



Cosmic Blueprint: New Discoveries In Natures Ability To Order Universe

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In this critically acclaimed book, first published in 1988 and now reprinted in paperback, scientist and author Paul Davies explains how recent scientific advances are transforming our understanding of the emergence of complexity and organization in the universe.

Melding a variety of ideas and disciplines from biology, fundamental physics, computer science, mathematics, genetics, and neurology, Davies presents his provocative theory on the source of the universe's creative potency. He explores the new paradigm (replacing the centuries-old Newtonian view of the universe) that recognizes the collective and holistic properties of physical systems and the power of self-organization. He casts the laws in physics in the role of a "blueprint," embodying a grand cosmic scheme that progressively unfolds as the universe develops.

Challenging the viewpoint that the physical universe is a meaningless collection particles, he finds overwhelming evidence for an underlying purpose: "Science may explain all the processes whereby the universe evolves its own destiny, but that still leaves room for there to be a meaning behind existence."

Cosmic Blueprint: New Discoveries In Natures Ability To Order Universe Details

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Dariusz says

Póki autor trzyma? si? fizyki, chemii czy astronomii to jeszcze pisa? z sensem. Jak zabra? si? do snucia teorii na temat biologii, ewolucji, ?wiadomo?ci to zup??nie przesta?y si? trzyma? kupy.

Gary says

The Good,

- 1) Davies explains physics and philosophy better than any one,
- 2) The chapter on entropy is one of the best I've ever heard,
- 3) The philosophy of the approaches to science from atomism, reductionism and the teleologic of Aristotle is explained in accessible ways for the non-philosopher and are put in proper context,
- 4) Determinism and randomness of physics are completely explored and expertly explained,
- 5) Gives good explanation on chaos theory,
- 6) You will have learned something you didn't know by listening.

The Bad,

- 1) The book is dated. Originally published 1988. No Dark Energy. Inflation Theory becomes more developed after book is published,
- 2) His holistic approach is not believable to me,
- 3) He does not take evolution as a fact. Books by Dawkins, Robert Wright, and E.O. Wilson have drilled in to me that evolution is a fact,
- 4) When he speculates on what will possibly come to pass, it hasn't,
- 5) The process of formation of galaxies is much better understood today than when the book was originally published,
- 6) Hard to follow some of the math and charts while listening,
- 7) Very hard to follow his Cellular Automation explanation just by listening. Look up rule110 on wiki before listening and that will make it easier to follow.

Overall,

Book is dated. He explains science and philosophy better than anyone. He has strong opinions for his pet theories, but he is incredibly fair and presents all sides. I love reading Paul Davies and I wish Audible had more of his books.

Gendou says

WARNING: THIS BOOK CONTAINS DENIAL OF DARWINIAN EVOLUTION!!!

If this is offensive to you, consider not reading this book.

If this is not offensive to you, read a book by Richard Dawkins!

This book is pretty trashy. Davies actually writes, "space sucks so hard, anti-gravity wins out..."

He also speculates on the possibility of creating a baby universe in the lab. I start to worry this book contains a lot of "fringe science" (read: bullcrap).

The first chapter is full of god this and religion that. Get yer religion out of my science book arrrrg!

Instead of using the actual physics words like "entropy" Davies uses watered down phrases like "creative potency". This practice, and also that of avoiding scientific notation by repeating "billion" or "billionth of a" over and over, are lowest common denominator and awful. It makes me cry.

He supports his claim of a "Cosmic Blueprint" or pre-determinism by citing Christianity and even animism. Seriously. Animism. That's so 18th century!

There is a chapter on complexity in mathematics (chaos theory, fractals, cellular automata) which is decent.

The next chapter is on biology. This is where the book shows it's age!

The argument in this chapter is that reductionism does not satisfactorily explain the development of an embryo. He actually suggests that the information stored in DNA is not sufficient to explain the morphogenesis!

He even presents one of Rupert Sheldrake's crackpot ideas about DNA as a "receiver" (as opposed to storage) and of information. Ridiculous garbage.

The chapter progresses by introducing Darwinism and more radical skepticism. Davies puts forth the laughable (and frighteningly backwards) claim that "chance alone is hopelessly inadequate to account for the richness of the biosphere". Ewwwww... just typing that makes me feel stupider. This guy seriously needs to read some books by Richard Dawkins! My word.

Gy says

"The religion of the future will be a cosmic religion. It should transcend personal God and avoid dogma and theology. Covering both the natural and the spiritual, it should be based on a religious sense arising from the experience of all things natural and spiritual as a meaningful unity."

AE

Despite the critics, the fact is that this book is about TOE! This is Mr. Davis' successful trial to embrace all that mainstream science knows about the realm of our existence, and all possible and impossible theories that have derived from that existing knowledge of humanity, around 1988 - when his book was published. (Atheist, and theist too! This is real gold mine for you!)

The chapters lead us through human puzzle of universe, about early basics confronting Aristotelian teleological view with the atomic theory of that of Democritus in trying to answer the eternal unanswered questions: Is there predeterminism or all we perceive is just a play of crazy atoms jiggling around since the Big Bang? To turn it otherwise, all the story is about our worry of our own significance: Are we divine creatures with deep significance or we are just a kind of thermonuclear waste?

What I loved is the author's powerful language precision and his strict semantic hygiene! I saw physics explained on some different way of that I use to! A very very important value I've gained from this book! Yes, I agree there is a kind of denial of Darwinian evolution, there are claims arriving from the deepest places of metaphysics, but if not take them too seriously, the beauty of this book is in author's skills to lead

us sometimes through fiction in book that will still retains its scientific character at the end of reading. To be honest I like to fly with the imagination, and there is nothing wrong with it, as long as one is able to keep control of that flight and land on reality safely after every flight!

This is from those books that deserve to be read, and read again! Cheers!

Kinch says

This a ...not-bad book. It's frustrating because there are some really interesting ideas in here, but the book is poorly structured and Davies' writing style is pretty soporific. Whereas someone like Oliver Sacks brings new and difficult ideas to life and make them a joy to discover, Davies seems to just go with his first draft and hope the content is interesting enough to get at least a three-star rating. In which, I suppose, he is right.

3 stars.

Phil Lawless says

There is a lot of hand waving in this book about additional laws growing out of increasing levels of complexity. Yet the possibility remains that the presence of creative human beings can be the foundation of such additions.

Peter Lehu says

Very interesting read that challenges neo-darwinism and argues that there are laws of increasing complexity in nature that are independent from yet complement Newtonian physics and natural selection in the evolution of matter and life. Some of it was over my head and some of it I need to reread. The last few chapters are very persuasive on the concept of downward causation--that macro-level natural laws can dictate the behavior of matter on the micro-level and may be just as fundamental to the universe as the standard laws of physics.
