Reviews and comments on publications by Geoff Mulgan

When Science Meets Power (Polity Press, 2023/24): As governments grapple with pandemics, climate change and artificial intelligence, anti-science populism and existential risk, how should the relationship between politics and science be reframed? This book shows the complex history of states’ use of science for conquest, glory and economic growth and how they coped with governing risk – from nuclear weapons to genetic modification. It shows why the governance of science has become one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century and offers prescriptions for the future.

‘Groundbreaking … Geoff Mulgan masterfully dissects the complex dance between science, technology, and power, exposing perilous gaps in oversight. Essential reading for all who care about steering technology for the greater good, "When Science Meets Power" brims with radical insights to fuse the strengths of science and democracy.’ Azeem Azhar, author of The Exponential Age

"Geoff Mulgan shows us how we got to a point where science and politics seem increasingly at odds - and how we can come to a healthier understanding of the role of science to inform policy." Eric Schmidt, former CEO and Chairman of Google

‘A great contribution to the science-policy debate! A must-read for anyone who is involved in policymaking for science or in science for policymaking. And a good read too ...’ Caroline Nevejan, Chief Scientist, City of Amsterdam

‘An important read for all those interested in how the relationships between politicians, bureaucracies and science need to evolve.’ Sir Peter Gluckman, President of the International Science Council, former President International Network of Government Science Advice
Another World is Possible, Hurst/OUP (2022): an analysis of the crisis of political and social imagination and how it can be resolved.

‘Fizzes with ideas ... very exciting’ Adrian Wooldridge, Washington Post; ‘Important...if we struggle even to imagine a better future, we will be unable to create it.’

Gideon Rachman, Financial Times, Best New Political Books; ‘A manifesto for creativity, and for thinking big’

Rachel Cunliffe, New Statesman; ‘This book is the tonic the world needs.... Read it!’ — Professor Anne-Marie Slaughter, CEO, New America; ‘We desperately need to renew our sense of what is possible and imagine the future in ways that are simultaneously creative, open and practical. This wonderful, eclectic and deeply interesting book is crammed with ideas of just how we might do so. If you care about where we’re headed, you must read this.’ — Professor Rebecca Henderson, Harvard Business School, author of ‘Reimagining Capitalism in a World on Fire’; ‘A dizzying cornucopia of cases for imagination mattering more than rote learning and political orthodoxy....this is an inspiring call for a more imaginative tomorrow.’ — Professor Danny Dorling, University of Oxford, author of Slowdown and Peak Inequality; ‘Geoff Mulgan reminds us that we can imagine and create change, not just fix what is broken. His book offers hope and the power of possibility.’ — Sonal Shah, former Director of Social Innovation & Civic Participation, Obama Administration, and Executive Director of the Beeck Center, Georgetown University; ‘There is wisdom & insight in this book on how governing can have broader and more ambitious horizons’ Pascal Donohue, Ireland’s Finance Minister and chair of Eurogroup, in the Irish Times
Social innovation: how societies find the power to change (Policy Press, 2019): a comprehensive guide to the theory and practice of social innovation in all its forms – in civil society, social movements, government and business - covering topics from policy to measurement, scaling to culture. "A bold, inspiring book that will leave you smarter, more inspired, and ready to improve the world." Kriss Deiglmeier, CEO Tides, former director Stanford University Center for Social Innovation; “Based on the vast experience and insightful expertise of Geoff Mulgan, this book not only discusses the potential and limits of social innovation but, more importantly, showcases how all sectors can best embed its principles to address the most pressing challenges of our century.” Isabel Mota, President of Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. ‘This book gives a wide audience what some of us have been privileged to hear from Mulgan in person: the reflections of a profound thinker who is charting new territory in social innovation, demonstrating how we can rise to the most complex challenges of our era." Stephen Huddart, President & CEO, the McConnell Foundation. "Mulgan’s wide-ranging vision and extensive experience are on display in this tour of the prospects and challenges facing social innovators. Enjoy the ride!" Professor Mark Moore, Harvard University.

Big Mind: how collective intelligence can change our world (Princeton University Press, 2017): a wide-ranging account of intelligence at scale, combining novel theoretical perspectives and their application to fields including democracy, economies and education. ‘Fascinating and important’ (Financial Times) ‘Brilliant’ (Kirkus Reviews, starred) ‘Important ... a sophisticated analysis of the various human and computational forms of collective intelligence.’ (Professor Howard Gardner, Harvard University); ‘important, wide-ranging .... inspiring and should be read by all citizens’ (Lord Martin Rees, former President of the Royal Society and Astronomer-Royal) ‘The book the world needs – magnificent’ (Jeremy Heimans, author of New Power); ‘Big Mind brims with pragmatic, unexpected insights. Mulgan filters his awe-inspiring breadth of academic knowledge through the lens of decades of practical experience’ (Professor Scott Page, University of Michigan)
The Locust and the Bee: predators and creators in capitalism’s future (Princeton University Press, 2013): a diagnosis of the nature of capitalism, how to think about value, power and change, and proposals for the evolution of economies beyond capitalism.

‘Bursts with intelligence’ (Book of the Year, New Statesman); ‘a handbook for practical visionaries, written by one of them’ (Professor Roberto Mangabeira Unger, Harvard); ‘extraordinary … challenges us to find the best in ourselves and in the systems that provide the hope for human flourishing’ (John DeGioia, President of Georgetown University); ‘Important … imaginative, erudite, wise’ (Anne-Marie Slaughter, Princeton University); ‘Abounds with arresting observations…no one will finish the book without having learned something new and important’ (Professor John Gray, New Statesman).

The Art of Public Strategy (Oxford University Press, 2009): a definitive guide to how governments can achieve profound long-term change.

‘Deep insights into the politics of change …. and impressive creativity in the design of new social institutions’ (Professor Rosabeth Moss Kanter, Harvard Business School); ‘A wonderful book that can provide invaluable guidance.’ (Professor Mark Moore, Kennedy School, Harvard University); ‘Riveting …fizzing with insights and ideas…. a ‘must read’ for anyone interested in strategic choice and action in government’ (Professor Colin Talbot, Manchester University); ‘Bold … intelligent, well-argued and challenging’ (Peter Shergold, head of Australian public service).
Good and Bad Power: the ideals and betrayals of government (Penguin 2006): a global and historical account of morality and power in the life of governments. ‘Terrific’ (Professor Alan Ryan, Oxford University, Prospect); ‘dazzling’ (Peter Preston, the Observer); ‘a classic... a masterwork that will endure’ (Professor Peter Hennessy, Queen Mary University of London; ‘blisteringly good’ (Nicola Barr in the Guardian); ‘written for citizens rather than policy wonks, his ideas connect to the real world and inspire trust’ (Professor Richard Sennett, MIT and LSE).

Connexity: how to live in a connected world (Harvard Business Press and Jonathon Cape, 1998): an extended essay on the impact of the Internet on politics, societies, economies and power, and how we need to think and act in an interdependent world. ‘A brilliant book....’ (Robert Cooper, Prospect); ‘Endlessly fascinating... a supremely adult book... it will be read long after much of today’s fashionable literature on politics has been forgotten’ (Professor Vernon Bogdanor, Oxford University, in International Affairs)

Politics in an Antipolitical Age (Polity, 1994): a series of essays on the changing shape of politics, predicting and analysing the rise of anti-political movements and ideas. ‘A profoundly interesting book, addressing the crisis of contemporary politics with a depth of insight and a breadth of vision sadly lacking in most of our current ‘political writing’ (Times Literary Supplement); ‘Subtle, profound and pioneering’ (Times Higher Education Supplement).

These books have been translated into many languages including French, German, Italian, Hungarian, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Malay, Arabic, Urdu, Russian, Turkish, Romanian, and Greek. Geoff’s website is geoff.mulgan.com and his twitter handle is @geoffmulgan