



BOOK RELEASE

Non-fiction
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IDEAS on the Nature of Science **Edited by David Cayley**

“What is really remarkable about science is its ability to create novelties. And these novelties are not just at the level of new discoveries and new theories; they involve whole new ways not only of understanding knowledge, but of getting knowledge and being a knower.”

— Lorraine Daston, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

“My hope is that readers will find here resources with which to think about science. Much depends on it.”

— David Cayley

David Cayley has taken on no less a topic than the nature of science in this engrossing volume. A series of twenty-three remarkable interviews, Cayley talks to some of the biggest thinkers of our time. ***IDEAS on the Nature of Science*** began life as a series of CBC Radio broadcasts entitled “How to Think About Science.”

Touching upon a rich array of subjects, Cayley probes how our understanding of science has begun to shift and alter our view of the world. He points out that science has long been considered the very definition of modernity, the source of the empiricism and scepticism, openness and civility that distinguishes modern societies from previous social orders. Lately this view of science has come under intense scrutiny, as historians, philosophers, and scientists themselves have begun to ask fundamental questions about the institution of science.

These pieces shine a light on a number of concepts, including the limits of science, such as when scientists failed to accurately predict the end of the cod fishery and what happens when scientific terms leak into the vernacular. Brian Wynne explores the political authority of science, saying “science can create nuclear reactors or a race of transgenic marmosets whose skin glows in the dark; it cannot tell us whether this is a fitting thing to do.” German sociologist Ulrich Beck speaks of the emergence of a risk society where science can no longer predict or control its effects.

“The collection provides an interesting and representative sample of a field whose riches no one reader could ever exhaust,” David Cayley says in his introduction to the book. “The points of view represented are diverse and somewhat contradictory,” which makes for fascinating reading.

DAVID CAYLEY is a Toronto-based writer-broadcaster who has interviewed some of the leading philosophers, critics, and social theorists of our day. He produced the original interviews in this volume for broadcast on CBC Radio’s *Ideas*.

— more —

ACCOLADES for *IDEAS on the Nature of Science* Edited by David Cayley

"Cayley's entertaining, eclectic, challenging conversations unveil a rich ecology of how we think about the world and why it matters. These exhilarating adventures into the frontiers of the sciences left me with a sense of wonder, and of hope."

— David Waltner-Toews, author of *The Chickens Fight Back*

"An important book on a vitally important topic. David Cayley's thoughtful conversations give us an intellectual GPS System. No one should go on a quest for understanding the enterprise of science without it."

— Ursula Franklin, author of *The Real World of Technology*

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