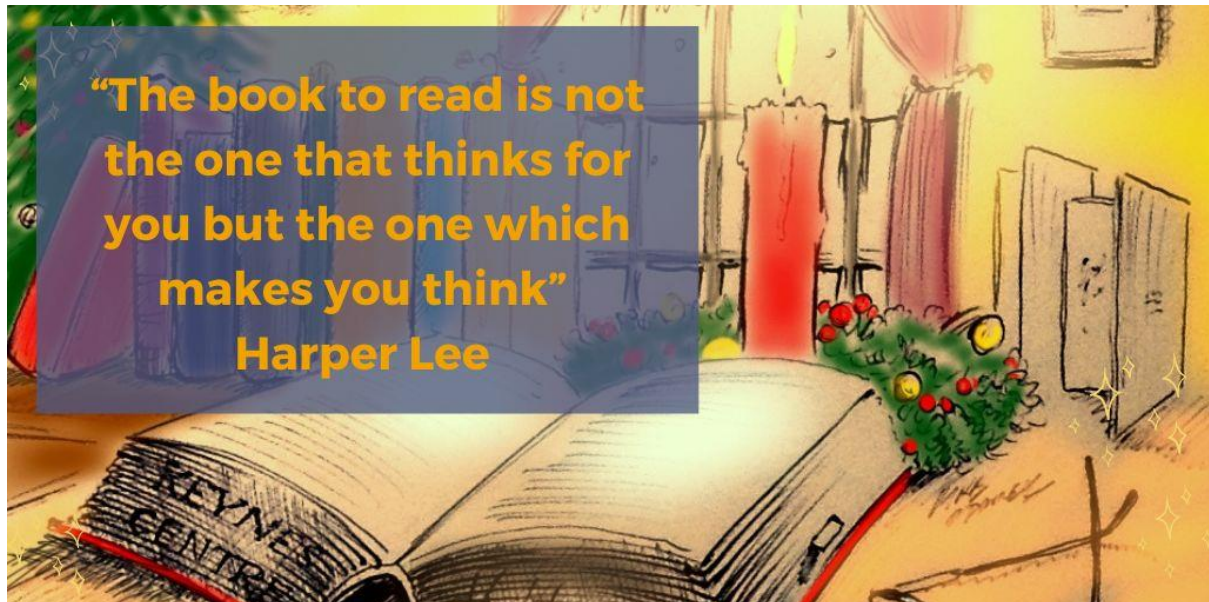


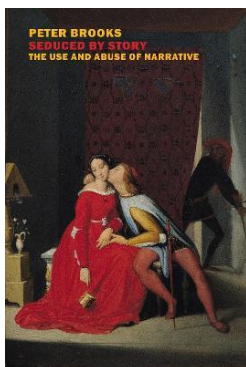


The Keynes Centre
TRANSFORMING HOW YOU THINK



The Keynes Centre's Annual Reading List

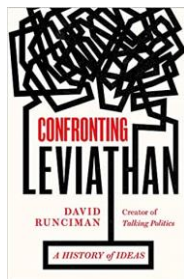
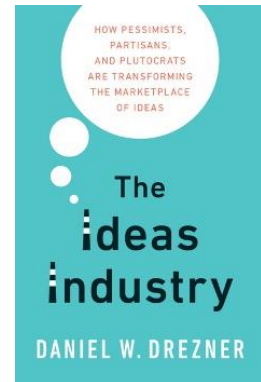
In **The Keynes Centre's** annual reading list, we are focusing on non-fiction, as there is plenty of attention given to fiction, and books that we can vouch for personally from our reading. You can also [listen](#) to our recommendation list on Spotify. It's a short listen, so it's perfect for your coffee break or your commute to work. It will give you some good ideas for gifts for your loved ones and for your own reading.



The idea that life and just about everything else is a story to be told and lived has taken hold in all domains of life from business to politics. We are told everyone has a story and it's all about the story. We are immersed in narratives. Peter Brooks in *Seduced by Story: The Use and Abuse of Narrative* (New York Review Books, 2022) critiques the abuse of this idea that narrative is the only form of knowledge and speech that regulates human affairs. The

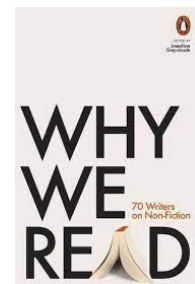
author of the classic *Reading for the Plot* (Vintage Books, 1985) seeks to bring a balance with other forms of presentation and understanding given their due.

In a similar vein, Daniel Dresner in *The Ideas Industry: How Pessimists, Partisans, and Plutocrats are Transforming the Marketplace of Ideas* (Oxford University Press, 2017) analyses the evolution of 'the market for ideas' into the 'Ideas Industry' and its consequences for thinking today. If you agree that how we think is the crisis of our time, then this is an essential reading to see how the pervasive and perverse phenomenon of thought leadership has come to dominate the public conversation.



Pushing further into the realm of thinking about political life today is David Runciman's *Confronting Leviathan: A History of Ideas* (Profile Books, 2022) in which the relationship between citizens and rulers is explored through the ideas of twelve thinkers. The topics covered in these short essays include the state, liberty, democracy and the market as well as sexual politics and sexual oppression.

The [Keynes Centre](#) has pioneered Reading for Transformation and so we always find it interesting to see what people have to say about their reading and their approach to reading. The collection edited by Josephine Graywoode, *Why We Read: Seventy Writers on Non-Fiction* (Penguin Books, 2022), brings together a diverse range of ideas on why we read non-fiction with implications for how we think in these short pieces of reflection.

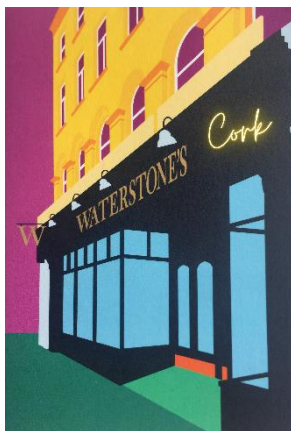
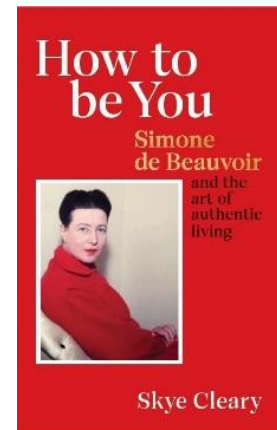


The times we are in demand we attend to how we think in the context of the noisy world in which we live today with its consequences for our attention spans and our reading habits. A useful type of book is the one which pulls together

diverse research into a common theme for us to access a range of ideas we otherwise might not come across. We mention three recent ones and their titles and subtitles

convey what they are about: Susie Algere, *Freedom to Think: The Long Struggle to Liberate Our Minds* (Atlantic Books, 2022); Jessica Nordell, *The End of Bias: How We Change Our Minds* (Granta, 2021); and Jay Van Bavel and Dominic J. Packer, *The Power of Us: Harnessing Our Shared Identities for Personal and Collective Success* (Wildfire, 2021).

Finally, Skye Cleary's *How To Be You: Simone de Beauvoir and the Art of Authentic Living* (Ebury Press, 2022) tackles the much thrown around term 'authenticity' and the now cliched instruction to 'just be yourself'. Drawing on the existential philosophy of the famous feminist writer Simone de Beauvoir, Cleary outlines the different challenges we face in taking responsibility for ourselves and our choices at different stages of our lives and in our different relationships and helps us face our reality and ourselves not only with bravery but also determination.



Please support good bookshops based locally. We recommend our TKC Partners Waterstones, Cork whose excellent staff will look after you. Waterstones usually has many of the above items in stock and, if not, will get what you want with the best of service.

Happy reading!

© The Keynes Centre, University College Cork, Ireland. Do not copy or circulate without permission.

Fair Use Statement: This material is placed online to further the developmental purpose, role, and goals of The Keynes Centre at University College Cork, Ireland. Unless otherwise stated in the copyright information, this material may be used free of charge for personal developmental purposes provided the source is clearly shown as The Keynes Centre, University College Cork, Ireland. It may not be used commercially or in any way for profit or any form of remuneration. Do not copy or circulate without permission.