciousness](#), Dr. Ventureyra has produced a stunning book, based on wide and careful research, that brings the resources of a philosophically informed theology to bear on showing that such a theology explains the origin of consciousness better than do the natural sciences. Along the way, Ventureyra treats us to a rich study in metaphysics, systematic and natural theology, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of science. I am enthusiastic about this book and highly recommend it. – J P Moreland, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University Sometimes you read a book where you disagree with just about everything the author claims – starting with the*

dedication! And yet ... You learn and you rethink. I feel exactly that way about Scott Ventureyra's [On the Origin of Consciousness](#). I intend that as high praise. – Michael Ruse, Florida State University

Consciousness can become less mysterious when we see our universe as created by God. Scott Ventureyra helps to prove it by this very wide-ranging and interesting book. – John Leslie, University of Guelph

Dr. Ventureyra's book, [On the Origin of Consciousness](#), is surely the most complete and most thoroughly researched treatment of the subject from a theological standpoint. Readers may not agree with all of the author's conclusions, but they will be deeply impressed with the comprehensiveness of his discussions of this very difficult philosophical-theological question.

There is no doubt that a study of [On the Origin of Consciousness](#) will stimulate further intellectual labour on a subject of critical importance. – John Warwick Montgomery, University of Bedfordshire

Ventureyra's [On the Origin of Consciousness](#) is not only a very good read; it provides a fertile primer for grasping the metaphysical significance of consciousness. But it is the careful examination of the origins of consciousness through the prism of contemporary scientific, philosophical and theological contexts that gives this enquiry resonance. Ventureyra offers readers in philosophical theology, epistemology of theology, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of science a model study of how to think about the origins of consciousness – conscientiously. – Robert M. Berchman, Director General and Academic Fellow, Foro di Studi Avanzati, Gaetano Massa, Roma

A groundbreaking book, Ventureyra in [On the Origin of Consciousness](#)

integrates philosophy, theology, and science in an innovative way, providing a plausible account for the origin of self-awareness. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Theology

[Reformed Systematic Theology, Volume 1: Revelation and God](#) by Joel Beeke & Paul M. Smalley (**Reformed Systematic Theology Series, Vol. 1: Crossway**)

The church needs good theology that engages the head, heart, and hands. The four-volume work, **Reformed Systematic Theology**, combines rigorous historical and theological scholarship with application and practicality. In [Reformed Systematic Theology, Volume 1](#), Joel R. Beeke and Paul M. Smalley explore the first two of eight central themes of theology: revelation and God.

Joel R. Beeke is president and professor of systematic theology and homiletics at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, a pastor of the Heritage Reformed Congregation in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as well as the editor of *Banner of Sovereign Grace Truth*, the editorial director of *Reformation Heritage Books*, the president of Inheritance Publishers, and vice president of the Dutch Reformed Translation Society. Paul M. Smalley, faculty teaching assistant to Joel Beeke at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, previously served for twelve years as a pastor in the Baptist General Conference in the Midwestern United States.

Theology is conceived by hearing God's Word, and it comes to birth by prayer. Beeke and Smalley say that [Reformed Systematic Theology, Volume 1](#) will benefit readers only insofar as they read it in the presence of God. Whether readers study this book in a class, in a small group, with their spouse and children, or on their own, they should set

aside time regularly for supplication, confession, thanksgiving, and praise. This systematic theology explores the classic teachings of the Reformed Christian faith from a perspective that is biblical, doctrinal, experiential, and practical. Too often, people have compartmentalized their lives. The result has been academics for the sake of academics, spiritual experience without roots deep in God's Word, and superficial pragmatism that chases after the will-o'-the-wisp of short-term results. The church has suffered from this fragmented approach to the Christian faith. However, the authors have learned from the Reformers, the British Puritans, and the Dutch Further Reformation divines an approach to Christianity that combines thoughtful exegesis of the Holy Scriptures, exploration of classic Augustinian and Reformed theology, an experiential tone that brings truth into the heart, and practical applications for life. Beeke and Smalley attach to each chapter a two-part list of study questions – the first set of questions suited for ordinary people and the second set geared for more advanced students in seminary. Usually the answers to the questions in the first set can be found in the chapter itself, while the answers to those in the second set require thinking beyond what the chapter has said. They also include a psalm or hymn suitable for readers or study groups to sing as a worshipful response to each chapter's content. Since they firmly believe that systematic theology must be grounded in Scripture, not only will readers find thousands of proof texts in [Reformed Systematic Theology, Volume 1](#), but they often will find them exegeting, expounding, and applying key portions of Scripture that lie at the heart of each doctrine. They say they trust that readers will see by

their example how important it is that systematic theology is grounded in exegetical and biblical theology. Beeke and Smalley say they also believe that historical theology (how the Holy Spirit has developed the church's sound, biblical doctrine throughout history) and experiential theology (how various doctrines are applied to the souls and lives of God's people in their spiritual, practical, and daily experience) are inseparable from systematic theology. Hence, after each major doctrine of Scripture is opened up exegetically and biblically, they also open up each doctrine historically and then apply it experientially and practically – sometimes throughout the chapter but sometimes at the end.

Like the Reformers and the Puritans, they believe that the experiential application of doctrine is paramount for doing good systematic theology. Systematic theology should minister to the whole person. Therefore, [Reformed Systematic Theology, Volume 1](#) and its companion volumes bring together rigorous biblical, historical, and theological scholarship with spiritual disciplines and practicality. With this paradigm, they explore eight themes of theology in four volumes:

- **Volume 1:** theology/revelation (prolegomena) and God (theology proper).
- Volume 2: man (anthropology) and Christ (Christology).
- Volume 3: the Holy Spirit (pneumatology) and salvation (soteriology).
- Volume 4: the church (ecclesiology) and the last things (eschatology).

Throughout this work, Beeke and Smalley cite many sources to draw upon the writings of Christian orthodoxy through the ages and to interact with other points of view. They encourage readers to follow the footnotes to

expand their study into other writings. Those desiring to know the full bibliographic information of a source may consult the bibliography at the end of [Reformed Systematic Theology, Volume 1](#).

*Some people think Reformed theology is all about doctrine and has little to do with doxology. Joel Beeke and Paul Smalley have proved otherwise.*

*Chapter after chapter of their Reformed Systematic Theology not only takes readers into the depths of our triune God, but also shows what these great truths have to do with the Christian life. No contemporary systematic theology will bring the reader to a greater understanding of how theology blossoms into doxology than this one. – Matthew Barrett, Associate Professor of Christian Theology, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Executive Editor, Credo Magazine*

*Calm theological waters that have deep exegetical currents flow wonderfully through this accessible and highly practical systematic theology. Beeke and Smalley have written a work useful to the church at large that teaches Christians what they should believe and how they should love, but they have not sacrificed academic rigor to achieve these goals. – J. V. Fesko, Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology, Westminster Seminary, California*

*Joel Beeke has continued his decades-long service to Christ and his church by presenting us with his mature reflections on the nature of systematic theology. This text is fully reliable, well written, easily understood, and thoroughly researched. This first volume of four will undoubtedly be a blessing to the church, and I look forward to the following volumes! – Richard C. Gamble, Professor of Systematic Theology,*

Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary

*This account of the doctrines of revelation and of God, built on biblical exegesis, is rich in theological discussion and practical implications. It is very accessible and will be of interest to a wide readership. Beeke and Smalley are to be congratulated, and I look forward to further volumes in the future. – Robert Letham, Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology, Union School of Theology*

*'Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!' This expression of praise from Paul's great doxology is a fitting response to reading this wonderful work of doctrine and devotion. Though the Reformed faith is often caricatured as merely intellectual, this work demonstrates that Reformed theology is also profoundly experiential, as no chapter fails to move from theology to doxology. This resource will instruct the mind and inflame the heart.*

*– John MacArthur, Pastor, Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, California; President, The Master's University and Seminary*

*Although many excellent books on systematic theology have been published in recent years, this new contribution by Joel Beeke and Paul Smalley covers the range of biblical truth in a fresh and unique way. While recognizing the importance of academic scholarship, they insist that what the church needs more than anything is 'a theology that engages the head, heart, and hands.' This new systematic theology will be welcomed and appreciated by theologians and laypeople alike as a treasure trove of biblical and Reformed doctrine. – Cornelis (Neil) Pronk, Emeritus Minister, Free Reformed Church, Brantford, Ontario*

*This comprehensively argued book faithfully exposes error and guides the reader in the God-honoring path to right living and eternal happiness. Few are the books in our day that fix our eye firmly on God and his truth. But here is one book that does just that. I commend it heartily as a God-honoring and life-changing volume of real biblical theology.* – Maurice Roberts, Former Editor, The Banner of Truth magazine; author, *The Thought of God* and *The Mysteries of God*  
*Here is truth presented to make you think, pray, and sing. This is theology functioning as it ought to function – calling us to worship. You will not need to agree with the authors at every point to believe and to hope that this, and its sister volumes, will serve Christ’s church well in our generation and for generations to come.* – Jeremy Walker, Pastor, Maidenbower Baptist Church, Crawley, United Kingdom; author, *Life in Christ*; *Anchored in Grace*; and *A Face Like a Flint*

**Reformed Systematic Theology, Volume 1**, as well as the other volumes in the series, combines rigorous historical and theological scholarship with application and practicality. Comprehensive but not technical, the book combines the Reformed and experiential approach. It is suitable for a variety of readers, from students preparing for ministry, elders and teachers, to general readers with the tools and interest in studying theology. <>

Teaching & Learning / K-8

**Partnering with Families for Student Success: 24 Scenarios for Problem Solving with Parents** by Patricia A.

Edwards, Rand J. Spiro, Lisa M. Domke, Ann M. Castle, Kristen L. White, Marliese R. Peltier, & Tracy H. Donohue, with a foreword by Joyce L. Epstein (Teachers College Press)

Everyone – teachers, parents, administrators, and students – knows why family engagement is important. Decades of studies confirm that students do better in school if their parents are involved in their education. What has been missing for many educators are strategies for how to move from confirmed findings to regular and universal teaching practice.

**Partnering with Families for Student Success** helps teachers gain

confidence and build sensitivity when interacting with caregivers and families who speak different languages and may come from different cultural, racial, and social backgrounds. By presenting various scenarios, the authors invite readers to reflect on issues they will face as practicing teachers in classrooms and across school districts.

Authors are Patricia A. Edwards, a member of the Reading Hall of Fame, professor of language and literacy, and bestselling author; Rand J. Spiro, Lisa M. Domke, Ann M. Castle, Marliese R. Peltier, and Tracy H. Donohue, all at Michigan State University; and Kristen L. White, who is at Northern Michigan University.

Chapter modules cover common challenges teachers face in a variety of situations, including conducting honest parent–teacher conferences, dealing with discipline issues, responding to confrontational parents, and educating neurodiverse students. Each module includes questions, worksheets, and background information for developing asset-based approaches, and each explores more than one solution to the challenges presented. **Partnering with Families for Student Success**:

- Suggests strategies for navigating a variety of challenging situations teachers may face in working with caregivers to support students.

- Employs co-author Spiro's *Cognitive Flexibility Theory* to help teachers build a repertoire of flexible responses to the many variations of caregiver situations that arise.

In [Partnering with Families for Student Success](#), Edwards and her colleagues contribute to this critical agenda (of engaging family-student partnerships) with 24 modules that guide future teachers to work with the highly diverse families and students they meet in their schools and classrooms from the first day of their professional careers to the last.

Everyone loves stories – especially stories of difficult challenges and successful solutions. The 24 stories in this book help future teachers envision their work through the experiences of others. Each module presents a challenge, requires deep thinking, elicits creative solutions, and shares successful strategies that should increase teachers' skills and confidence in communicating creatively and caringly with all students' parents and other caregivers.

The activities in each module ask future teachers to think about how each partner – student, parent/caregiver, and teacher – feels about their power, prestige, position, and resources in causing and in solving the featured communication challenge. At the end of each module, the authors 'rebuild' the case and report one or more strategies for solving the initial problem. All of the solutions demonstrate how teachers and parents accomplish more to help students succeed in school by working together than by avoiding or criticizing each other.

The authors offer good advice throughout [Partnering with Families for Student Success](#): Never give up in trying new ways to connect with every student's family; remain professional by

barring negative labels and demeaning discussions about parents who are not yet good partners; and consider each situation, because the modules are not 'recipes' to cook up in all instances. Rather, the examples encourage creative thinking and responsive solutions for each emerging challenge. *This book begins where the others leave off – addressing the challenging questions that educators have about how to build partnerships with families. The modules offer practical suggestions for handling difficult conversations and for empowering families. If you've ever been confused or discouraged about building partnerships with families, this book provides research-based, practical strategies that you can use to work effectively with all families.* – Laurie Elish-Piper, Northern Illinois University

[Partnering with Families for Student Success](#) is a practice-focused book steeped in both the relevant literature on family, school, and community partnerships and in the theory of how practitioners learn from cases. It is accessible and trustworthy, a timely and important contribution to K–8 teacher preparation. This is a gem of a resource for teacher educators and teacher preparation programs looking to support the development of teachers who can work in responsive, thoughtful partnership with all families. – Judy Paulick, Curry School of Education and Human Development, University of Virginia

*This book is a must-read for everyone involved in education – teachers, teacher educators, researchers, social workers, and the para-professionals that often serve as a liaison between school and home. Edwards and her colleagues provide a process for resolving differences that extends far beyond the interactions between educators and caregivers – a process applicable to*

interactions between colleagues in academe and between professors and students. The modules are comprehensive, and the case scenarios for each of the 24 modules are realistic and engaging. I've rarely seen a volume that I can recommend – without equivocation – to everyone involved in education. – Elfrieda (Freddy) H. Hiebert, president and CEO of TextProject

**[Partnering with Families for Student Success](#)** is a trove of stories about how to communicate with diverse families to support student success in school. Teachers may choose to keep this reference handy because they know they will meet similar challenges. It shows them how to consider caregivers' and students' underlying needs so they can better shape responses to the unique, changing situations in which they will find themselves. <>

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