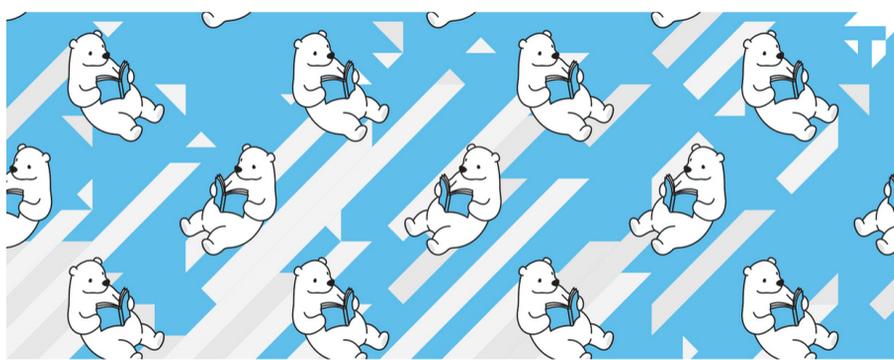


UNDERGRAD ECONOMICS

November 28, 2018

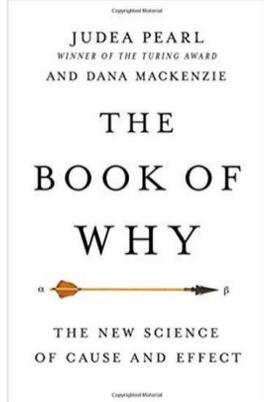


Holiday Reading List 2018

Are you looking for a book to read, share, or give as a gift? Are you interested in reading an economics book aimed for the general audience that your faculty are reading?

We present a list of books recommended by the faculty leaders of our concentration areas.

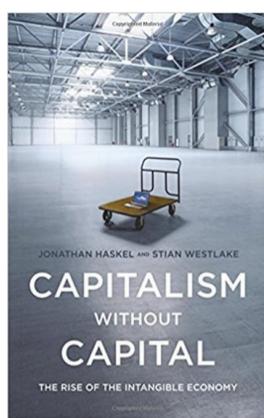
Enjoy!



Advanced Quantitative Methods

Prof. Childers writes: This book traces the history of causal inference, as an idea and a practice, and introduces the ideas behind contemporary methods for learning about causes in a lively and nontechnical way. It highlights especially the debates between and contributions of economists, statisticians, and computer scientists as they developed the set of quantitative methods for combining data and models to answer questions of "why?" and "what if?" that are increasingly widely used today, from experiments to regression, instrumental variables, and causal diagrams, on to modern "AI" methods.

[Check it out](#)

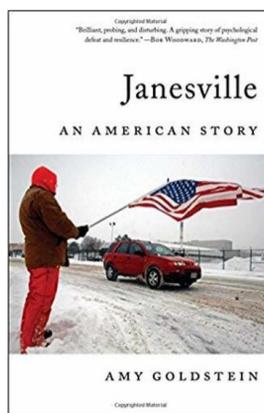


Global Change and Disruption

Prof. Ales writes: I am interested in reading Capitalism without Capital by Jonathan Haskel and Stian Westlake. I am interested in looking at how technology is changing the usage of factors of production. We see a shift from classical forms of capital such as structures and equipment to intangible ones such as data, software and organizational capital. This book seems a good place to start.

As a bonus, it also has a companion dataset on measures of intangible capital across countries and industries.

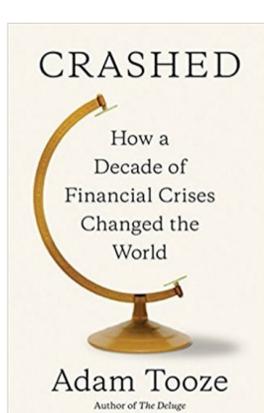
[Check it out](#)



Economics and Social Impact

Prof. Lessem writes: Janesville: An American Story tells the stories of different individuals in Janesville, Wisconsin after the GM manufacturing plant there closed in 2008. This resulted in large job losses, which is a similar situation to many midwestern towns. The author spent time learning about how different families reacted to this change -- some traveling to work in GE factories in other states to maintain their wages, and others adjusting to lower paying jobs that often did not provide health care for their families. The author also documents their struggles with job retraining programs, which are often discussed as policy options to help communities adjust to job loss. This book is really interesting in showing the struggles communities face in these sort of situations.

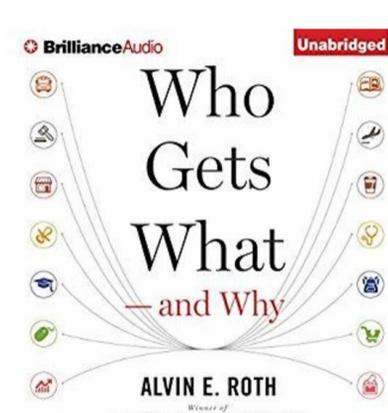
[Check it out](#)



Global Markets and Finance

Prof. Wee writes: Part economic history, part insightful analysis into the workings of the global financial system, Crashed is a very comprehensive history of the Great Recession and its aftermath, with attention to fundamental political questions such as "who was hurt (most) by the crisis", "which individuals/entities were best protected by the solutions crafted to address the crisis". This book is good for those interested in seeing how economics and politics intersect in real life.

[Check it out](#)



Market Design

Prof. Kesten suggests: A Nobel laureate reveals the often surprising rules that govern a vast array of activities - both mundane and life-changing - in which money may play little or no role.

If you've ever sought a job or hired someone, applied to college or guided your child into a good kindergarten, asked someone out on a date or been asked out, you've participated in a kind of market. Most of the study of economics deals with commodity markets, where the price of a good connects sellers and buyers. But what about other kinds of "goods," like a spot in the Yale freshman class or a position at Google? This is the territory of

matching markets, where "sellers" and "buyers" must choose each other, and price isn't the only factor determining who gets what.

Alvin E. Roth is one of the world's leading experts on matching markets. He has even designed several of them, including the exchange that places medical students in residencies and the system that increases the number of kidney transplants by better matching donors to patients. In Who Gets What - And Why, Roth reveals the matching markets hidden around us and shows how to recognize a good match and make smarter, more confident decisions." (Amazon Review)

[Check it out](#)

[Email Us](#)

Kathleen Conway, Ed.S.,
Senior Academic Advisor and Program Manager

Carol Goldberg, Ph.D.,
Executive Director

Carnegie Mellon University
Undergraduate Economics Program
4765 Forbes Avenue, Suite 2400
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

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