

Michael S. Hogue, Enhancing Life Bibliography for Berlin Seminar, August 2016

Robert Bellah, *Religion in Human Evolution: From the Paleolithic to the Axial Age* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press). Written by one of the world's leading social scientists of religion, this book presents a magisterial interpretation of the ancient history of human efforts to enhance life through the construction of religious symbols, rituals, and institutions. In addition to its many substantive contributions, this book also gracefully demonstrates the value of bringing diverse disciplinary frames to the big question of enhancing life, including, among others, evolutionary cultural anthropology, the social sciences, the history of religions, and comparative studies.

David Bollier, *Think Like a Commoner: A Short Introduction to the Life of the Commons* (Gabriola Island, British Columbia: New Society Publishers, 2014). Enhancing life on multiple levels, human and nonhuman, social and ecological, entails thinking beyond the market-state duopoly. This book provides a highly accessible introduction to commons governance and provisioning and a roadmap of new experiments with commoning.

David Chandler, *Resilience: The Governance of Complexity*, Critical Issues in Global Politics (New York: Routledge, 2014). The rise of resilience thinking and discourse is a critical response to increasing awareness of the complexity and endangerment of life. This book presents resilience thinking as a radically democratic mode of postliberal politics and advocates an emancipatory approach to governance through (rather than against) the complexity of life.

William E. Connolly, *The Fragility of Things: Self-Organizing Processes, Neoliberal Fantasies, and Democratic Activism* (Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2013). This work in political theory presents a potent critique of the neoliberal endangerment of life and the late capitalist colonization of democracy. But it also offers an equally potent case for new democratic strategies for the enhancement of planetary life through a fusion of insights from complexity and systems theory, continental philosophy, neuroscience, and process philosophy.

Donella H. Meadows, *Thinking in Systems: A Primer* (White River Junction, Vermont: Chelsea Green Publishing, 2008). Multi-scalar systems thinking is a critical methodology for enhancing life in a time of mutually amplifying social, environmental, and economic crises of our time. Published posthumously by Donella Meadows, MIT professor and lead author of the groundbreaking book *Limits to Growth*, this book provides a thorough and highly readable introduction to this interdisciplinary methodology.