

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

SUNDAY – July 5, 2015

STATION: KXLU Los Angeles – 88.9 FM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR: Christine Palma
PROGRAM: Echo in the Sense

***Program summaries and an audio archive of shows available online at
<http://www.EchoInTheSense.com>

ISSUE: GLAMOUR

WE RAN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM TO ADDRESS IT:
Virginia Postrel Lecture on Decoding Glamour

DATE: Sunday July 5, 2015
TIME: 20:00 to 21:00
DURATION: 01:00 Hour

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

About the Program & About her Book:

Drawing on her path-breaking new book, The Power of Glamour: Longing and the Art of Visual Persuasion, Virginia Postrel cracks the code of this mysterious and surprisingly pervasive phenomenon. She identifies the three essential elements in all forms of glamour and explains how they work to create a distinctive sensation of projection and yearning.

Virginia Postrel separates glamour from glitz, explaining what qualities make a person, an object, a setting, an idea, or an experience glamorous.

What is it that creates that pleasurable pang of desire—the feeling of “if only”: If only I could wear those clothes, belong to that group, drive that car, live in that house, be (or be with) that person? Postrel identifies the three essential elements in all forms of glamour and explains how they work to create a distinctive sensation of projection and yearning.

The Power of Glamour is the very first book to explain what glamour really is—not a style or personal quality but an imaginative phenomenon that reveals our inner lives and shapes our decisions, large and small.

From vacation brochures to military recruiting ads, from the Chrysler Building to the iPad, from political utopias to action heroines, Postrel argues that glamour’s magic stretches far beyond the stereotypical spheres of fashion or film, influencing what we buy, where we live, which careers we pursue, and how we vote. The result is myth-shattering: a revelatory theory that explains how glamour became a powerful form of nonverbal persuasion, one that taps into our most secret dreams and deepest yearnings to influence our everyday choices.

About Virginia Postrel:

Virginia Postrel (pron. PAH-STRELL) is an author, columnist, and speaker whose work spans a broad range of topics, from social science to fashion, concentrating on the intersection of culture and commerce.

Writing in *Vanity Fair*, Sam Tanenhaus described her as “a master D.J. who sequences the latest riffs from the hard sciences, the social sciences, business, and technology, to name only a few sources.”

Postrel is the author most recently of *The Power of Glamour: Longing and the Art of Visual Persuasion*, published by Simon & Schuster. Her previous books are *The Substance of Style* (2003) and *The Future and Its Enemies* (1998). She is

a regular columnist for [Bloomberg View](#).

A popular speaker for business, design, and university groups, she has taught seminars on "Glamour: Theory and Practice" in the [Branding MPS program](#) at the [School of Visual Arts](#) in New York. Her corporate speaking venues have included Nike, Procter & Gamble, Microsoft, 7 for All Mankind, Target, Liz Claiborne, Sony, and IDEO.

She has been a columnist for The Wall Street Journal, The Atlantic, The New York Times, and Forbes and its companion technology magazine Forbes ASAP.

Postrel received the 2011 [Bastiat Prize](#), honoring journalism that displays "support for the institutions of the free society, persuasiveness, wit and creativity, relevance, and clarity and simplicity." Her work was featured in The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2009 and The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2004. In 2012, her Bloomberg View columns received a first-place award for online entertainment commentary from the [Los Angeles Press Club](#). The judges wrote that "Postrel shows a sharp eye for detail and gleans meaningful truths from our entertainment culture."

From July 1989 to January 2000, Postrel was the editor of Reason [magazine](#). Under her leadership, Reason was a finalist for the National Magazine Awards, the industry's highest honor, for essays in 1993 and public interest journalism in 1996 and in 1998, when Reason had two finalist articles. She founded Reason.com in 1995, establishing Reason as an online pioneer.

In March 2006, she [donated a kidney](#) to her friend [Sally Satel](#), a psychiatrist and research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. She has become a vocal advocate of living organ donations and supports reforming federal laws that prohibit payment of any "valuable consideration" to organ donors. She [writes and speaks frequently](#) on the subject. Her most comprehensive article on the subject is [this Atlantic.com feature](#).

She serves on the board of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

Postrel has twice been a finalist in the commentary category of the Gerald Loeb Awards for Distinguished Business and Financial Journalism for her columns in Reason. In 1995, she received the Free Press Association's Mencken Award for Commentary for an editorial in Reason. In 2002, she received the Press Club of Dallas's Katie Award for commentary for a column in D Magazine.

Prior to becoming editor of the magazine in 1989, Postrel served as associate editor of Reason and, before that, as a reporter for Inc. and The Wall Street Journal.

Postrel graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University, with a degree in English literature, specializing in the Renaissance, and a heavy concentration of economics coursework. She is married to Steven Postrel, an economist and business strategy professor, and lives in Los Angeles.

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

SUNDAY – July 12, 2015

STATION: KXLU Los Angeles – 88.9 FM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR: Christine Palma
PROGRAM: Echo in the Sense

***Program summaries and an audio archive of shows available online at
<http://www.EchoInTheSense.com>

ISSUE: PHYSICS

WE RAN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM TO ADDRESS IT:
Professor Frank Wilczek on
A Beautiful Question: finding nature's deep design

DATE: Sunday July 12, 2015
TIME: 20:00 to 21:00
DURATION: 01:00 Hour

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

Does the universe embody beautiful ideas?

Artists as well as scientists throughout human history have pondered this “beautiful question.” With Nobel laureate Frank Wilczek as your guide, embark on a voyage of related discoveries, from Plato and Pythagoras up to the present. Wilczek’s groundbreaking work in quantum physics was inspired by his intuition to look for a deeper order of beauty in nature. In fact, every major advance in his career came from this intuition: to assume that the universe embodies beautiful forms, forms whose hallmarks are symmetry—harmony, balance, proportion—and economy. There are other meanings of “beauty,” but this is the deep logic of the universe—and it is no accident that it is also at the heart of what we find aesthetically pleasing and inspiring.

Wilczek is hardly alone among great scientists in charting his course using beauty as his compass. As he reveals in *A Beautiful Question*, this has been the heart of scientific pursuit from Pythagoras, the ancient Greek who was the first to argue that "all things are number," to Galileo, Newton, Maxwell, Einstein, and into the deep waters of twentieth century physics. Though the ancients weren't right about everything, their ardent belief in the music of the spheres has proved true down to the quantum level. Indeed, Wilczek explores just how intertwined our ideas about beauty and art are with our scientific understanding of the cosmos.

Wilczek brings us right to the edge of knowledge today, where the core insights of even the craziest quantum ideas apply principles we all understand. The equations for atoms and light are almost literally the same equations that govern musical instruments and sound; the subatomic particles that are responsible for most of our mass are determined by simple geometric symmetries. The universe itself, suggests Wilczek, seems to want to embody beautiful and elegant forms. Perhaps this force is the pure elegance of numbers, perhaps the work of a higher being, or somewhere between. Either way, we don't depart from the infinite and infinitesimal after all; we're profoundly connected to them, and we connect them. When we find that our sense of beauty is realized in the physical world, we are discovering something about the world, but also something about ourselves.

Gorgeously illustrated, *A Beautiful Question* is a mind-shifting book that braids the age-old quest for beauty and the age-old quest for truth into a thrilling synthesis. It is a dazzling and important work from one of our best thinkers, whose humor and infectious sense of wonder animate every page. Yes: The world is a work of art, and its deepest truths are ones we already feel, as if they were somehow written in our souls.

About Frank Wilczek:

Frank Wilczek won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2004 for work he did as a graduate student. His 1989 book, *Longing for the Harmonies*, was a *New York Times* notable book of the year. Wilczek is a regular contributor to *Nature* and *Physics Today* and his work has also been anthologized in *Best American Science Writing* and the *Norton Anthology of Light Verse*. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he is the Herman Feshbach Professor of Physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

SUNDAY – July 19, 2015

STATION: KXLU Los Angeles – 88.9 FM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR: Christine Palma
PROGRAM: Echo in the Sense

***Program summaries and an audio archive of shows available online at
<http://www.EchoInTheSense.com>

ISSUE: THE INDIVIDUAL / PERSONAL MORALITY

WE RAN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM TO ADDRESS IT:
David Brooks on “The Importance of Character”

DATE: Sunday July 19, 2015
TIME: 19:00 to 20:00
DURATION: 01:00 Hour

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

About David Brooks:

David Brooks became an Op-Ed columnist for The New York Times in September 2003. His column appears every Tuesday and Friday. He is currently a commentator on “PBS NewsHour,” NPR’s “All Things Considered” and NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

He is the author of “Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There” and “On Paradise Drive: How We Live Now (And Always Have) in the Future Tense.” In March 2011 he came out with his third book, “The Social

Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character, and Achievement,” which was a No. 1 New York Times best seller.

Mr. Brooks also teaches at Yale University, and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

About the program:

Are you more focussed on your value to the marketplace, or on the integrity of your inner life?

In today's culture of achievement, the drive for external success and attention is so fierce there's little time to cultivate inner depth. We're taught to be assertive, to master skills, to broadcast our brand, to get likes, to get followers. We've become a self-preoccupied society; and the noise, the fast and shallow communications, makes it hard to hear the quiet voices that steer us beyond our immediate needs.

About the Book – The Road to Character:

*With the wisdom, humor, curiosity, and sharp insights that have brought millions of readers to his New York Times column and his previous bestsellers, David Brooks has consistently illuminated our daily lives in surprising and original ways. In *The Social Animal*, he explored the neuroscience of human connection and how we can flourish together. Now, in *The Road to Character*, he focuses on the deeper values that should inform our lives. Responding to what he calls the culture of the Big Me, which emphasizes external success, Brooks challenges us, and himself, to rebalance the scales between our “résumé virtues”—achieving wealth, fame, and status—and our “eulogy virtues,” those that exist at the core of our being: kindness, bravery, honesty, or faithfulness, focusing on what kind of relationships we have formed.*

Looking to some of the world’s greatest thinkers and inspiring leaders, Brooks explores how, through internal struggle and a sense of their own limitations, they have built a strong inner character. Labor activist Frances Perkins understood the need to suppress parts of herself so that she could be an instrument in a larger cause. Dwight Eisenhower organized his life not around impulsive self-expression but considered self-restraint. Dorothy Day, a devout Catholic convert and champion of the poor, learned as a young woman the vocabulary of simplicity and surrender. Civil rights pioneers A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin learned reticence and the logic of self-discipline, the need to distrust oneself even while waging a noble crusade.

*Blending psychology, politics, spirituality, and confessionals, *The Road to Character* provides an opportunity for us to rethink our priorities, and strive to build rich inner lives marked by humility and moral depth.*

LIST OF CHARACTERS:

THE ROAD TO CHARACTER examines the lives of some of history's greatest thinkers and leaders. Each example that he provides illustrates different ways in which one can get on the path towards achieving great character:

- 1. From DWIGHT EISENHOWER** we learn the lesson of self-defeat. How to recognize your key weakness and turn it into your strength.
- 2. From DOROTHY DAY** we learn how to make use of suffering. How to take the bad things that happen and turn them into a transcendent purpose.
- 3. From A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH** we learn the power of dignity. How to adopt a controlled, self respecting style of life so that nothing can humiliate you.
- 4. From FRANCES PERKINS** we learn about the call within the call. After you've been in a career for a bit, something can happen to turn it into a calling. You no longer do it for the money or the status. You quiet the self and simply try to achieve excellence in your work.
- 5. From GEORGE ELIOT** we learn the power of second love. This is the love that comes later in life, often after marriage, which has the effect of steadying the heart and binding a life to another.
- 6. From GEORGE MARSHALL** we learn the power of service to an organization. Marshall was an unimpressive boy who learned proper conduct by dedicating himself to the Army.
- 7. From BAYARD RUSTIN** we learn the power of leading with self-restraint. He was an early civil rights leader who learned to put himself in the background for the good of the cause.
- 8. From SAMUEL JOHNSON** we learn the virtue of radical honesty. He was a miserable young man who built himself to greatness through intellectual effort.
- 9. From MONTAIGNE** we learn self-acceptance. He looked deep inside himself and delighted in what he found there.

10. From AUGUSTINE we learn how to move from ambition to meaning.
He was a successful but unhappy young man who changed his life to
experience joy.

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

SUNDAY – July 19, 2015 – 2nd Hour

STATION: KXLU Los Angeles – 88.9 FM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR: Christine Palma
PROGRAM: Echo in the Sense

***Program summaries and an audio archive of shows available online at
<http://www.EchoInTheSense.com>

ISSUE: LIVING A “META” EXISTENCE

WE RAN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM TO ADDRESS IT:
Robert Rowland Smith on “Beyond Ideas”

DATE: Sunday July 19, 2015
TIME: 20:00 to 21:00
DURATION: 01:00 Hour

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

About Robert Rowland Smith:

But ideas are not the be-all and end-all. The trouble with ideas is that they keep us in our heads. As such, they can cut us off from other forms of experience, forms that are non-cognitive. They fill our minds with abstractions. Ideas are not real. Nor do they feed the soul. What possible use does the soul have for ideas?

About the Program:

Robert Rowland Smith was for seven years a Prize Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford and is a consultant, lecturer and writer on philosophy, literature and psychoanalysis. He has written for The Independent^[1] and The Evening Standard, been profiled in The Sunday Telegraph, Time Out and The Observer, and contributed to books on philosophy for children. As well as broadcasting for BBC Radio and television, he has contributed to the *Philosophy Bites* podcast series and currently has a column on everyday dilemmas in the Sunday Times Magazine.

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST SUNDAY – July 26, 2015

STATION: KXLU Los Angeles – 88.9 FM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR: Christine Palma
PROGRAM: Echo in the Sense

***Program summaries and an audio archive of shows available online at
<http://www.EchoInTheSense.com>

ISSUE: MATERIALISM

WE RAN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM TO ADDRESS IT:
James Wallman on “Stuffocation: Too Much Stuff”

DATE: Sunday July 26, 2015
TIME: 19:00 to 20:00
DURATION: 01:00 Hour

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

About James Wallman:

- James Wallman is an author and futurist.
- He wrote the best-selling book Stuffocation.
- Wallman has appeared on NPR, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4,
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- BBC One's The One Show (watch from 6.42), BBC Two's Newsnight, ABC in Australia, and MSNBC.
- Wallman recently founded The Future is Already Here a think tank for a better world.

- He has commented on trends happening now and forecast what will happen next for more than a decade.

For instance, he forecast driverless cars in 2008.

He was formerly editor of leading trend consultancy The Future Laboratory's forecasting publication, and wrote the futurology column in T3 magazine.

His forecasts and opinions have appeared in publications like the New York Times, the Sunday Times, the Financial Times, Time, The Economist, and Wired.

He has helped businesses such as Absolut, BMW, Google and Zurich Insurance prepare for the future.

He has an MA in Classics from the University of Oxford.

- James is also a keynote speaker.

About the Program:

In the book, trend forecaster James Wallman reveals the world's growing sense of *Stuffocation* — and how we can move away from it. We have more stuff than we could ever need – clothes we don't wear, kit we don't use and toys we don't play with.

But having everything we thought we wanted isn't making us happier. It's bad for the planet. It's cluttering up our homes. It's making us feel 'Stuffocated' and stressed – and it might even be killing us.

In *Stuffocation*, James Wallman traces our obsession with stuff back to the original Mad Men who first created desire through advertising. He interviews anthropologists studying the clutter crisis, economists searching for new ways of measuring progress, and psychologists who link rampant materialism to declining wellbeing. And he introduces us to the innovators who are turning their backs on all-you-can-get consumption, and trading in materialism for "experientialism" – where they find more happiness, live more meaningful lives, and express status more successfully, through experiences rather than stuff.

Experientialism does not mean giving up all our possessions, but it does mean getting over our obsession with them, and transforming what we value. We have to focus less on possessions and more on experiences. Rather than a new watch or another pair of shoes, we should invest in shared experiences like holidays and time with friends. With intriguing insights on psychology, economics and culture, *Stuffocation* is a vital manifesto for change. It has inspired those who have read it to be happier and healthier and to live more with less.

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

SUNDAY – August 2, 2015

STATION: KXLU Los Angeles – 88.9 FM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR: Christine Palma
PROGRAM: Echo in the Sense

***Program summaries and an audio archive of shows available online at
<http://www.EchoInTheSense.com>

ISSUE: US FOREIGN AFFAIRS

WE RAN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM TO ADDRESS IT:
Joseph Nye on “Is the American Century Over”

DATE: Sunday August 2, 2015
TIME: 19:00 to 20:00
DURATION: 01:00 Hour

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

About the Lecture & about the Book:

Jonathan Freeman writes *that this book is an intelligent and argumentative essay on the question of American decline, which takes a close look at the problems of the ‘challengers’ to U.S. power.*

Most readers will read this book with a degree of bias. My own perspective on the subject is heavily influenced by my own status as an American. Personally, I do not think America’s best days are behind us and in spite of (or perhaps because of) our regular blundering we do try to do better, to be better. As

Churchill famously observed; "You can always depend on the Americans to the right thing, after they've tried everything else."

Nye begins the book with a general synopsis of the period that has become known as the "American century." There is little doubt that America has dominated this time period in the areas of both hard and soft power, argues Nye. He delineates the various ways both statistically and allegorically that the United States has possessed and wielded power over the past hundred years or so.

In chapter 2, Nye explores the notion – keenly felt by Americans – of contemporary American decline. He discusses the almost neurotic fever with which many Americans have continuously perceived their national decline since the end of World War II. Nye completes the chapter with an historical narrative of other great powers in the world, showing how and where America has stood in history with regard to its rivals, leading into a comparison with other prominent powers over the same period.

Assessing the "challengers"; Europe, Japan, Russia, India, and Brazil, Nye argues that all have substantive structural problems which inhibit them from seriously competing with the United States in terms of both hard and soft power. Europe, while a credible economic competitor prior to the meltdown of the Greek economy, cannot compete either through cultural influence or military might. He then cites evidence which shows that Japan has serious cultural stigma issues, and that Russia stands on an economic house of cards. He explains that India has an even greater degree of economic disparity between the rich and poor than does the United States, and finally that Brazil has thus far been unable to develop influence based on its economic success. This leaves, in Nye's view, China as the sole credible threat to American influence and power.

Nye devotes the entire fourth chapter to analysing the nature and viability of China's attempt to overhaul the United States as the pre-eminent global superpower. Assessing China's economic, military, and soft power – he concludes that, "China still lags far behind the United States in all three dimensions of power." On the economic side, he argues that in spite of the fact that China's may surpass the United States in the areas of purchasing power parity and gross domestic product, it is still some distance from actually overtaking the United States in real terms. In this, he states, the American system still has numerous advantages over China in terms of overall national development, currency trading, and rule of law, particularly in the areas of property and intellectual property.

While Nye does not make extensive comparison of military capabilities between the United States and China, he clearly points out the disparity. In the areas of capabilities of logistics, modern weaponry, and budgeting the United States far outpaces China in the military arena. In the area of soft power, meanwhile, Nye argues that China's heavy-handed efforts tend to be counterproductive in developing their desired levels of global influence. While he certainly does not claim that America has been deft in developing relations with other governments and peoples, Nye appreciates that America has displayed a far lighter touch than have the Chinese.

He continues by comparing America to the decline of Rome and finds the comparison wanting, only to concede that American pre-eminence "will probably not end[...]in the next 30 years." He cites the US National Intelligence Council, which predicts that while the United States will likely remain the most power nation it will no longer be either a hegemon or the world's sole superpower by 2030.

In conclusion, Nye has offered an intelligent and argumentative essay on the question of American decline. He has made a solid claim that the United States

is not deteriorating; in fact it is steadily progressing in an integrated and expansionary manner, while other nations simply are developing faster in specific areas. An additional positive is the book's brevity, offering not an extensive academic presentation on the subject, but a snappy and readable encapsulation of Professor Nye's well researched and eminently defensible views on the subject.

Harry C. Blaney III writes *that the book emphasizes the changing role of relative and shifting power between the U.S. and potential rivals such as China over the 20th century and beyond.*

This little volume is perhaps the best short read I know about our global landscape, its future trajectory and the implications for global geostrategic power shifts.

A former Dean and now professor at the Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government, Nye is no stranger to Washington foreign policymaking. Among other positions, he spent time on the State Department's seventh floor. In short, he knows both the academic side (he invented the concept of "soft power") and the hard realities of the practice of power diplomacy.

As we all know, there is a furious, and often misguided, debate about the fall of America and the rise of China, Europe and a host of other nations and forces. Nye examines all of these arguments, citing and quoting authors who espouse one viewpoint or another. He brings considerable factual material and analytical skills to bear to see if the views match fundamental reality.

What we see in this book is a concise tour de force examining the international context in which power is exercised, to what end and how it shifts (or does not) over time. While the emphasis is on the role of America the author's true focus is

on relative and shifting power – it is a dynamic look at the phenomenon rather than a static, unidimensional or simplistic expansion of existing, but shifting, trends.

The first two chapters look at “The Creation of the American Century” and “American Decline.” I will skip the argument over the American Century may have begun because the several alternatives offered are all somewhat plausible and, in any case the heart of the matter is the often popular idea of American global decline.

Nye cites most of the arguments for “American decline” – and these citations alone are worth of price of the book, just to set the stage. He then gets to the real nitty-gritty of policies, resources, new actors and exercise of power that lie at the heart of American influence in the world.

One quote sums up much of his argument here: “The short answer to our question is that we are not entering a post-American world.” Nye believes that in 2041 the United States will still have “primacy in power resources and play the central role in the global balance of power among states...” But he correctly notes that it is necessary to look at “a decrease in relative external power and domestic deterioration or decay.”

One key point he makes is that there is “no virtue in either understatement or overstatement of American power.” The hubris that characterized the presidency of George W. Bush is not wise, but neither is “withdrawal from the world or nationalistic and protectionist policies that do harm.” He uses the rise and decline of Britain before the two world wars to illustrate how domestic decay (such as falling industrial productivity) reduced absolute power, but it was the rise of others that reduced the country’s relative power.

Nye acknowledges that the American Century may change or end as a result of “relative” power decline because of the rise of others. He looks at the relative

power changes in Europe, Japan, Russia, India and Brazil. The latter has no chance to overtake America, but Nye thinks that China will be the chief competitor and even surpass America in economic growth and size.

But in the next chapter, on China, he also analyzes the country's many problems and questions whether, in fact, it will stop the American Century in all areas of power. He looks at Beijing's strategy and American responses. He notes that its military power is officially at a quarter of American by the measure of defense expenditure, but that there are programs that are "off the books"

Nye believes that the American Century will likely continue, but it will not look like the past and will be more complex. The American share of the global economy will be smaller than in the past, for example. But Nye does not believe in simple linear extrapolation of growth rates; he looks at multiple elements of power like military, economic, and soft power.

Nye notes, as some others have, that "transnational issues" are "not susceptible to traditional hard power instruments." It is here that diplomacy must work harder and smarter; but, frankly, we have not yet organized national foreign policy process and management structure, let alone training and assignments of those entrusted with decision-making to align with this new reality.

Nye states, as have President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry, that the United States "cannot achieve many of its international goals acting alone." This is a perspective that too many in America, and especially in Congress, do not understand.

The key for Nye is: "The problem of leadership in such a world is how to get everyone into the act and still get action." His is dismissive of those who equate military action with power, and points to the many global challenges where military might is of little use. He decries both those who overreact, resulting in

the “waste blood and treasure as it did in Vietnam and Iraq,” and those who preach a form of total isolation from the world’s troubles.

Nye concludes that our place in the world could be affected by our own partisan politics, and he is critical of the budget cutters who reduce funding for diplomacy and the military, as well as domestic needs such as education, R&D, and infrastructure that make our country great. He believes we need to grow and tax to accomplish these goals.

While he believes the U.S. should intervene in key crises, Nye holds that the Washington should stay out of the business of “invasion and occupation.” He argues for the need to reinvigorate, reconfigure and reinvent international institutions to carry the work of addressing our most serious global challenges.

For those with an abiding interest in international issues this should be required reading as this book provides so many insights and much wisdom into the global dynamics of power and even more its significance. Not least its overview of the implications of these trends and how we need to deal with this new and changing world can be the basis for a lively debate about governmental policies, actions, and the role of our international institutions.

This post is a version of a book review published in the Foreign Service Journal of June 2015 and at the Rethinking National Security blog.

Cora Lacatus & Emmanuelle Blanc write that “Is the American Century Over?” is a fresh and accessible take on an important topic for the U.S. and the wider world. The book addresses the debate over why America still matters, and warns of the dangers that the view that the U.S. is on an inevitable path of decline can have for informing policy-making.

Is the American century over? No.

"Is the American Century Over?" is a book about why America still matters and will continue to do so. In an impressive "tour de force", Joseph Nye, one of the most eminent scholars of International Relations, notably famous for his concept of "soft power", addresses this debate elegantly and comprehensively – shedding light on numerous nuances that eventually challenge the widespread alarmist provisions depicting the 21st century as the one which will witness the decline of America.

In his book, Nye tackles some of the toughest questions of contemporary IR:

Is there such a thing as an American century? As Nye's points out, using such a term as an identifier for a nation is an arbitrary construct, or attempt at capturing a country's power and positioning it on a historical timeline. Going a step further, we could even consider it a historical misnomer resulting from our intellectual inclination to look back at history and make sense of it in terms of grand powers and empires, all nicely laid out on a timeline of epochs of glory and decline.

But what does it mean that we speak (or write) of America's decline today? As Nye rightly emphasizes, one first needs to specify whether we are talking about "absolute" or "relative decline". Samuel P. Huntington also pointed out five different phases of US declinism in the late 20th century – after the USSR launched the first satellite in 1957; after President Nixon's announcement of multipolarity in the late 1960s; after the Arab oil embargo of 1973; after Soviet expansion in the late 1970s; and after the onset of President Reagan's fiscal and trade deficits in the late 1980s. To this list, Nye adds the more recent period after the financial crisis and great recession of 2008. In line with James Fallows, the end of the World War II marked the time when the US's decline began to be considered in terms of 'falling behind someone else' and not simply as a falling short of its own ideals or God's wish for it. In Nye's terms, the aftermath of the

war was the moment of a shift in perspective from an “absolute” to a “relative decline.”

Despite America's domestic battles over culture, the weaknesses in many of its institutions (e.g. political gridlock) and a possible economic stagnation, Nye does not predict an absolute decline of America – comparable to the collapse of the Roman Empire over 1,500 years ago. The real challenge might rather come from a relative decline, due to the growing power resources of other countries, the potential contender number one in this regard, being China. By breaking down the different facets of China's power (hard and soft), Nye comes to the conclusion that it is not likely that China will surpass the US in the foreseeable future. To back up his arguments, he introduces telling nuances that shed light on a more complex situation than usually described. For instance, looking at economic indicators predicting that the Chinese economy (GDP) will be larger than the US one in a few years' time, Nye argues that it is a flawed way of measurement as it does not take into account the level of sophistication of the economy, and its level of innovation in science and technology. In his own words, “Chinese often complain that they produce iPhone jobs, but not Steve Jobs” (p.52).

Entering into a dialogue with the future is an exercise in informed imagining in which one takes an analytic step back from the reality one inhabits and make predictions about its future. Nye is particularly aware of the difficulties associated with this exercise and in discussing the American century, recommends to keep in mind its successes alongside the assessment of its risk to face decline and be replaced by a different powerful state. After all, there is a significant difference between, on the one hand, a country developing and acquiring power and, on the other hand, that same country being able to act as a global power and thus also becoming a threat to the US's position in the world order. Of import is also the further impact of such a negative view of the American Century as fundamentally determined by a state of inextricable decline

in the face of the rise of new international powers and non-state actors. If decline is a construct, it is generated by perception of politics – and when not handled with care, such negative perception can result in informing policy-making in unanticipated ways.

Throughout the book, Nye's arguments build on dichotomies he has developed more in depth elsewhere and which he distils into simple and very accessible language. Besides analysing the difference between absolute and relative decline, hegemony vs primacy, or isolationism vs entrenchment, he proposes the well-established concepts of hard and soft power to make sense of state relations in an increasingly complex international order. The United States remains strong and, if we are all convinced by Nye's arguments, his prediction of America's continued powerful status will prove correct in future decades. But key to maintaining powerful status resides in developing the ability to convert power effectively into outcomes and to do so by also working collaboratively with others. In Nye's words,

"If the American century is to continue, it will not be enough to think in terms of American Power over others. One must also think in terms of power to accomplish joint goals which involves power with others". p.112

Nye's book is definitely worth reading for his fresh take on a topic that is of great concern to the United States and the entire world. Rich and accessible, this book is a must-read for all those interested in understanding the likely future constellations of power and challenges of the 21st century.

A version of this review originally appeared at the [LSE Review of Books](#).

Featured image : The US Capitol Building. Photo Credit: Architect of the Capitol.

CC

About Joseph Nye:

Joseph S. Nye Jr., University Distinguished Service Professor, and former Dean of the Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He received his bachelor's degree summa cum laude from Princeton University, won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University, and earned a PhD in political science from Harvard. He has served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Chair of the National Intelligence Council, and Deputy Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance, Science and Technology. His most recent books include *The Power to Lead*; *The Future of Power*; *Presidential Leadership and the Creation of the American Era*; and *Is the American Century Over*. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the British Academy, and the American Academy of Diplomacy. In a recent survey of international relations scholars, he was ranked as the most influential scholar on American foreign policy, and in 2011, *Foreign Policy* named him one of the top 100 Global Thinkers.

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

SUNDAY – August 9, 2015

STATION: KXLU Los Angeles – 88.9 FM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR: Christine Palma
PROGRAM: Echo in the Sense

***Program summaries and an audio archive of shows available online at
<http://www.EchoInTheSense.com>

ISSUE: EQUALITY

WE RAN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM TO ADDRESS IT:
Dr. Harry Walker on “Equality without Equivalence”

DATE: Sunday August 9, 2015
TIME: 19:00 to 20:00
DURATION: 01:00 Hour

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

About the Lecture & about the Book:

What would individualism and equality look like if detached from their foundations in a logic of equivalence?

About Dr. Harry Walker:

Harry Walker conducts research in the anthropology of lowland South America. He has carried out long-term fieldwork with the Urarina, a hunting and horticultural people of Amazonian Peru. His recent book *Under a Watchful*

Eye explores the pervasive tension in Amazonian societies between a cultural prioritisation of individual autonomy and uniqueness, and an equally strong sense that satisfaction and self-realisation only come through relations with others. In seeking to understand the inherently shared or 'accompanied' nature of human experience, it brings together considerations of child care and socialisation, relations with non-humans, and concepts of power, in order to show how agency and a sense of self emerge through everyday practices involving the cultivation of intimate but asymmetrical relationships of nurturance and dependency.

Building on this interest in the nature of the self and its relationship to interpersonal and political processes, he has recently begun to explore the new ways in which forms of autonomy and self-reliance are cultivated in the school classroom, as well as the construction of subjectivity through shamanism and healing rituals, including the use of music to create a sense of presence and influence the experiences of healers and patients.

A parallel research interest concerns the transformations taking place in the region as native Amazonian peoples are drawn further into the ambit of the state and the market economy. For example, he has sought to show how debt peonage and manufactured goods are understood in relation to shamanic forms of agency and gender ideologies; how writing and official documents build on implicit ideas about speech and the authoritative voice; how formal law penetrates everyday social life by tapping into peoples' concerns with ritualised violent revenge; and how popular team sports such as football introduce new political concepts, such as formal equality and the social role, while paradoxically paving the way for increased competition and ultimately new forms of hierarchy.

One of Harry's new research projects concerns theories of justice and injustice, especially the relationship of justice to concepts of equality and fairness, as well as subjective experiences of trust, compassion, and rage.

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

SUNDAY – August 16, 2015

STATION: KXLU Los Angeles – 88.9 FM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR: Christine Palma
PROGRAM: Echo in the Sense

***Program summaries and an audio archive of shows available online at
<http://www.EchoInTheSense.com>

ISSUE: LOCAL COMMUNITY

WE RAN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM TO ADDRESS IT:

**Christine interviews Maria Scileppi about the
Venice Pop-up Park**

DATE: Sunday August 16, 2015
TIME: 19:00 to 20:00
DURATION: 01:00 Hour

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

About the Venice Pop-up Park:

**The Venice community has a temporary (9+ months) pop up park on
Abbot Kinney.**

It started at the TEDxVeniceBeach sponsors meeting. Everyone went around and introduced themselves. When we got around to Dan Abrams and Greg Reitz from The Venice Place Project, they mentioned an empty lot they wanted to do something with. Maria Scileppi, Director of 72U, a

creative residency inside 72andSunny, offered her team to design the space. The partnership was born.

"What should we make here?" was the question posed to attendees of TEDx. The overwhelming answer: A creative co-working space.

The 72U Summer 2015 session, a 6 person team made up of makers from all over the world, took on the challenge to create a unique space that would bring the community together. The group; an architect, a mechanical engineer, a photographer, two designers and a film-maker set out to design and build the space. After several iterations of taking the best aspects from each team member's drawings, they had the final concept - a modular park.

The space and furniture are designed to accommodate flexible usage of the park for co-working, guest speakers, acoustic shows, yoga etc. Seats/desks are able to move around and the fence becomes tables and bar tops. Even the mural on the outside of the park will change every couple months.

Just as the empty lot inspired us to create a park, our hope is that this space becomes a platform for the community to share and celebrate their creativity. The park will be up for 9+ months. We hope you enjoy the free wifi and good vibes.

72U Summer 2015 creative residents: Mar Cuervo, Naheel Jawaid, Tim Kim, Simon Kraft, Peri Smith, and Tulio Tavanielli.

About Maria Scileppi:

Disruption Designer, Artist, Educator with a focus on fostering creativity and innovation by providing a collaborative environment and a curriculum that encourages learning by doing, experimentation, conceptual and strategic thinking.

CAREER HISTORY Director, 72U 2013 – present

Founding Director of 72U, an intensive, one-of-a-kind educational and experiential environment designed to expose and encourage participants to embrace new ways of thinking, collaborating and tackling modern communication problems. 72U explores the intersection of creativity, culture, technology, story-telling and brand strategy. Duties Teaching the next generation of creative thinkers and doers. Identifying, recruiting and nurturing the best and brightest creative and conceptual thinkers and makers from across the world. Coaching participants on their personal, creative and career development. Attracting and building a global support network that includes world class speakers on topics such as innovation and creativity. Defining and curating the culture, values, curriculum and physical environment of 72U; an iterative process-based learning program focused on short, medium and long term objectives of the program and it's participants.

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

SUNDAY – August 23, 2015

STATION: KXLU Los Angeles – 88.9 FM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR: Christine Palma
PROGRAM: Echo in the Sense

***Program summaries and an audio archive of shows available online at
<http://www.EchoInTheSense.com>

ISSUE: INEQUALITY

WE RAN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM TO ADDRESS IT:
Joseph Steiglitz on “The Great Divide”

DATE: Sunday August 23, 2015
TIME: 19:00 to 20:00
DURATION: 01:00 Hour

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

About the Lecture & about the Book:

How has America become the most unequal advanced country in the world, and what can we do about it?

In *The Great Divide*, Joseph E. Stiglitz expands on the diagnosis he offered in his best-selling book *The Price of Inequality* and suggests ways to counter America's growing problem. With his signature blend of clarity and passion, Stiglitz argues that inequality is a choice—the cumulative result of unjust policies and misguided priorities.

Gathering his writings for popular outlets including *Vanity Fair* and the *New York Times*, Stiglitz exposes in full America's inequality: its dimensions, its causes, and its consequences for the nation and for the world. From Reagan-era to the Great Recession and its long aftermath, Stiglitz delves into the irresponsible policies—deregulation, tax cuts, and tax breaks for the 1 percent—that are leaving many Americans farther and farther beyond and turning the American dream into an ever more unachievable myth. With formidable yet accessible economic insight, he urges us to embrace real solutions: increasing taxes on corporations and the wealthy; offering more help to the children of the poor; investing in education, science, and infrastructure; helping out homeowners instead of banks; and, most importantly, doing more to restore the economy to full employment. Stiglitz also draws lessons from Scandinavia, Singapore, and Japan, and he argues against the tide of unnecessary, destructive austerity that is sweeping across Europe.

Ultimately, Stiglitz believes our choice is not between growth and fairness; with the right policies, we can choose both. His complaint is not so much about capitalism as such, but how twenty-first-century capitalism has been perverted. His is a call to confront America's economic inequality as the political and moral issue that it is. If we reinvest in people and pursue the other policies that he describes, America can live up to the shared dream of a more prosperous, more equal society.

About Joseph Stiglitz (from his website):

Joseph E. Stiglitz was born in Gary, Indiana in 1943. A graduate of Amherst College, he received his PhD from MIT in 1967, became a full professor at Yale in 1970, and in 1979 was awarded the John Bates Clark Award, given biennially by the American Economic Association to the economist under 40 who has made the most significant contribution to the field. He has taught at Princeton,

Stanford, MIT and was the Drummond Professor and a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. He is now University Professor at Columbia University in New York, where he is also the founder and Co-President of the university's Initiative for Policy Dialogue. He is also the Chief Economist of the Roosevelt Institute. In 2001, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics for his analyses of markets with asymmetric information, and he was a lead author of the 1995 Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. In 2011, Time named Stiglitz one of the 100 most influential people in the world. He is now serving as President of the International Economic Association.

Stiglitz was a member of the Council of Economic Advisers from 1993-95, during the Clinton administration, and served as CEA chairman from 1995-97. He then became Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World Bank from 1997-2000. In 2008 he was asked by the French President Nicolas Sarkozy to chair the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, which released its final report in September 2009 (published as Mismeasuring Our Lives). He now chairs a High Level Expert Group at the OECD attempting to advance further these ideas. In 2009 he was appointed by the President of the United Nations General Assembly as chair of the Commission of Experts on Reform of the International Financial and Monetary System, which also released its report in September 2009 (published as The Stiglitz Report). Since the crisis, he has played an important role in the creation of the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET), which seeks to reform the discipline so it is better equipped to find solutions for the great challenges of the 21st century.

Stiglitz serves on numerous boards, including the Acumen Fund and Resources for the Future.

Stiglitz helped create a new branch of economics, "The Economics of Information," exploring the consequences of information asymmetries and pioneering such pivotal concepts as adverse selection and moral hazard, which have now become standard tools not only of theorists, but also of policy analysts. He has made major contributions to macroeconomics and monetary theory, to development economics and trade theory, to public and corporate finance, to the theories of industrial organization and rural organization, and to the theories of welfare economics and of income and wealth distribution. In the 1980s, he helped revive interest in the economics of R&D.

His work has helped explain the circumstances in which markets do not work well, and how selective government intervention can improve their performance.

In the last fifteen years, he has written a series of highly popular books that have had an enormous influence in shaping global debates. His book *Globalization and Its Discontents* (2002) has been translated into 35 languages, besides at least two pirated editions, and in the non-pirated editions have sold more than one million copies worldwide. In that book he laid bare the way globalization had been managed, especially by the international financial institutions. In two later sequels, he presented alternatives: *Fair Trade for All* (2005, with Andrew Charlton) and *Making Globalization Work* (2006). In *The Roaring Nineties* (2003), he explained how financial market deregulation and other actions of the 1990s were sowing the seeds of the next crisis. Concurrently, *Towards a New Paradigm in Monetary Economics* (2003, with Bruce Greenwald) explained the fallacies of current monetary policies, identified the risk of excessive financial interdependence, and highlighted the central role of credit availability. *Freefall: America, Free Markets, and the Sinking of the World Economy* (2010) traced in more detail the origins of the Great Recession, outlined a set of policies that would lead to robust recovery, and correctly predicted that if these policies were not pursued, it was likely that we would enter an extended period of malaise. *The Three Trillion Dollar War: The True Cost of the Iraq Conflict* (2008, with Linda

Bilmes of Harvard University), helped reshape the debate on those wars by highlighting the enormous costs of those conflicts. His most recent books are *The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future*, published by W.W. Norton and Penguin/ Allen Lane in 2012; *The Great Divide: Unequal Societies and What We Can Do About Them* published by W.W. Norton and Penguin/ Allen Lane in 2015; and *Creating a Learning Society: A New Approach to Growth, Development, and Social Progress*, with Bruce Greenwald, published by Columbia University Press in 2014.

Stiglitz's work has been widely recognized. Among his awards are more than 40 honorary doctorates, including from Cambridge and Oxford Universities. In 2010 he was awarded the prestigious Loeb Prize for his contributions to journalism. Among the prizes awarded to his books have been the European Literary Prize, the Bruno Kreisky Prize for Political Books and the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the Econometric Society, and a corresponding fellow of the Royal Society and the British Academy.

He has been decorated by several governments, including Colombia, Ecuador, and Korea, and most recently became a member of France's Legion of Honor (rank of Officier).

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

SUNDAY – September 6, 2015

STATION: KXLU Los Angeles – 88.9 FM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR: Christine Palma
PROGRAM: Echo in the Sense

***Program summaries and an audio archive of shows available online at
<http://www.EchoInTheSense.com>

ISSUE: MENTAL HEALTH

WE RAN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM TO ADDRESS IT:

Christine interviews
Josh Salzberg about his film "Walking Man"

DATE: Sunday September 6, 2015
TIME: 19:00 to 20:00
DURATION: 01:00 Hour

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

About Josh Salzberg:

After graduating from Columbia College Chicago's film school, Salzberg began his career interning with directors Ridley Scott and Alexander Payne. He went on to co-edit *Blood Equity*, a documentary about the physical and mental health tolls of professional football. Since then, Salzberg has worked in post production on several movies, including *Step Brothers*, *The Other Guys*, *Funny People* and *This is 40*. Most recently, he edited *Ass Backwards* (2013 Sundance Film Festival Selection), Shira Piven's *Welcome to Me* (2014 Toronto Film Festival Selection), and Paul Feig's TV show *Other Space*.

About Walking Man, movie:

After a Missouri high school loses three students to suicide, Mark Norwine (a mental health advocate) embarks on a 200-mile walk across the state, seeking to educate students and better understand the epidemic for himself. Mark is joined by his son, Eric, but when the road proves difficult, father and son must confront their own mental health struggles, which they've kept secret for so long. Endorsed by universities and mental health organizations across the U.S., Walking Man is an honest look at one family's journey with mental illness.

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

SUNDAY – September 13, 2015

STATION: KXLU Los Angeles – 88.9 FM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR: Christine Palma
PROGRAM: Echo in the Sense

***Program summaries and an audio archive of shows available online at
<http://www.EchoInTheSense.com>

ISSUE: MATHEMATICS

WE RAN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM TO ADDRESS IT:

**Daniel Tammet talks about
mathematics and the art of writing**

DATE: Sunday September 13, 2015
TIME: 19:00 to 20:00
DURATION: 01:00 Hour

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

About Daniel Tammet from Wikipedia:

Daniel Tammet FRSA (born 31 January 1979) is an English writer, essayist, translator, and autistic savant. His 2006 memoir, *Born on a Blue Day*, about his life with high-functioning autism and savant syndrome, was named a "Best Book for Young Adults" in 2008 by the American Library Association.^[2] Tammet's second book, *Embracing the Wide Sky*, was one of France's best selling books of 2009.^[3] *Thinking in Numbers*, Tammet's third book, was published by Hodder in the UK on 16 August 2012, and by Little,

Brown in the United States and Canada on 30 July 2013. His books have been published in 20 languages.^[4] He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 2012.^[5]

Life

Daniel Tammet

Tammet was born **Daniel Paul Corney**^[1] and raised in Barking, East London, England, the eldest of nine children. He suffered epileptic seizures as a young child, which he subsequently outgrew following medical treatment. At age twenty-five, he was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome by Professor Simon Baron-Cohen of the Autism (Spectrum) Research Centre at Cambridge University.^[6] Tammet is one of fewer than a hundred "prodigious savants" according to Dr. Darold Treffert, the world's leading researcher in the study of savant syndrome.^[7]

Tammet twice participated in the World Memory Championships in London under his birth name, placing 12th in 1999 and 4th in 2000.^{[1][8]}

He changed his birth name by deed poll because "it didn't fit with the way he saw himself." He took the word *Tammet* from the Estonian for 'oak tree'.^[9]

Tammet was the subject of a documentary film entitled (in the UK) *The Boy with the Incredible Brain*, first broadcast on the British television station Channel 4 on 23 May 2005.^[10]

Savantism

Tammet has been studied repeatedly^[11] by researchers in Britain and the United States, and has been the subject of several peer-reviewed scientific papers.^[12] Professor Allan Snyder at the Australian National University has said of Tammet: "Savants can't usually tell us how they do what they do. It just

comes to them. Daniel can describe what he sees in his head. That's why he's exciting. He could be the 'Rosetta Stone'. "^[9]

In his mind, he says, each positive integer up to 10,000 has its own unique shape, colour, texture and feel. He has described his visual image of 289 as particularly ugly, 333 as particularly attractive, and pi, though not an integer, as beautiful. The number 6 apparently has no distinct image yet what he describes as an almost small nothingness, opposite to the number 9 which he calls large, towering, and quite intimidating. Tammet also describes the number 117 as "a handsome number. It's tall, it's a lanky number, a little bit wobbly". ^{[13][14][15]} In his memoir, Tammet states experiencing a synaesthetic and emotional response for numbers and words.^[16]

Tammet holds the European record for reciting pi from memory to 22,514 digits in five hours and nine minutes on 14 March 2004. This may be mentioned in Michael Vey 4.^{[17][18][19][20][21]}

Tammet is a polyglot. In *Born On A Blue Day* he writes that he 'knows' ten languages: English, Finnish, French, German, Lithuanian, Esperanto, Spanish, Romanian, Icelandic and Welsh.^[14] In *Embracing the Wide Sky*, Tammet writes that he learned conversational Icelandic in a week and then appeared on an interview on Kastljós on RÚV speaking the language.^{[12][22]}

Career

In 2002 Tammet launched the website, Optimnem.^[23] The site offers language courses (currently French and Spanish) and has been an approved member of the UK's National Grid for Learning since 2006.^[14]

Born on a Blue Day, Tammet's memoir of a life with Asperger's syndrome, received international media attention and critical praise. Booklist's Ray Olson stated that Tammet's autobiography was "as fascinating as Benjamin Franklin's and John Stuart Mill's" and that Tammet wrote "some of the clearest prose this

side of Hemingway". Kirkus stated that the book "transcends the disability memoir genre".

For his US book tour, he appeared on several television and radio talk shows and specials, including *60 Minutes* and *Late Show with David Letterman*.^[14] In February 2007 *Born on a Blue Day* was serialised as *BBC Radio 4's Book of the Week* in the United Kingdom.

Tammet's second book, *Embracing the Wide Sky* was published in 2009.^[12] Professor Allan Snyder, director of Sydney University's Centre for the Mind, called the work 'an extraordinary and monumental achievement'.^[24] Tammet argues that savant abilities are not "supernatural" but are "an outgrowth" of "natural, instinctive ways of thinking about numbers and words". He suggests that the brains of savants can, to some extent, be retrained, and that normal brains could be taught to develop some savant abilities.^[24]

Thinking in Numbers, a collection of essays, was first published in 2012 and serialised as *BBC Radio 4's Book of the Week* in the United Kingdom.^[25]

Tammet's translation into French of a selection of poetry by *Les Murray* was published by L'Iconoclaste in France in 2014.^[26]

Scientific study

After the World Memory Championships, Tammet participated in a group study, later published in the New Year 2003 edition of *Nature Neuroscience*.^[27] The researchers investigated the reasons for the memory champions' superior performance. They reported that they used "strategies for encoding information with the sole purpose of making it more memorable", and concluded that superior memory was not driven by exceptional intellectual ability or differences in brain structure.^[28]

In another study, *Simon Baron-Cohen* and others at the Autism Research Centre at the University of Cambridge tested Tammet's abilities in around 2005.^[29] He

was found to have synaesthesia according to the "Test of Genuineness-Revised" which tests the subjects' consistency in reporting descriptions of their synaesthesia. He performed well on tests of short term memory (with adigit-span of 11.5, where 6.5 is typical). Conversely, test results showed his memory for faces scored at the level expected of a 6–8 year old child in this task. The authors of the study speculated that Tammet's savant memory could be a result of synaesthesia combined with Asperger syndrome, or it could be the result of mnemonic strategies.

Baron-Cohen, Bor and Billington investigated whether his synaesthesia and Asperger syndrome explained his savant memory abilities in a further study published in *Neurocase* in 2008. They concluded that his abilities might be explained by hyperactivity in one brain region (the left prefrontal cortex), which results from his Asperger syndrome and synaesthesia.^[30] On the Navon task, relative to non-autistic controls, Tammet was found to be faster at finding a target at the local level and to be less distracted by interference from the global level.^[30] In an fMRI scan, "Tammet did not activate extra-striate regions of the brain normally associated with synaesthesia, suggesting that he has an unusual and more abstract and conceptual form of synaesthesia".^[30] Published in *Cerebral Cortex* (2011), an fMRI study led by Professor Jean-Michel Hupé at the University of Toulouse (France) observed no activation of colour areas in ten synaesthetes.^[31] Hupé suggests that synaesthetic colour experience lies not in the brain's colour system, but instead results from "a complex construction of meaning in the brain, involving not only perception, but language, memory and emotion".^[32]

In his book *Moonwalking with Einstein* (2011), science journalist and former US Memory Champion Joshua Foer speculates that study of conventional mnemonic approaches has played a role in Tammet's feats of memory. While accepting that Tammet meets the standard definition of a prodigious savant, Foer suggests that his abilities may simply reflect intensive training using

standard memory techniques, rather than any abnormal psychology or neurology per se. In a review of his book for the *New York Times*, psychologist Alexandra Horowitz described Foer's speculation as among the book's few "missteps", questioning whether it would matter if Tammet had used such strategies or not.^[33]

About the Book – Thinking in Numbers:

This is the book that Daniel Tammet, bestselling author and mathematical savant, was born to write. In Tammet's world, numbers are beautiful and mathematics illuminates our lives and minds. Using anecdotes and everyday examples, Tammet allows us to share his unique insights and delight in the way numbers, fractions and equations underpin all our lives.

Inspired by the complexity of snowflakes, Anne Boleyn's sixth finger or his mother's unpredictable behaviour, Tammet explores questions such as why time seems to speed up as we age, whether there is such a thing as an average person and how we can make sense of those we love.

Thinking in Numbers will change the way you think about maths and fire your imagination to see the world with fresh eyes.

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST SUNDAY – September 20, 2015

STATION: KXLU Los Angeles – 88.9 FM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR: Christine Palma
PROGRAM: Echo in the Sense

***Program summaries and an audio archive of shows available online at
<http://www.EchoInTheSense.com>

ISSUE: MAYAN CULTURE

WE RAN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM TO ADDRESS IT:

**Christine Interviews Ernesto Colin about
Indigenous Education through Dance & Ceremony**

DATE: Sunday September 20, 2015
TIME: 19:00 to 20:00
DURATION: 01:00 Hour

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

About Ernesto Colin:

Ernesto Colin is professor of Urban Education at Loyola Marymount University

About the book, Indigenous Education through Dance and Ceremony: A Mexica Palimpsest:

In the first book on Aztec dance in the United States, Ernesto Colín combines cultural anthropology, educational theory, and postcolonial theory to create an innovative, interdisciplinary, long-term ethnography of an Aztec dance circle and

makes a case for the use of the metaphor of palimpsest as an ethnographic research tool.

This book presents an ethnography of contemporary indigenous education through the spirit practice, dance ceremonies, and cultural diffusion efforts of a Mexica (Aztec) dance circle in the United States. The author uses the metaphor of palimpsest to describe several teaching and learning spaces the group constructs with a combination of ancient and modern materials. Colín unpacks the group's organizational leadership, ceremonies, community service, education, and dance practices. Ultimately, dancers reclaim and re-author identity, language, culture, leadership, education, spirituality, and community activism. The book celebrates a dynamic indigenous community and their post-colonial resistance to erasure.

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST SUNDAY – September 27, 2015

STATION: KXLU Los Angeles – 88.9 FM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR: Christine Palma
PROGRAM: Echo in the Sense

***Program summaries and an audio archive of shows available online at
<http://www.EchoInTheSense.com>

ISSUE: MEMORY

WE RAN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM TO ADDRESS IT:
"Narrative, Memory and the Mind"

DATE: Sunday September 27, 2015
TIME: 19:00 to 20:00
DURATION: 01:00 Hour

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

About the Program & the Speakers:

Speaker(s): Lisa Appignanesi, Professor Anne Applebaum, Dr Charles Fernyhough

Our ability to remember forms the basis of who we are, and is a psychological trick that has fascinated scientists and authors alike. But are our memories reliable, or are the stories we tell about our past just a fiction of the mind? This panel brings together psychology, history and literature in its exploration of

memory.

Lisa Appignanesi OBE is a prize-winning writer, novelist, broadcaster and cultural commentator. A visiting professor at King's College London, she is former president of the campaigning writers association, English PEN, and chair of London's Freud Museum. . Her latest books are All About Love: Anatomy of an Unruly Emotion, and Mad, Bad and Sad: A History of Women and the Mind Doctors.

Anne Applebaum is Philippe Roman Chair in History and International Affairs at LSE IDEAS for 2012-13. Her books include Gulag: A History and Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe 1944-56.

Dr Charles Fernyhough is a writer and psychologist. His previous book, The Baby in the Mirror, was critically acclaimed in the UK and has been translated into seven languages. Pieces of Light: The new science of memory was published in July 2012. He is a reader in Psychology at Durham University and has written for the Guardian, Financial Times and Sunday Telegraph.