

Short Author Biographies

Robert Aunger is Associate Professor in Evolutionary Public Health. He has a Masters in Urban Planning from the University of Southern California, a PhD in biological anthropology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and did post-doctoral work in psychology at the University of Chicago and King's College, Cambridge. He has published books on cultural evolution (with the Free Press and Oxford University Press), the evolution of human behaviour (with Oxford University Press), and ethnographic methods (with Altamira Press), as well as papers on hunter-gather nutrition and belief systems, genetic diversity, the psychology of motivation, the evolution of technology, and global history. He is the lead developer of a novel approach to behaviour change called 'Behaviour Centred Design' which has its origins in evolutionary biology, ecological psychology and commercial marketing. For over a decade, he has helped implement research- and large-scale public health projects in water, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition and HIV using this approach in multiple countries on the African and Asian continents, including designing creative materials for mass media and community activation.

Ken Baskin is an independent researcher whose work integrates insights from complexity science, neuro-anthropology, and big history. After earning a PhD in English Literature in 1977, he spent fifteen years writing public-relations material for major firms. His books include *Corporate DNA* (1998), an examination of how to think about organizations as living things rather than just mechanisms, and *The Axial Ages of World History* (2014), an exploration of the similarities between the Axial Age and Modernity that he co-wrote with Moscow anthropologist Dmitri Bondarenko. Ken is currently reinterpreting religion as a way that human groups can know and adapt to the powerful forces that surround us. He lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Börje Ekstig holds a PhD in physics and is a retired assistant professor at the University of Uppsala, Sweden. Long ago he made a discovery of a regular pattern in evolution, the analysis of which has led to some publications summarized in the recent book, *Mechanisms of Evolution*, together with important novel discoveries and conclusions.

Erhard Glötzl studied chemistry and physics at the University of Vienna and technical mathematics at the Johannes Kepler University of Linz. From 1972 to 1981 he was a university assistant at the Mathematical Institute of the University of Linz, habilitation in technical mathematics at the University of Linz with work on Gibbs point processes. From 1981 to 1992 he headed the Office for Environmental Protection of the City of Linz and thus decisively co-responsible for the environmental clean-up of Linz's large-scale industry. From 1992 -2007 he was a director of the board of SBL Stadtbetriebe Linz GmbH and Linz AG. He also taught at the Pedagogical Academy (Chemistry), at the Johannes Kepler University Linz (Environmental Information Systems) and at the Danube University Krems (Finance). Since 1995, numerous lectures and publications on the "instability of our monetary and economic system" and on topics in theoretical economics, theoretical physics and theoretical biology. In 2023 he published his book, "General Evolutionary Theory of Everything: From the origin of life to the market economy - Beyond Darwin - On the Origin of species in a broader sense."

Sergey Grinchenko is the Chief Researcher at the Institute of Informatics Problems, Federal Research Centre "Informatics and Control" of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia. He is also the Vice President of the Biocosmological Association and full member of the International Informatization Academy. Areas of scientific interests include search engine optimization theory, cybernetic biology, cybernetic sociotechnology, cybernetic physics, theoretical informatics.

Leonid E. Grinin is Director of Uchitel Publishing, Volgograd, Russia. Beginning as a teacher in rural schools, he founded his publishing firm to develop educational materials in the 1980s. He then completed a Ph.D. at Moscow State University and expanded Uchitel to serve a global market in Russian and English. A sociologist, philosopher of history, and economist, his work focuses on identifying regularities of macroevolution. Among his thirty monographs are *From Confucius to Comte: The Formation of the Theory, Methodology and Philosophy of History* (2012, in Russian); *Macrohistory and Globalization* (2012); and *The Big History of the Universe's Development: Cosmic Evolution* (2013, in Russian). Leonid co-authored *Great Divergence and Great Convergence: A Global Perspective* (2015) and co-edits the international journals, *Social Evolution and History* and *Journal of Globalization Studies*. A founding member and Deputy Director of the Eurasian Center for Megahistory & System Forecasting, access to his portal, *Social Studies*.

Lowell Gustafson is Professor of Political Science at Villanova University in Pennsylvania (USA). His course on 'Our Social Nature' uses a Big History approach, and he has also taught it at the Graterford maximum security prison near Villanova. His research has included how science explains the origin and development of polity and how emergent complexity provides an intellectual rationale for universities. He has served as secretary, vice-president, and president of the International Big History Association (IBHA), and as editor of *Origins: The Bulletin of the IBHA*, and the *Journal of Big History*.

Nick Hoggard was awarded a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Sciences from the University of Cambridge in 1980, and has mostly worked as a software developer, as well doing some research in the use of artificial intelligence in industrial control systems.

Andrey V. Korotayev is Senior Research Professor at Eurasian Center for Big History & System Forecasting at Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, as well as at International Laboratory of Demography and Human Capital, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration. He is also Director of the Center for Stability and Risk Analysis at HSE University and Professor at Faculty for Global Processes, Moscow State University, Russia. Beginning as an historian of Arabia, he made focused studies, such as seen in 'Two Social Ecological Crises and Genesis of Tribal Organization in the Yemeni North-East' (1996). Andrey researches topics in quantitative cross-cultural anthropology and seeks to understand biological and social macroevolution, as in 'A Compact Macromodel of World System Evolution' (2005) and 'Mathematical Modeling of Biological and Social Phases of Big History' (2014). He is a founding member of the Eurasian Center for Megahistory & System Forecasting and founder of *Evolution*, an almanac dedicated to the study of Universal Evolution, and thus is closely linked with Big History. Most recently, he has produced, with David LePoire, a collective monograph, *The*

21st Century Singularity and Global Futures: A Big History Perspective (2020). He serves as a board member of the International Big History Association.

Gustavo Lau was born in Lima, Peru in 1964 and immigrated to Caracas, Venezuela in 1976. Since 1994 he has worked in finance in London, UK where he is currently a principal of Episteme Capital. He holds a PhD in Computer Science (2019) from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, Spain, an M.S. degree in Computer Science (1988) and two B.S. in Mathematics (1988) and Computer Science (1986) from the Simón Bolívar University, Venezuela. In his spare time, Mr Lau is a Mathematics Masterclasses lecturer for the Royal Institution of Great Britain and a Guest Professor at Simón Bolívar University, Venezuela. In January 2022 he founded the Big History Club of Simón Bolívar University. Since then he has been teaching informally the Big History course of the OER Project in that club.

David LePoire researches, develops and applies science principles in environmental issues, Big History evolutionary trends, and particle scattering. He has a BS in physics from CalTech, a Ph.D. in computer science from DePaul University, and over thirty years experience at the Argonne National Laboratory in the development of scientific analyses, software, training, and modelling. His research includes Big History synergistic trends among energy, environment, organization, and information.

J.N. ‘Nick’ Nielsen is an independent scholar from Oregon who studies emergent complexity, especially as it relates to civilization and its future in the context of big history. He has spoken about the future of civilization at several conferences (100YSS, Icarus Interstellar, SSoCIA), including the 2014 IBHA conference in San Rafael, the July 2019 IBHA symposium in Milan (where he spoke on ‘Peer Complexity during the Stelliferous Era ’), and the 2020 webinar, Being A Good Ancestor (speaking on ‘Scientific Approaches to Civilization’).

Marc Widdowson is an independent researcher, primarily in government and defence, providing applied history insights in such areas as multinational coalitions, social mood and instability, financial networks, and effects of technology on society.