Summer Reading List 2020
Are you looking for something to read this summer while you dream about the beach? Well, your economics faculty and advisors present you with a curated reading list -- a set of books that we hope you will enjoy while social distancing!

Post a photo of yourself reading one of these books on Instagram with the hashtag #tepperecon, and we will enter your name into a Tepper swag give away.

Laurence Ales's Recommendation

For Summer 2020, I suggest reading The Great Reversal: How America Gave Up on Free Markets. The author analyzes the changing nature of competition in the US in the last few decades. The analysis first describes how markets are changing in the degree of concentration, with fewer firms denoting lack of competition. It analyzes the implication of this rising concentration leading to a decline in investment and productivity. The author draws several comparisons between the US and Europe focusing on a variety of industries: including banking transportation and healthcare. On November 13 and 14, the Tepper school of business will host a conference on this topic: exploring the macroeconomic and policy implications of market power in the twenty-first century.
Kathleen Conway's Recommendation

Written by a behavioral economist and Academic Dean of Harvard's Kennedy school, this book will make you take a critical look at how we can use behavioral economics to de-bias how we live and work as individuals, organizations, and societies. Implicit and unconscious biases are all around us. In the workplace, bias informs how we hire, evaluate performance, assign pay, and form teams. Organizational interventions are difficult, but by using data and an economic framework, we can design systems that address these biases head on. What Work's is a must read for new professionals and developing leaders who will learn to use evidence-based change to create more equitable and inclusive organizations.

Dennis Epple's Recommendation

Neal lays out the reasons that government funding of education is needed; absent public funding, many parents would not have the wherewithal to pay for their children's education, and some who have the wherewithal might choose not to provide appropriate education. Neal goes on to say "... knowing that we can justify government funding for education is not the same as knowing how government should purchase education services" (2018, p. 26). The book then lays out the ways that government can purchase education and their attendant merits and shortcomings.
Carol Goldburg's Recommendation

One of my favorite Sunday activities is to read The New York Times Book Review and discover new books to read. Yet, during our current "stay at home" order, I am finding it difficult to focus on long novels. What a delight it was to read about a shorter novel in the NYT Book Review 4/9/2020 interview with Nobel-Winning Economist Joseph Stiglitz. The book is Vivek Shanbhag's "Ghachar Ghochar" (translated from Kannada by Srinath Perur)

What I find interesting is that while both Prof. Stiglitz and I think highly of this book -- our descriptions of them are completely different. He describes it as "...has a strong feminist message. It's a novella about a family in South India and their descent into physical violence. The ending has a shocking twist." I would describe it as a story about morality and family dynamics as a family's material world changes.

If anyone wants to zoom chat about the book this summer, I would welcome the opportunity for a book discussion.

You can find more of Prof. Stiglitz's recommendation here.

Oh, 'ghachar ghochar' is a child's phrase made up by one of the novel's characters.

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Alexey Kushnir's Recommendation

There is a famous saying by Lau Tzu "watch your thoughts, they become your words; watch your words, they become your actions; watch your actions, they become your habits; watch your habits, they become your character; watch your character, it becomes your destiny.”

This book is about the habits of effective people. The book has basically changed my life at some point. I hope it will have the same powerful influence on yours.

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Nicholas Muller's Recommendation
The book is essentially about John Wesley Powell’s adventures in the West.

Steve Spear's Recommendation

This is a great introduction to political tribalism and the role that the different cultures we are all socialized into play in generating political and economic conflict.

Chris Telmer's Recommendation

Economists need to have strong writing skills. With this in mind, I recommend reading an Elmore Leonard book or two. “Maximum Bob” is a good choice. The books are great fun. After you’re done, Google “Elmore Leonard Writing Tips.” If you pay attention, your writing skills will improve substantially. Whoops! I just violated one of his tips ... avoid
If you avoid adverbs, your writing skills will improve by a large margin. That's a bit stronger, wouldn't you say?