

Stephen J. Dubner

- Bestselling Author, *FREAKONOMICS* and *SUPERFREAKONOMICS*
- *FREAKONOMICS* Spent Over 2 Years on *The New York Times* Bestseller List, With More Than 4 Million Copies Sold Worldwide
- Host of *FREAKONOMICS RADIO*
- Co-star, *FREAKONOMICS* Documentary
- The Popular *FREAKONOMICS* Blog is Hosted Exclusively on *The New York Times* Website

An award-winning author, journalist, and radio and TV personality, Stephen J. Dubner is the co-author of the international bestseller *FREAKONOMICS* and *SUPERFREAKONOMICS*. 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 two years on *The New York Times* bestseller list, having sold more than 4 million copies around the world, in more than 35 languages. Dubner and his co-author, the University of Chicago economist Steven Levitt, have appeared widely on television and maintain the popular *FREAKONOMICS* blog, which can be found on *The New York Times* website.

Mr. Dubner is also host of *FREAKONOMICS RADIO*, which includes radio, podcast, web, and live event programming imbued with the bestselling book's iconoclastic approach to everyday economics – an approach that has found new ways to catch terrorists (*hint*: they don't buy life insurance), and found the answers to questions such as, "Which is more dangerous: a gun or a swimming pool?" The audio content is available on-demand at www.freakonomicsradio.com, and on iTunes.

Released nationwide October 1st 2010, the feature-length *FREAKONOMICS* documentary is an anthology based on different chapters of the book, with the four segments each filmed by a different director and glued together with interstitial interviews of authors Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner. *Variety* calls the film "a revelatory trip into complex, innovative ideas and altered perspectives." On Sept. 3, Magnolia Pictures released the movie through video on demand, or VOD, and on iTunes before its scheduled theatrical release. *FREAKONOMICS* spent its first couple of weeks among the **Top 10 iTunes film downloads**.

FREAKONOMICS made the world safe to discuss the economics of crack cocaine and the impact of baby names. A book that is even bolder, funnier, and more surprising than the first, *SUPERFREAKONOMICS* retains that off-kilter sensibility (comparing, for instance, the relative dangers of driving while drunk versus walking while drunk) but also tackles a host of issues at the very center of modern society: terrorism, global warming, altruism, and more. From the rarefied corridors of academia to the grimmest street corners, Dubner and Levitt bring you stories inspired by engineers and astrophysicists, psychotic killers and emergency-room doctors, amateur historians and transgender neuroscientists. They address the topics in



this book with neither fear nor favor, letting numbers speak the truth. Levitt and Dubner don't take sides. The economic approach isn't meant to describe the world as any one of us might like it to be, or fear that it is, or pray that it becomes — but rather to explain what actually exists. Most of us want to fix or change the world in some fashion, however large or small. But in order to change the world, you first have to understand it. Believe it or not, if you can understand the incentives that lead a schoolteacher to cheat, you can understand how the subprime mortgage bubble came to pass. Released in October 2010, the illustrated edition of ***SUPERFREAKONOMICS*** employs photographs, drawings, and graphs that will lead readers to see the world in a bold, fresh way.

Through forceful storytelling and wry insight, Dubner 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*** and ***SUPERFREAKONOMICS*** show 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.

FREAKONOMICS and ***SUPERFREAKONOMICS*** are primarily based on the research of Steven Levitt, whom Dubner originally profiled for *The New York Times Magazine*. Dubner spent several years at the *Times* as an editor and writer, and has also written for *The New Yorker*, *Time*, and elsewhere. His journalism has been anthologized in *The Best American Sports Writing* and *The Best American Crime Writing*. He is the author of two previous bestselling books, *Choosing My Religion* and *Confessions of a Hero-Worshiper* as well as a children's book, *The Boy With Two Belly Buttons*.

He has been writing since he was a child; his first published work appeared in Highlights magazine. During college, he started a rock band that was signed to Arista Records. But he quit playing music to attend graduate school at Columbia University, where he also taught in the English Department. He still lives in New York with his wife, a former war photographer, and their two children.