

"Riveting...Jim Davies could be the next Malcolm Gladwell."

—MICHAEL SHERMER, AUTHOR OF *THE BELIEVING BRAIN*

# RIVETED



THE SCIENCE OF  
WHY JOKES MAKE US LAUGH,  
MOVIES MAKE US CRY, AND  
RELIGION MAKES US FEEL  
ONE WITH THE UNIVERSE

JIM DAVIES

**Riveted The Science Of Why Jokes Make Us Laugh  
Movies Cry And Religion Makes Feel One With Universe  
Jim Davies**

**Sebastian Brünink**



## **Riveted The Science Of Why Jokes Make Us Laugh Movies Cry And Religion Makes Feel One With Universe Jim Davies:**

**Riveted** Jim Davies, 2014-08-05 Why do some things pass under the radar of our attention but other things capture our interest Why do some religions catch on and others fade away What makes a story a movie or a book riveting Why do some people keep watching the news even though it makes them anxious The past 20 years have seen a remarkable flourishing of scientific research into exactly these kinds of questions Professor Jim Davies fascinating and highly accessible book *Riveted* reveals the evolutionary underpinnings of why we find things compelling from art to religion and from sports to superstition Compelling things fit our minds like keys in the ignition turning us on and keeping us running and yet we are often unaware of what makes these keys fit What we like and don't like is almost always determined by subconscious forces and when we try to consciously predict our own preferences we're often wrong In one study of speed dating people were asked what kinds of partners they found attractive When the results came back the participants' answers before the exercise had no correlation with who they actually found attractive in person We are beginning to understand just how much the brain makes our decisions for us we are rewarded with a rush of pleasure when we detect patterns as the brain thinks we've discovered something significant the mind urges us to linger on the news channel or rubberneck an accident in case it might pick up important survival information it even pushes us to pick up *People* magazine in order to find out about changes in the social structure Drawing on work from philosophy anthropology religious studies psychology economics computer science and biology Davies offers a comprehensive explanation to show that in spite of the differences between the many things that we find compelling they have similar effects on our minds and brains [Being the Person Your Dog Thinks You Are](#) Jim Davies, 2021-02-02 A crisp and sparkling blend of cognitive science and human behavior that offers meaningful and attainable pathways towards becoming our best selves Why do we feel like in order to be productive happy or good we must sacrifice everything else Is it possible to feel all three at once Without even knowing it we're doing things everyday to sabotage ourselves and our societies habits that prevent us from optimizing long term happiness Where most books imagine solutions that when enacted fail to fundamentally improve our lives Jim Davies grounds his research in cognitive science to show you not only what works but how much it works *Being the Person Your Dog Thinks You Are* shows us how we can use science to become our best selves using resources we already have within our own brains Davies's book challenges and inspires us to approach the big picture while also staying mindful of the everyday details in real life Davies proves why multitasking is bad for you when a little unmindfulness can be good for you how to best justify which charities to donate to and how to hack your brain The most surprising truth Davies offers us spreads across these pages like wildfire you too can lead an optimally good life not through uprooting your life from the ground up but from adapting your mentality to your given present A better life doesn't need to look like a massive change like our beloved dogs who already view us as our best selves it's already much

closer than you think      *The Practice of Groundedness* Brad Stulberg,2021-09-07 Join thousands of readers and learn about a powerful antidote to today's epidemic of burnout and a path to achieving success with deeper satisfaction from the bestselling author of *Peak Performance* A thoughtful actionable book for pursuing more excellence with less angst Adam Grant author of *Think Again* Playing into the always on never enough hustle culture ultimately takes a serious toll While the high of occasional wins can keep you going for a while angst restlessness frayed relationships exhaustion and even substance abuse can be the unwanted side effects of an obsession with outward performance In *The Practice of Groundedness* bestselling author Brad Stulberg offers a path for which peak performance and well being and fulfillment can emerge and prevail for a lifetime At the heart of this model is groundedness a practice that values presence over rote productivity accepts that progress is nonlinear and prioritizes long term values and fulfillment over short term gain To be grounded is to possess a firm and unwavering foundation an internal strength and self confidence that sustains you through ups and downs and from which deep and enduring success can be found Groundedness does not eliminate ambition and striving rather it situates these qualities and channels them in more meaningful ways Interweaving case studies modern science and time honored lessons from ancient wisdom traditions such as Buddhism Stoicism and Taoism Stulberg teaches readers how to cultivate the habits and practices of a more grounded life Readers will learn Why patience is the key to getting where you want to go faster in work and life and how to develop it pushing back against the culture's misguided obsession with speed and hacks How to utilize the lens of the wise observer in order to overcome delusion and resistance to clearly see and accept where you are which is the key to more effectively getting where you want to go Why embracing vulnerability is the key to genuine strength and confidence The critical importance of deep community or cultivating a sense of belonging and connection to people places and causes Provocative and practical *The Practice of Groundedness* is the necessary corrective to the frenetic pace and endemic burnout resulting from contemporary definitions of success It offers a new and better way      **Planting**

**Design** Patrick Mooney,2019-10-30 Landscape designers have long understood the use of plants to provide beauty aesthetic pleasure and visual stimulation while supporting a broad range of functional goals However the potential for plants in the landscape to elicit human involvement and provide mental stimulation and restoration is much less well understood This book meshes the art of planting design with an understanding of how humans respond to natural environments Beginning with an understanding of human needs preferences and responses to landscape the author interprets the ways in which an understanding of the human environment interaction can inform planting design Many of the principles and techniques that may be used in planting design are beautifully illustrated in full colour with examples by leading landscape architects and designers from the United Kingdom Europe North America and Asia including Andrea Cochran Andrea Cochran Landscape Architecture San Francisco CA Design Workshop Inc Richard Hartlage Land Morphology Seattle WA Shunmyo Masuno Japan Landscape Consultants Ltd Yokohama Piet Oudolf Hummelo The Netherlands Melody Redekop Vancouver Christine Ten Eyck

Ten Eyck Landscape Architects Inc Austin TX Kongjian Yu Turenscape Ltd Beijing The book stimulates thought provides new direction and assists the reader to find their own unique design voice Because there are many valid processes and intentions for landscape design the book is not intended to be overly prescriptive Rather than presenting a strict design method and accompanying set of rules Planting Design provides information insight and inspiration as a basis for developing the individual designer's own expression in this most challenging of art forms

**Adapted Brains and Imaginary Worlds**  
Donald Beecher, 2016-03-01 In *Adapted Brains and Imaginary Worlds* Donald Beecher explores the characteristics and idiosyncrasies of the brain as they affect the study of fiction He builds upon insights from the cognitive sciences to explain how we actualize imaginary persons read the clues to their intentional states assess their representations of selfhood and empathize with their felt experiences in imaginary environments He considers how our own faculty of memory in all its selective particularity and planned oblivion becomes an increasingly significant dimension of the critical act and how our own emotions become aggressive readers of literary experience culminating in states which define the genres of literature Beecher illustrates his points with examples from major works of the Renaissance period including *Dr Faustus* *The Faerie Queene* *Measure for Measure* *The Yorkshire Tragedy* *Menaphon* *The Dialogue of Solomon and Marcolphus* and *The Moral Philosophy of Doni* In this volume studies in the science of mind come into their own in explaining the architectures of the brain that shape such emergent properties as empathy suspense curiosity the formation of communities gossip rationalization confabulation and so much more that pertains to the behaviour of characters the orientation of readers and the construction of meaning Discussing a breadth of topics from the mysteries of the criminal mind to the psychology of tears *Adapted Brains and Imaginary Worlds* is the most comprehensive work available on the study of fictional worlds and their relation to the constitution of the human brain

**Sibling Rivalry** Anthony Francis, 2024-11-14 A great choice for anyone who loves science fiction that asks hard questions about sentience and what it really means to make ethical choices Long and Short Reviews Nick Walker is the world's best designer of artificial intelligences and today was supposed to be the pinnacle of his career the field test of his greatest creation Nickolai But now Nickolai is destroyed its entire development team is dead and Nick's on the run trapped in a deadly battle of wits with his previous creation Nicole a cold and devious artificial intelligence who has decided the last thing she wants in this world is a sibling This clever short story written by a PhD in artificial intelligence dissects the idea that real artificial intelligences could easily be dispatched by logical paradoxes back door viruses or pesky EMP blasts Real AIs would have no such comforting limitations deft at parsing speech clever at closing their own loopholes and secured in military hardened housings a true general artificial intelligence would prove a difficult challenge to defeat even to its own designer Because Nicole's creator never realized that when threatened with life as an obsolete brain in a box Nicole would instead choose to become an unstoppable killer Despite all Nick's knowledge and creativity attempt after attempt to defeat her fails and with his oxygen running out Nick finds himself running a deadly race

with Nicole to see who can stop whose weak heart first      Die Prinzipien des nachhaltigen Erfolgs Brad Stulberg, 2023-10-22

Die Kultur des ständigen und nie ausreichenden Leistungsdrangs fordert letztlich ihren Tribut Das Hochgefühl gelegentlicher Erfolge kann uns zwar eine Weile aufrecht erhalten aber Angst Unruhe zerrüttete Beziehungen Erschöpfung und sogar Drogenmissbrauch können die unerwünschten Nebeneffekte einer Besessenheit von unserer Leistung sein In Die Prinzipien des achtsamen Erfolgs zeigt der Bestsellerautor Brad Stulberg einen Weg auf wie Spitzenleistung Wohlbefinden und Erfüllung entstehen und ein Leben lang erhalten bleiben können Im Mittelpunkt dieses Modells steht die Bodenständigkeit eine Praxis die Präsenz aber auswendig gelernte Produktivität stellt die akzeptiert dass Fortschritt nicht linear ist und die langfristige Werte und Erfüllung aber kurzfristigen Gewinn stellt Geerdet zu sein bedeutet ein festes und unerschütterliches Fundament zu besitzen eine innere Stärke und ein Selbstvertrauen das einen durch Höhen und Tiefen trägt und aus dem heraus sich ein tiefer und dauerhafter Erfolg einstellen kann Gleichzeitig schließt es Ehrgeiz und Strebsamkeit nicht aus sondern ordnet diese Eigenschaften ein und lenkt sie in sinnvollere Bahnen Indem er Fallstudien moderne Wissenschaft und altehrwürdige Lehren aus alten Weisheitstraditionen wie Buddhismus Stoizismus und Taoismus miteinander verwebt zeigt Stulberg wie er die Gewohnheiten und Praktiken eines geerdeten Lebens kultivieren kann Dieses provokative und praktische Buch ist das notwendige Korrektiv zu dem hektischen Tempo und dem endemischen Burnout die aus den zeitgenössischen Definitionen von Erfolg resultieren Es bietet einen neuen und besseren Weg

**Imagination** Jim Davies, 2019-11-05 The first ever book on the science of imagination which sheds light on both the complex inner workings of our mind and the ways in which we can channel imagination for a better life We don't think of imagination the way that we should The word is often only associated with children artists and daydreamers but in reality imagination is an integral part of almost every action and decision that we make Simply put imagination is a person's ability to create scenarios in his or her head this can include everything from planning a grocery list to honing a golf swing to having religious hallucinations And while imagination has positive connotations it can also lead to decreased productivity and cooperation or worse the continuous reliving of past trauma The human brain is remarkable in its ability to imagine it can imagine complex possible futures fantasy worlds or tasty meals We can use our imaginations to make us relaxed or anxious We can imagine what the world might be and construct elaborate plans People have been fascinated with the machination of the human brain and its ability to imagine for centuries There are books on creativity dreams memory and the mind in general but how exactly do we create those scenes in our head With chapters ranging from hallucination and imaginary friends to how imagination can make you happier and more productive Jim Davies Imagination will help us explore the full potential of our own mind

**Impossible Puzzle Films** Miklos Kiss, 2017-01-18 Narrative complexity is a trend in contemporary cinema Since the late 1990s there has been a palpable increase in complex storytelling in movies But how and why do complex movies create perplexity and confusion How do we engage with these challenges And what makes complex stories so attractive By blending film studies narrative theory

and cognitive sciences Kiss and Wilemsen look into the relation between complex storytelling and the mind Analysing the effects that different complex narratives have on viewers the book addresses how films like Donnie Darko Mulholland Drive and Primer strategically create complexity and confusion using the specific category of the impossible puzzle film to examine movies that use baffling paradoxes impossible loops and unresolved ambiguities in their stories and storytelling By looking at how these films play on our mind s blind spots this innovative book explains their viewing effects in terms of the mental state of cognitive dissonance that they evoke *E-Learning Systems, Environments and Approaches* Pedro Isaías,J. Michael Spector,Dirk Ifenthaler,Demetrios G. Sampson,2015-03-12 The volume consists of twenty five chapters selected from among peer reviewed papers presented at the CELDA Cognition and Exploratory Learning in the Digital Age 2013 Conference held in Fort Worth Texas USA in October 2013 and also from world class scholars in e learning systems environments and approaches The following sub topics are included Exploratory Learning Technologies Part I e Learning social web design Part II Learner communities through e Learning implementations Part III Collaborative and student centered e Learning design Part IV E Learning has been since its initial stages a synonym for flexibility While this dynamic nature has mainly been associated with time and space it is safe to argue that currently it embraces other aspects such as the learners profile the scope of subjects that can be taught electronically and the technology it employs New technologies also widen the range of activities and skills developed in e Learning Electronic learning environments have evolved past the exclusive delivery of knowledge Technology has endowed e Learning with the possibility of remotely fomenting problem solving skills critical thinking and team work by investing in information exchange collaboration personalisation and community building

**Doctor Who Psychology (2nd Edition)** Travis Langley,2023-11-07 How does an immortal deal with death What can an ancient Time Lord teach us about real human nature Why does the Doctor say he and Freud got on very well How do the Daleks and Cybermen reflect concerns about losing our humanity And what new challenges loom ahead when the Doctor regenerates as a woman Hailed as the most successful sci fi series ever made Guinness World Records Doctor Who has been a cult classic for more than half a century And though time may not be the boss Rule 408 as times change so too do social norms and psychological challenges which have paved the way for a new kind of Doctor who can appeal to the modern viewer Revised and updated for our changing times the second edition of Doctor Who Psychology Times Change explores the alien in us all Travis Langley s fascinating in depth collection delves into the psychology behind the time traveling Doctor in his many iterations as men and women as well as his companions and his foes With a foreword by Third Doctor Companion Katy Manning an introduction to the second edition and new interviews with actors who have played Doctors new and old Doctor Who Psychology Times Change travels through the how and why of Who Contributors to the second edition include Jenna Busch Erin Currie Jim Davies Kristin Erickson Wind Goodfriend Daniel Hand David Kyle Johnson Billy San Juan Deirdre Kelly Alan Kistler Travis Langley Katy Manning Justine Mastin Matt Munson Miranda Pollock Stephen Prescott Sarita Robinson

Aaron Sagers Daniel Saunders Janina Scarlet William Sharp     Routledge Companion to Audiences and the Performing Arts  
 Matthew Reason,Lynne Conner,Katya Johanson,Ben Walmsley,2022-04-05 The Routledge Companion to Audiences and the  
 Performing Arts represents a truly multi dimensional exploration of the inter relationships between audiences and  
 performance This study considers audiences contextually and historically through both qualitative and quantitative empirical  
 research and places them within appropriate philosophical and socio cultural discourses Ultimately the collection marks the  
 point where audiences have become central and essential not just to the act of performance itself but also to theatre dance  
 opera music and performance studies as academic disciplines This Companion will be of great interest to academics  
 researchers and postgraduates as well as to theatre dance opera and music practitioners and performing arts organisations  
 and stakeholders involved in educational activities     **Stolen Child** Laurie Gough,2016-09-10 Laurie Gough s son was a  
 regular bright unicycle riding kid until the day his grandpa died when a tidal wave of uncontrollable thoughts consumed him  
 He became an echo of himself a near stranger dominated by bizarre rituals dreamed up to bring his grandpa back to life  
 Gough s family took on the battle against OCD and won     A prática para a excelência Brad Stulberg,2023-04-10 A  
 conquista muitas vezes tem um custo Ang stia inquieta o relacionamentos desgastados exaust o e at abuso de subst ncias  
 podem ser os efeitos colaterais indesejados de uma obsess o pelo alto desempenho Em A Pr tica para A Excel ncia Brad  
 Stulberg compartilha um modelo de sucesso mais saud vel e sustent vel No cora o desse modelo est a excel ncia uma pr tica  
 que valoriza a presen a em detrimento da produtividade mec nica aceita que o progresso n o linear e prioriza valores e  
 realiza o de longo prazo em vez de ganhos de curto prazo A excel ncia n o elimina a ambi o e o esfor o em vez disso redefine  
 essas qualidades e as canaliza de maneiras mais significativas Entrelando estudos de caso ci ncia moderna e li es  
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 paci ncia a chave para chegar aonde voc quer mais r pido no trabalho e na vida e como desenvolv la lutando contra a obsess  
 o equivocada da cultura da pressa e dos atalhos Como utilizar a lente do observador s bio para superar a ilus o e a resist ncia  
 para ver e aceitar onde voc est a chave para chegar aonde voc quer Por que abra ar a vulnerabilidade a chave para a for a e a  
 confian a genu nas A import ncia cr tica da comunidade de cultivar um sentimento de pertencimento e conex o com pessoas  
 lugares e causas     0000 00000000,2019-01-29 1921 Robert Macfarlane 29 7 William Dalrymple Somerset Maugham Award  
 The Wild Places Boardman Tasker Prize Banff Mountain Festival BBC Dolman Prize for Travel Writing 11 18

**Imagination** Jim Davies,2019-11-05 The first ever book on the science of imagination which sheds light on both the  
 complex inner workings of our mind and the ways in which we can channel imagination for a better life We don t think of  
 imagination the way that we should The word is often only associated with children artists and daydreamers but in reality  
 imagination is an integral part of almost every action and decision that we make Simply put imagination is a person s ability  
 to create scenarios in his or her head this can include everything from planning a grocery list to honing a golf swing and even



to having religious hallucinations And while imagination has positive connotations it can also lead to more pernicious outcomes including decreased productivity and cooperation and much worse the continuous reliving of past trauma The human brain is remarkable in its ability to imagine to create worlds and situations outside of its reality We can imagine complex possible futures fantasy worlds and jars of peanut butter We can use our imaginations to make us relaxed or anxious and the most impressive feat of human imagination may be our ability to use it in creative endeavors Sitting in a chair with our eyes closed we can imagine what the world might be and construct elaborate plans With such power we have an obligation to use it for good to make things better for ourselves and for the world People have been fascinated with the machination of the human brain and its ability to imagine for centuries but until now there have been no popular science books that are dedicated to imagination There are books on creativity dreams memory and the mind in general but how exactly do we create those scenes in our head With chapters ranging from hallucination and imaginary friends to how imagination can make you happier and more productive Jim Davies Imagination will help us explore the full potential of our own mind

**Why We Laugh** Pamela Dell, 2019-08 Do you tear up watching a sappy commercial Or hold back sniffles when your best friend suddenly ignores you Maybe you sometimes just get a case of the blues you can't seem to shake Have you wondered why The answer is in the science behind unhappiness Whether you keep your tears bottled up or sometimes let it all out middle school is a time when you get ALL THE FEELS But next time you or your friends have a good cry you'll understand what's really going on in your brains Plus you'll learn tips to decode what's happening in your body and find out how tears can sometimes be helpful But mental health is still important so when tearfulness or sad feelings have crossed the line you'll also learn when it's time to reach out for help

The Game of Humor Charles R. Gruner, 2017-07-05 Humor wit and laughter surround each person From everyday quips to the carefully contrived comedy of literature newspapers and television we experience humor in many forms yet the impetus for our laughter is far from innocuous Misfortune stupidity and moral or cultural defects however faintly revealed in others and ourselves seem to make us laugh Although discomforting such negative terms as superiority aggression hostility ridicule or degradation can be applied to instances of humor According to scholars Thomas Hobbes's superiority theory that humor arises from mischances infirmities and indecencies where there is no wit at all applies to most humor With the exception of good natured play Charles R Gruner claims that humor is rarely as innocent as it first appears Gruner's proposed superiority theory of humor is all encompassing In The Game of Humor he expands the scope of Hobbes's theory to include and explore the contest aspect of good natured play As such the author believes all instances of humor can be examined as games in terms of competition and keeping score winners and losers Gruner draws on a broad spectrum of thought provoking examples Holocaust jokes sexual humor the racist dialogue of such comic characters as Stepin Fetchit and Archie Bunker simple puns and many of the author's own encounters with everyday humor Gruner challenges the reader to offer a single example of humor that cannot be de-humorized by its

agonistic nature The Game of Humor makes intriguing and enjoyable reading for people interested in humor and the aspects of human motivation This book will also be valuable to professionals in communication and information studies sociologists literary critics and linguists and psychologists concerned with the conflicts and tensions of everyday life **COMEDY OF ERROR** JONATHAN. SILVERTOWN,2020 The Comedy of Error Jonathan Silvertown,2020-09-29 What is humour Why do we laugh And why is the root of a good joke almost always error Good jokes bad jokes clever jokes dad jokes the desire to laugh is universal But why do we find some gags hilarious whilst others fall flat Why does explaining a joke make it less amusing rather than more so Why is laughter contagious and why did it evolve in the first place Using the oldest jokes and the latest science in The Comedy of Error Professor Jonathan Silvertown investigates why we laugh from laughter s evolutionary origins to similarities and differences in humour across cultures and even why being funny makes us sexier As this unique book demonstrates understanding how humour really works can provide endless entertainment

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**Riveted The Science Of Why Jokes Make Us Laugh Movies Cry And Religion Makes Feel One With Universe Jim Davies Introduction**

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