



## Steven Levitt

AUTHOR · ECONOMIST · TED SPEAKER

Bestselling Author, Freakonomics Series

VISIT STEVEN'S WEBSITE

### About:

- **Gender:** Male
- **Nationality:** United States
- **Languages:** English
- **Travels from:** United States

### Engagement Types:

- Speaking

### Topics:

- Customer Analytics
- Future Skills
- Innovation & Digital Transformation
- Leadership & Management

### Websites:

- [Website](#)

## Biography Highlights

- Co-Founder, Spin For Good
- William B. Ogden Distinguished Service Professor of Economics - University of Chicago
- Director, Becker Center on Chicago Price Theory - University of Chicago, Booth School of Business

## Biography

When mild-mannered economist Steven D. Levitt published a paper linking a rise in abortion to a drop in crime, it set off a firestorm of controversy and had both the conservatives and liberals up in arms. But Levitt has no political agenda and is the last person to be called a moralist. He is a brilliant but uncomplicated man who uses simple questions to reach startling conclusions. The Wall Street Journal has said "If Indiana Jones were an economist, he'd be Steven Levitt," he has shown other economists just how well their tools can make sense of the real world.

Steven Levitt is a tenured professor in the University of Chicago's economics department (he received tenure after only two years) and was the 2003 recipient of the American Economic Association's prestigious John Bates Clark Medal, given to the country's best economist under 40.

When Stephen Dubner (co-author of Freakonomics, SuperFreakonomics,

Think Like A Freak and When To Rob a Bank) profiled Levitt in The New York Times Magazine, he was beset by questions, queries, riddles and requests—from General Motors and the New York Yankees and U.S. senators but also from prisoners and parents and a man who sold bagels. A former Tour de France champion called him to ask his help in proving that the current Tour is rife with doping; the CIA wanted to know how Levitt might use data to catch terrorists.

Originally published in the U.S. in 2005, Freakonomics instantly became a cultural phenomenon. Hailed by critics and readers alike, it went on to spend more than eight years on The New York Times bestseller list, having sold more than seven million copies around the world, in more than 40 countries. Levitt and Dubner have appeared widely on television and maintain the popular Freakonomics blog, which can be found on The New York Times website. Through forceful storytelling and wry insight, Levitt shows how economics is, at root, the study of incentives— that is, how people get what they want, or need, especially when other people want or need the same thing. Freakonomics showed that the modern world, despite a great deal of complexity and downright deceit, is not impenetrable, is not unknowable, and—if the right questions are asked—is even more intriguing than we think. All it takes is a new way of looking.

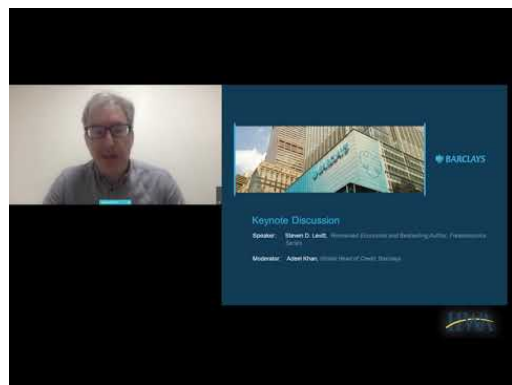
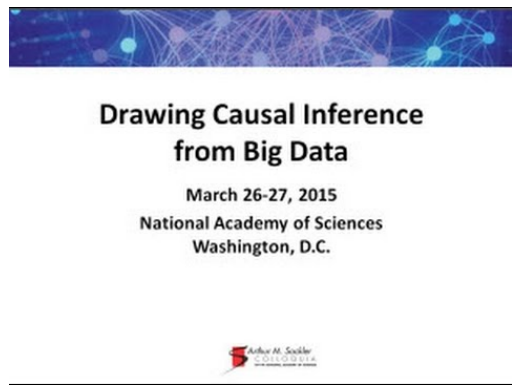
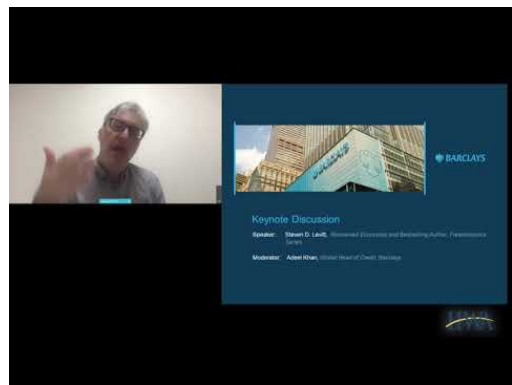
A book that was even bolder, funnier, and more surprising than the first, SuperFreakonomics retained that off-kilter sensibility (comparing, for instance, the relative dangers of driving while drunk versus walking while drunk) but also tackled a host of issues at the very center of modern society: terrorism, global warming, altruism, and more. Released in October 2010, the illustrated edition of SuperFreakonomics employed photographs, drawings, and graphs that led readers to see the world in a bold, fresh way.

Levitt's third book with Dubner, Think Like A Freak, was released in May 2014 and also became an instant New York Times bestseller. Their latest book is called When To Rob A Bank and was released in May 2015.

Steven Levitt has an enormous curiosity and is set on course by personal experiences and the incongruities he sees in everyday life. He is an intuitionist. He sifts through a pile of data to find a story that no one else has found and devises ways to measure an effect that veteran economists have declared un-measurable.

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## Videos



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## Steven's Topics

### **Author Talk: 'Freakonomics' Franchise**

Each idea presented by Steven Levitt of Freakonomics illustrates a story or example, providing audiences with illuminating thoughts for profitable thinking. With a trademark blend of captivating storytelling and unconventional analysis, Levitt takes us inside his process and teach us all to think a bit more productively, more creatively, more rationally—to think, that is, like a Freak.

Information on book buys and signings available upon request.

**Available:** In person, Virtually

### **How to Think Like a Freak**

Tailored to your industry interest, preeminent economist Steven Levitt aims to provide insights specific to the marketplace, elucidating his opinion on risks of the future and the best practices for today. By sharing the stories the data is telling, Levitt educates audiences on the latest cases and research relevant to their organization.

**Available:** In person, Virtually

### **Freakonomics: Business & Management**

In this engaging presentation, economist Steven Levitt addresses the fact that the old rules of business just don't apply anymore. It's a new world, and that demands a new way of thinking. Levitt offers audiences a method for digging beneath the surface of modern business practices to address what good management looks like today.

**Available:** In person, Virtually

### **Freakonomics: The Power of Incentive**

Using humor and first-rate storytelling, Steven Levitt discusses the sort of topics that are on every businessperson's mind these days: the ways to create behavior change, the incentives that work and don't work, and the value of asking unpopular questions.

**Available:** In person, Virtually

## **Testimonials**



The session was fantastic, the line for autographs was crazy long and we've gotten rave reviews for

the luncheon... we are thrilled.

*Microsoft*

“

Steven Levitt put forth surprising explanations for the reduction in crime in New York city in the 1990s, and he made the compelling arguments to back them up. The content of his talk was fascinating and his presentation was dynamic.

*TED*

“

Thank you so much for participating in NeoCon World's Trade Fair. It was a pleasure hosting you and your program was excellent.

*NeoCon World's Trade Fair, NeoCon East*

“

The event went fantastically well. Dr. Levitt had a full-house captivated audience who more than once were rolling in their seats in laughter. He is a class act and a very modest man! We were privileged to host him.

*York University*

“

Steven Levitt was great. He drew a huge crowd of almost 900!

*CLSA Ltd.*

“

We would like to thank you for recommending Steve Levitt as a speaker. He was fantastic! He captured the audience and spoke about relevant yet off-the-beaten path topics. He was quite a draw. We hope to work with your agency in the near future.

*Lipper*

“

Steven Levitt was great! I could tell the students were very excited to have him on campus. The tickets for the event sold out very quickly and there was a long line at the door with students that didn't get tickets in time. Overall the show was a huge success. The students were very pleased to have him on campus and I think that he was much funnier than many of the comedians that we have previously brought in. Thanks for helping us with this event. It was a blast and thoroughly enjoyed by many students.

*Northwestern University*

“

We received numerous compliments about your remarks from our attendees, well over 500 participants. Your message was thought-provoking and provided a challenge to the HR profession. We applaud the valuable work that you are doing. Thanks again for contributing to a great experience for our Conference participants.

*Society for Human Resource Management*

“

[Levitt's and Dubner's] presentation was a big hit with our audience. They were able to deepen our

insight into why people do what they do — with wonderful humor and engaging style. Both Mr. Dubner and Mr. Levitt were also a pleasure to work with, and we appreciated the time they spent talking to our participants and meeting with our media representatives.

*ASTD International*

“

We very much enjoyed Levitt and Dubner’s presentation. Our attendees gave very enthusiastic feedback and it was a great end to our day long conference. Our end of the day attendee retention was the best it has ever been, as everyone wanted to stay for the Freakonomics presentation.

*Buck Consultants, An ACS Company*

“

Steven Levitt has spoken to University of Chicago alumni in cities across the country —always to capacity crowds; always to rave reviews. His unconventional and highly creative take on real world economics yields new and unexpected truths about our society. And his lucid, lively lectures are both entertaining and provocative.

*University of Chicago*

“

Steven Levitt’s speech went over very well! He was so conscientious and eager to please.

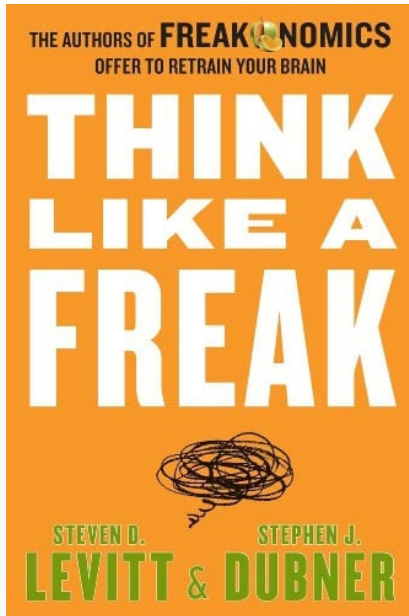
*Mid-State Federal Credit Union*

“

Levitt and Dubner spoke to capacity crowds and couldn’t have been more accommodating. They had to do two different programs, one of which was an honors seminar, which was very exciting with lots of probing questions. They completely sold out the evening lecture.

*Ohio State University*

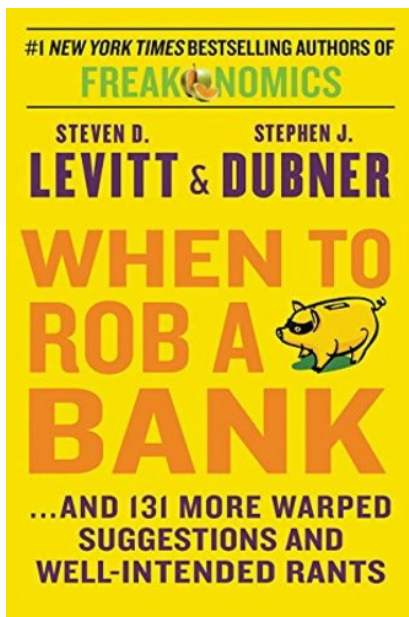
## **Books**



## Think Like a Freak: The Authors of Freakonomics Offer to Retrain Your Brain

The New York Times bestselling Freakonomics changed the way we see the world, exposing the hidden side of just about everything. Then came SuperFreakonomics, a documentary film, an award-winning podcast, and more. Now, with Think Like a Freak, Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner have written their most revolutionary book yet. With their trademark blend of captivating storytelling and unconventional analysis, they take us inside their thought process and teach us all to think a bit more productively, more creatively, more rationally—to think, that is, like a Freak. Levitt and Dubner offer a blueprint for an entirely new way to solve problems, whether your interest lies in minor lifehacks or major global reforms. As always, no topic is off-limits. They range from business to philanthropy to sports to politics, all with the goal of retraining your brain. Along the way, you'll learn the secrets of a Japanese hot-dog-eating champion, the reason an Australian doctor swallowed a batch of dangerous bacteria, and why Nigerian e-mail scammers make a point of saying they're from Nigeria.

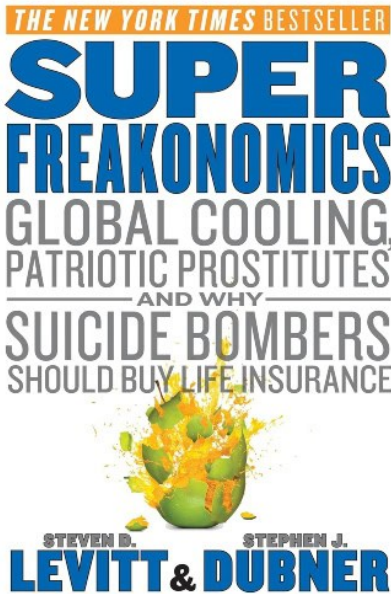
[BUY THE BOOK](#)



## When to Rob a Bank...And 131 More Warped Suggestions and Well-Intended Rants

Why don't flight attendants get tipped? If you were a terrorist, how would you attack? And why does KFC always run out of fried chicken? Over the past decade, Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner have published more than 8,000 blog posts on Freakonomics.com. Now the very best of this writing has been carefully curated into one volume, the perfect solution for the millions of readers who love all things Freakonomics.

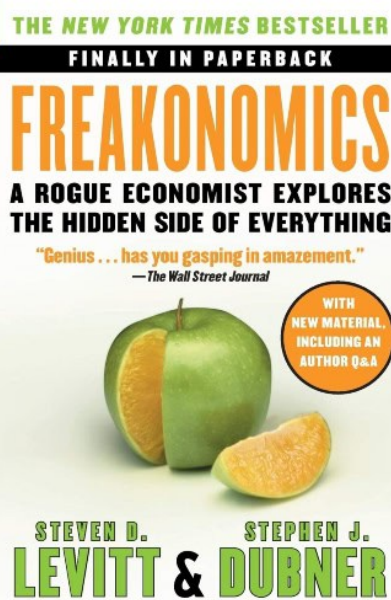
[BUY THE BOOK](#)



## SuperFreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance

Freakonomics lived on the New York Times bestseller list for an astonishing two years. Now authors Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner return with more iconoclastic insights and observations in SuperFreakonomics—the long awaited follow-up to their New York Times Notable blockbuster. Based on revolutionary research and original studies SuperFreakonomics promises to once again challenge our view of the way the world really works.

[BUY THE BOOK](#)



## Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything

Which is more dangerous, a gun or a swimming pool? What do schoolteachers and sumo wrestlers have in common? How much do parents really matter? These may not sound like typical questions for an economist to ask. But Steven D. Levitt is not a typical economist. He studies the riddles of everyday life—from cheating and crime to parenting and sports—and reaches conclusions that turn conventional wisdom on its head. Freakonomics is a groundbreaking collaboration between Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, an award-winning author and journalist. They set out to explore the inner workings of a crack gang, the truth about real estate agents, the secrets of the Ku Klux Klan, and much more. Through forceful storytelling and wry insight, they show that economics is, at root, the study of incentives—how people get what they want or need, especially when other people want or need the same thing.

[BUY THE BOOK](#)

## Speaker Bureaus And Talent Agencies

Steven Levitt is available to book via these agencies

✓ Recommended



Speaking Agency