

# Seaside Reads to Change the World

August 2018



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Following

The owner of my favourite seaside second-hand bookshop wants to start a shelf called "Change the World". OK Twitter, what are your favourite seaside reads for transforming the 21st century?



9:32 AM - 14 Aug 2018

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## Contents:

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# Paradigm Change

## **Resilience: Why Things Bounce Back**, by Andrew Zolli and Ann Marie Healy

- All systems break down. Some bounce back, others do not. This is a book about why. Covering business, economic, geographic and social systems, Zolli uncovers a wealth of absorbing examples--from the Link: between US oil prices and the recent 'tortilla riots' in Mexico to what was really happening when the U.S. government decided not to bail out Lehman Bros. Link: [here](#)

## **Theory U: Leading from the Future as it Emerges**, by Otto Scharmer

- We have entered an age of disruption. Financial collapse, climate change, resource depletion, and a growing gap between rich and poor are but a few of the signs. Otto Scharmer and Katrin Kaufer ask, why do we collectively create results nobody wants? Meeting the challenges of this century requires updating our economic logic and operating system from an obsolete "ego-system" focused entirely on the well-being of oneself to an eco-system awareness that emphasizes the well-being of the whole. Filled with real-world examples, this thought-provoking guide presents proven practices for building a new economy that is more resilient, intentional, inclusive, and aware. Link: [here](#)

## **Scale: The Universal Laws of Life, Growth and Death in Organisms, Cities and Companies**, by Geoffrey West

- By applying the rigour of physics to questions of biology, Geoffrey West found that despite the riotous diversity in the sizes of mammals, they are all, to a large degree, scaled versions of each other. This speaks to everything from how long we can expect to live to how many hours of sleep we need. He then made the even bolder move of exploring his work's applicability to cities and to the business world. These investigations have led to powerful insights into the sustainability of cities and why some companies thrive while others fail. Link: [here](#)

## **Transformative Innovation: A Guide to Practice and Policy**, by Graham Leicester

- Only 'transformative innovation' can deliver a fundamental shift towards new patterns of viability in tune with our aspirations for the future. This pocketbook offers a first stand-alone practical guide to how to realize transformative potential at scale. Link: [here](#)

## **Thinking in Systems: A Primer**, by Donella Meadows

- Thinking in Systems is a concise and crucial book offering insight for problem-solving on scales ranging from the personal to the global. This essential primer brings systems thinking out of the realm of computers and equations and into the tangible world, showing readers how to develop the systems-thinking skills that thought leaders across the globe consider critical for 21st-century life. Link: [here](#)

**Tackling Wicked Problems: Through the Transdisciplinary Imagination**, by Valerie A. Brown, John A. Harris and Jacqueline Russell

- From climate change to GM foods, we are increasingly confronted with complex, interconnected social and environmental problems that span disciplines, knowledge bases and value systems. This book offers a transdisciplinary, open approach for those working towards resolving these 'wicked' problems and highlights the crucial role of this 'transdisciplinary imagination' in addressing the shift to sustainable futures. Link: [here](#)

**Antifragile: Things that Gain from Disorder**, by Nassim Nicholas Taleb

- Just as human bones get stronger when subjected to stress and tension, many things in life benefit from stress, disorder, volatility, and turmoil. What Taleb has identified and calls antifragile are things that not only gain from chaos but need it in order to survive and flourish. Link: [here](#)

**Surviving the Future: Culture, Carnival and Capital in the Aftermath of the Market Economy**, by David Fleming and Shaun Chamberlin

- Surviving the Future lays out a compelling and powerfully different new economics for a post-growth world. One that relies not on taut competitiveness and eternally increasing productivity - "putting the grim into reality" - but on the play, humour, conversation, and reciprocal obligations of a rich culture. Building on a remarkable breadth of intellectual and cultural heritage - from Keynes to Kumar, Homer to Huxley, Mumford to MacIntyre, Scruton to Shiva, Shakespeare to Schumacher - Fleming describes a world in which, as he says, "there will be time for music". This is the world that many of us want to live in, yet we are told it is idealistic and unrealistic. Link: [here](#)

**Deschooling Society**, by Ivan Illich

- The current search for new educational funnels must be reversed into the search for their institutional inverse: educational webs which heighten the opportunity for each one to transform each moment of his living into one of learning, sharing, and caring. Link: [here](#)

**The Turning Point: Science, Society, and the Rising Culture**, by Fritjof Capra

- While physicists were busy revolutionizing our outlook on the fundamentals of the universe, the mechanistic paradigm of the past had already taken hold on the methods of every other field. Our biologists had taken a mechanistic view of life. An approach that ironically is quite opposed to the study of life. We've now realized that the mapping of the human genome has yielded many beautiful computer models but little else. Link: [here](#)

**A New Reality: Human Evolution for a Sustainable Future**, by Jonas Salk and Jonathan Salk

- That the current confusion and cultural conflict humanity is experiencing is neither predetermined nor our destiny but is, instead, part of a natural evolutionary process. The book shows us that a fact-based understanding of present conditions can lead us to a new reality reflecting interdependency, collaboration, and concern for the well-being of the many. Link: [here](#)

### **Critical Path, by R. Buckminster Fuller**

- Critical Path is R. Buckminster Fuller's masterwork - the summing up of a lifetime's thought and concern - as urgent and relevant as it was upon its first publication over 20 years ago. Critical Path details how humanity found itself in its current situation - at the limits of the planet's natural resources and facing political, economic, environmental, and ethical crises. Fuller's analysis has been proven correct in many areas since then and his options for the survival of mankind are as compelling as ever. Critical Path is an essential text for any student of humanity. Link: [here](#)

### **Lean Logic: A Dictionary for the Future and How to Survive It, by David Fleming**

- Lean Logic is David Fleming's masterpiece, the product of more than thirty years' work and a testament to the creative brilliance of one of Britain's most important intellectuals. A dictionary unlike any other, it leads readers through Fleming's stimulating exploration of fields as diverse as culture, history, science, art, logic, ethics, myth, economics, and anthropology, being made up of four hundred and four engaging essay-entries covering topics such as Boredom, Community, Debt, Growth, Harmless Lunatics, Land, Lean Thinking, Nanotechnology, Play, Religion, Spirit, Trust, and Utopia. Link: [here](#)