



## McLane Teammates Reading Program

# Economics, Evolution, and the Environment

Participants examine relationships of economic activity with the natural environment.

Key questions include:

- How are biological and social evolution related?
- How can economics inform ecology, and vice versa?
- What does our evolutionary history imply for social policy?
- What is the best way to protect the natural environment?
- How can we address the problem of climate change?

## Reading Schedule

### Session 1 – The Evolution of Everything I

- Ridley, Matt. (2015). “Prologue: The General Theory of Evolution.” In *The Evolution of Everything: How New Ideas Emerge*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers. 1-6.
- ——— (2015). “The Evolution of Morality.” 21-36.
- ——— (2015). “The Evolution of Life.” 37-39.
- ——— (2015). “The Evolution of Culture.” 76-95.
- ——— (2015). “The Evolution of the Economy.” 96-117.

### Session 2 – The Evolution of Everything II

- Ridley, Matt. (2015). “The Evolution of Technology.” In *The Evolution of Everything: How New Ideas Emerge*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers. 118-139.
- ——— (2015). “The Evolution of Leadership.” 215-234.
- ——— (2015). “The Evolution of Government.” 235-255

### Session 3 – The Darwin Economy I

- Frank, Robert H. (2011). “Paralysis.” In *The Darwin Economy: Liberty, Competition, and the Common Good*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 1-15.
- ——— (2011). “Darwin’s Wedge.” 16-29.
- ——— (2011). “No Cash on the Table.” 30-45.
- ——— (2011). “Starve the Beast — But Which One?” 46-63.



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### Session 4 – Rational Optimism and Innovation

- Ridley, Matt. (2011). “The Better Today, An Unprecedented Present.” In *The Rational Optimist: How Prosperity Evolves*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers. 11-46.
- Ridley, Matt. (2020). “Innovation’s Essentials.” In *How Innovation Works: And Why It Flourishes in Freedom*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers. 240-267.

### Session 5 – The Darwin Economy II

- Frank, Robert H. (2011). “Putting the Positional Consumption Beast on a Diet.” In *The Darwin Economy: Liberty, Competition, and the Common Good*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 64-83.
- ——— (2011). “Perpetrators and Victims.” 84-99.
- ——— (2011). “Taxing Harmful Activities.” 172-193.

### Session 6 – The Costs of Climate Change

- Lomborg, Bjorn. (2020). “Why Do We Get Climate Change So Wrong?” In *False Alarm: How Climate Change Panic Costs Us Trillions, Hurts the Poor, and Fails to Fix the Planet*. New York, NY: Hachette Book Group, Inc. 19-37.
- ——— (2020). “A Fuller Story on Climate Change.” 49-59.
- ——— (2020). “What is Global Warming Going to Cost Us?” 77-88.
- Wagner, Gernot and Martin L. Weitzman. (2015). “Fat Tails.” In *Climate Shock: The Economic Consequences of a Hotter Planet*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 48-79.

### Session 7 – Dealing with Climate Change I

- Lomborg, Bjorn. (2020). “You Can’t Fix Climate Change.” In *False Alarm: How Climate Change Panic Costs Us Trillions, Hurts the Poor, and Fails to Fix the Planet*. New York, NY: Hachette Book Group, Inc. 89-100.
- ——— (2020). “Why the Green Revolution Isn’t Here Yet.” 101-110.
- ——— (2020). “Pick a Path: Which Future is Best?” 124-134.
- ——— (2020). “How Climate Change Policy Hurts the Poor.” 135-150.
- Wagner, Gernot and Martin L. Weitzman. (2015). “What You Can Do.” In *Climate Shock: The Economic Consequences of a Hotter Planet*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 128-147.



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### Session 8 – Dealing with Climate Change II

- Lomborg, Bjorn. (2020). “Carbon Tax: The Market-Based Solution.” In *False Alarm: How Climate Change Panic Costs Us Trillions, Hurts the Poor, and Fails to Fix the Planet*. New York, NY: Hachette Book Group, Inc. 151-166.
- ——— (2020). “Innovation: What Is Needed Most.” 167-182.
- ——— (2020). “Adaptation: Simple But Effective.” 183-194.
- Nordhaus, William. (2015). “Climate Clubs: Overcoming Free-riding in International Climate Policy.” *American Economic Review*, 105(4), 1339-1370. Accessed at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1257/aer.15000001>.

### Session 9 – The Bet I

- Sabin, Paul. (2013). “Listening to Cassandra.” In *The Bet: Paul Ebrlich, Julian Simon, and Our Gamble over Earth’s Future*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. 96-130.
- ——— (2013). “The Triumph of Optimism.” 131-180.

### Session 10 – The Bet II

- Sabin, Paul. (2013). “Introduction.” In *The Bet: Paul Ebrlich, Julian Simon, and Our Gamble over Earth’s Future*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. 1-9.
- ——— (2013). “Polarizing Politics.” 181-216.
- Ridley, Matt. (2015). “The Evolution of Population.” In *The Evolution of Everything: How New Ideas Emerge*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers. 193-214.



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### Session 11 – Conclusion

- Lomborg, Bjorn. (2020). “Prosperity: The Other Climate Policy We Need.” In *False Alarm: How Climate Change Panic Costs Us Trillions, Hurts the Poor, and Fails to Fix the Planet*. New York, NY: Hachette Book Group, Inc. 151-166.
- ——— (2020). “Conclusion: How to Make the World a Better Place.” 211-222.
- Ridley, Matt. (2015). “Epilogue: The Evolution of the Future.” In *The Evolution of Everything: How New Ideas Emerge*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers. 317-320.
- Sabin, Paul. (2013). “Betting on the Future of the Planet.” In *The Bet: Paul Ehrlich, Julian Simon, and Our Gamble over Earth’s Future*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. 217-228.
- Wagner, Gernot and Martin L. Weitzman. (2015). “Bailing Out the Planet.” In *Climate Shock: The Economic Consequences of a Hotter Planet*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 92-115.