

The Cunning of Uncertainty

By Helga Nowotny

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Cunning of Uncertainty By Helga Nowotny

Uncertainty is interwoven into human existence. It is a powerful incentive in the search for knowledge and an inherent component of scientific research. We have developed many ways of coping with uncertainty. We make promises, manage risks and make predictions to try to clear the mists and predict ahead. But the future is inherently uncertain - and the mist that shrouds our path an inherent part of our journey. The burning question is whether our societies can face up to uncertainty, learn to embrace it and whether we can open up to a constantly evolving future.

In this new book, Helga Nowotny shows how research can thrive at the cusp of uncertainty. Science, she argues, can eventually transform uncertainty into certainty, but into certainty which remains always provisional.

Uncertainty is never completely static. It is constantly evolving. It encompasses geological time scales and, at the level of human experience, split-second changes as cells divide. Life and death decisions are taken in the blink of the eye, while human interactions with the natural environment may reveal their impact over millennia.

Uncertainty is cunning. It appears at unexpected moments, it shuns the straight line, takes the oblique route and sometimes the unexpected short-cut. As we acknowledge the cunning of uncertainty, its threats retreat. We accept that any scientific inquiry must produce results that are provisional and uncertain. This message is vital for politicians and policy-makers: do not be tempted by small, short-term, controllable gains to the exclusion of uncertain, high-gain opportunities.

Wide-ranging in its use of examples and enriched by the author's experience as President of the European Research Council, one of the world's leading funding organisations for fundamental research. *The Cunning of Uncertainty* is a must-read for students and scholars of all disciplines, politicians, policy-makers and anyone concerned with the fundamental role of knowledge and science in our societies today.

 [**Download** The Cunning of Uncertainty ...pdf](#)

 [**Read Online** The Cunning of Uncertainty ...pdf](#)

The Cunning of Uncertainty

By Helga Nowotny

The Cunning of Uncertainty By Helga Nowotny

Uncertainty is interwoven into human existence. It is a powerful incentive in the search for knowledge and an inherent component of scientific research. We have developed many ways of coping with uncertainty. We make promises, manage risks and make predictions to try to clear the mists and predict ahead. But the future is inherently uncertain - and the mist that shrouds our path an inherent part of our journey. The burning question is whether our societies can face up to uncertainty, learn to embrace it and whether we can open up to a constantly evolving future.

In this new book, Helga Nowotny shows how research can thrive at the cusp of uncertainty. Science, she argues, can eventually transform uncertainty into certainty, but into certainty which remains always provisional.

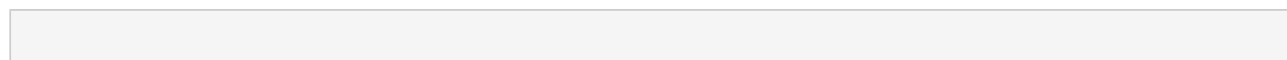
Uncertainty is never completely static. It is constantly evolving. It encompasses geological time scales and, at the level of human experience, split-second changes as cells divide. Life and death decisions are taken in the blink of the eye, while human interactions with the natural environment may reveal their impact over millennia.

Uncertainty is cunning. It appears at unexpected moments, it shuns the straight line, takes the oblique route and sometimes the unexpected short-cut. As we acknowledge the cunning of uncertainty, its threats retreat. We accept that any scientific inquiry must produce results that are provisional and uncertain. This message is vital for politicians and policy-makers: do not be tempted by small, short-term, controllable gains to the exclusion of uncertain, high-gain opportunities.

Wide-ranging in its use of examples and enriched by the author's experience as President of the European Research Council, one of the world's leading funding organisations for fundamental research. *The Cunning of Uncertainty* is a must-read for students and scholars of all disciplines, politicians, policy-makers and anyone concerned with the fundamental role of knowledge and science in our societies today.

The Cunning of Uncertainty By Helga Nowotny Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #175126 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2016-01-19
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.60" h x .70" w x 5.70" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 220 pages



 [**Download** The Cunning of Uncertainty ...pdf](#)

 [**Read Online** The Cunning of Uncertainty ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Review

'Informed, eloquent and compelling.'

The Times Higher Education

'This is the most insightful, thorough reflection I have ever read on the most fundamental issue of our world: how to accept uncertainty and how to deal with it. This book has extraordinary implications for the practice and epistemology of science. A seminal work that will influence science policy in significant ways.'

Manuel Castells, University of Southern California

'With rapid advances in technology intersecting with human behaviour in unpredictable ways, how we approach issues surrounding uncertainty will inevitably impact every aspect of life. In this thought-provoking book, Professor Helga Nowotny brings unique perspectives on uncertainty from her extensive background as a scholar, policy maker and research administrator.'

Subra Suresh, President, Carnegie Mellon University

'This brilliant new book confirms Helga Nowotny as the voice of social science in an initially unsympathetic milieu, and its intellectual champion in her insistence that without understandings of and through society, understandings of and through science cannot flourish.'

Marilyn Strathern, University of Cambridge

'From tea leaves to necromancy, from betting to scientific research, Helga Nowotny's exploration of uncertainty is deep and wide, playful and practical in turn. But at the heart of the matter lies a serious imperative, dear to my heart, which is the business of finding out about the world and how it works.'

Tim Hunt, ERC Scientific Council

'In this splendid book, Helga Nowotny tackles the ever-elusive human desire to tame the future by considering how technology and innovation feed imagination and aspirations. Millennial dreams, science fiction, sustainability studies, economics, algorithms and genetics are the stuff that drives her analysis across an amazing array of fields and situations. Despite unrelenting randomness, she advocates that we embrace uncertainty, for this is essential for developing capabilities and social resilience.'

Michelle Lamont, Harvard University

'Nowotny's slim book is a big well of wisdom. You may find your sense of wonder refreshed if you locked in some time to drink deep from it.'

The Strait Times, Singapore

'Highly recommended to anybody with an interest in how humans fear, hope, and act upon the future.'

Mary Ann Liebert Publications

'Remarkable'

The American Historian

About the Author

Helga Nowotny is former President of the European Research Council and Professor Emerita of Social Studies of Science at ETH Zurich

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robin Millard:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important for us. The book *The Cunning of Uncertainty* was making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The reserve *The Cunning of Uncertainty* is not only giving you considerably more new information but also to get your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship with all the book *The Cunning of Uncertainty*. You never really feel lose out for everything should you read some books.

Richard Ybarra:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love *The Cunning of Uncertainty*, it is possible to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its called reading friends.

Ruby Martinez:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you, why because this *The Cunning of Uncertainty* book written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who read the book. Written within good manner for you, leaking every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still question *The Cunning of Uncertainty* as good book not just by the cover but also from the content. This is one publication that can break don't judge book by its protect, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your examining sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

Brianna Bell:

Within this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time little but quite enough to have a look at some books. On the list of books in the top list in your reading list is actually *The Cunning of Uncertainty*. This book and that is qualified as *The Hungry Hills* can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking upward and review this publication you can get many advantages.

**Download and Read Online The Cunning of Uncertainty By Helga
Nowotny #IJ7VAP30N15**

Read The Cunning of Uncertainty By Helga Nowotny for online ebook

The Cunning of Uncertainty By Helga Nowotny Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Cunning of Uncertainty By Helga Nowotny books to read online.

Online The Cunning of Uncertainty By Helga Nowotny ebook PDF download

The Cunning of Uncertainty By Helga Nowotny Doc

The Cunning of Uncertainty By Helga Nowotny Mobipocket

The Cunning of Uncertainty By Helga Nowotny EPub