EDGE TOOLS IN A DIGITAL AGE
A Three Part Series

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From de Tocqueville’s Volcano to Today’s White Water World

Designed by
John Seely Brown and Ann Pendleton-Jullian

Featuring
Yochai Benkler and David Krakauer

New York Public Library  SSRC
Yochai Benkler is the Berkman Professor of Entrepreneurial Legal Studies at Harvard Law School, and faculty co-director of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University. Since the 1990s he has played a role in characterizing the role of information commons and decentralized collaboration to innovation, information production, and freedom in the networked economy and society. His books include The Wealth of Networks: How social production transforms markets and freedom (Yale University Press 2006) and The Penguin and the Leviathan: How Cooperation Triumphs over Self-Interest (2011).

David Krakauer is President and William H. Miller Professor of Complex Systems at the Santa Fe Institute. David’s research explores the evolution of intelligence on earth. This includes studying the evolution of genetic, neural, linguistic, social and cultural mechanisms supporting memory and information processing, and exploring their shared properties. David served as the founding Director of the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery, the Co-Director of the Center for Complexity and Collective Computation, and Professor of Mathematical Genetics, all at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. David has been a visiting fellow at the Genomics Frontiers Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, a Sage Fellow at the Sage Center for the Study of the Mind at the University of Santa Barbara, a long-term Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and visiting Professor of Evolution at Princeton University. In 2012 Dr. Krakauer was included in the Wired Magazine Smart List as one of 50 people “who will change the World.” In 2016 Krakauer was included in Entrepreneur Magazine’s visionary Leaders advancing global research and business.

John Seely Brown is the Independent Co-Chairman of the Deloitte LLP Center for the Edge and a visiting scholar and advisor to the Provost at the University of Southern California. He was the Chief Scientist of Xerox Corporation until April 2002 as well as the director of the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) until June 2000. His new book, Design Unbound, is co-authored with Ann Pendleton-Jullian. JSB is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Education, a Fellow of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence, and serves on numerous private and public boards of directors, including Amazon, and has been a trustee for nonprofits including the MacArthur Foundation and In-Q-tel. He currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Social Science Research Council.

Ann Pendleton-Jullian is a Professor of Architecture at the Knowlton School and Distinguished Visiting Professor at Georgetown University. Her work explores the interchange between culture, environment, and technology and spans from architectural projects to new models for the future of the university. From 2007-2010 she served as Director of the Knowlton School of Architecture. Prior to Ohio State, Pendleton-Jullian was a tenured professor at MIT for fourteen years. Pendleton-Jullian’s new book, Design Unbound, with co-author John Seely Brown, presents a new tool set for designing within complex systems and on complex problems endemic to the 21st century.
The New York Public Library has been an essential provider of free books, information, ideas, and education for all New Yorkers for more than 100 years. Founded in 1895, NYPL is the nation’s largest public library system, featuring a unique combination of 88 neighborhood branches and four scholarly research centers, bringing together an extraordinary richness of resources and opportunities available to all. Serving 20 million patrons a year, and millions more online, the Library holds millions of items, from books, e-books, and DVDs to renowned research collections used by scholars from around the world.

The Social Science Research Council was founded in 1923 by visionaries in the fledgling fields of anthropology, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and statistics. The Council was shaped by the need to cross the boundaries that separated these disciplines from each other, university scholarship from public affairs, and the social sciences from the humanities and the natural sciences. For more than ninety years, the SSRC has navigated these borders, emerging as both a pivotal force in the academy and a respected contributor to the public good. Today, the Council’s work remains focused on enhancing the capacity of scholars and institutions and on building research networks that cross regions and disciplines to produce and communicate new knowledge.

This “Edge Tools in A Digital Age” series is closely aligned with the SSRC’s program on Digital Culture, which explores how digital transformations are reshaping scholarly knowledge.