



Steven Johnson

Bestselling Author, *Extra Life* and
How We Got to Now
Editorial Director, Google Labs

An optimistic vision of progress and innovation.

Biography

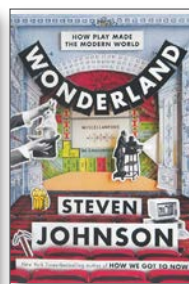
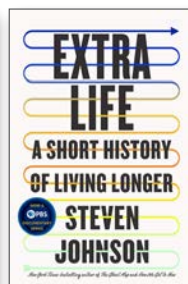
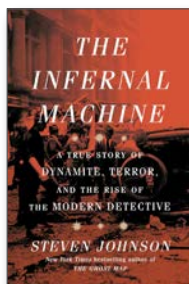
Steven Johnson is a prolific bestselling author and the Editorial Director at Google Labs, one of the cornerstones of Google's AI division. He is a leading voice on humanity's most innovative breakthroughs and the thinking that makes them possible. At the center of his wide-ranging work are two questions: where do good ideas come from, and how can we keep those ideas from turning against us? Humorous, informative, and immediately engaging, Steven's talks investigate the cultural, environmental, biological, and historical factors behind major developments in order to uncover patterns that foster great ideas and can be applied to make our own lives more innovative.

Johnson is one of the creators of NotebookLM, Google's still evolving AI-powered research tool trained on sources you provide. Designed to help users derive key insights from their own notes and other chosen resources, *The Verge* says that with time, it "could be the most powerful and personal chatbot on the internet."

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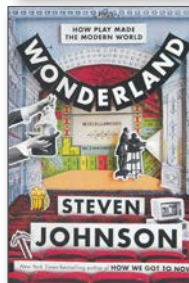
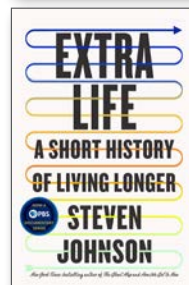
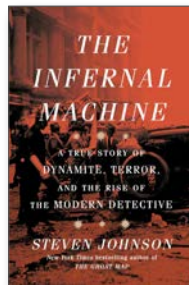
He is the bestselling author of over a dozen books about how innovations drive change in society. His most recent book, *The Infernal Machine*, is about anarchism, the rise of the modern detective, and the birth of the surveillance state. His book, *Extra Life: A Short History of Living Longer*, explores how the human species managed to double life expectancy in just one hundred years. Johnson hosted the *Extra Life* miniseries examining public health innovations that enabled us to live longer. In a serialized essay follow-up to *Extra Life*, Johnson published *Immortality: A User's Guide*, pondering what would happen if we could double life expectancy again?

When he's not building the next big AI tool or writing his next bestseller, Steven keeps himself busy with many projects, all focused on brilliant ideas and innovative technologies. His Substack, *Adjacent Possible*, is an eclectic exploration of how new ideas come into the world and what happens when they come to fruition. He hosts the TED Interview podcast where he dives deep into the work and ideation processes of the most influential TED speakers. He pens "Hidden

Heroes," a series of in-depth profiles on innovators whose inventions make the modern world run but whose stories are largely unknown. These tributes to those who shaped technology can also be listened to on the Hidden Heroes podcast. His American Innovations podcast examined the science behind America's biggest breakthroughs and how time, place, and people converged to make these inventions possible.

How We Got to Now, Johnson's book detailing the secret history behind everyday objects, debuted at #4 on the *New York Times* bestseller list and was a finalist for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. The six-part television adaptation was nominated for an Emmy. Other popular titles include *Where Good Ideas Come From*, *Ghost Map*, *Everything Bad is Good for You*, *Farsighted*, *Enemy of All Mankind*, and *Wonderland*, which inspired the #1 iTunes podcast of the same name.

Steven Johnson is a regular contributor to the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Wired*, and many other publications. His TED talks have been viewed over five million times.



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