

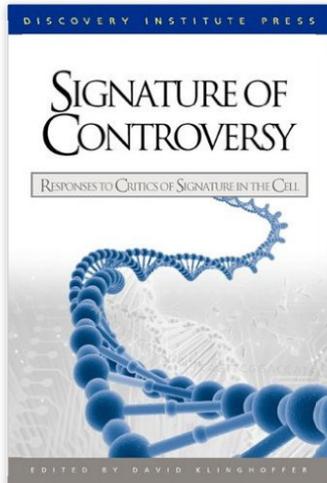
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Paperback – March 1, 2011

by David Klinghoffer (Editor)

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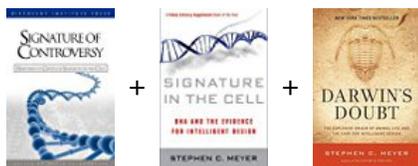
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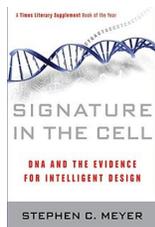
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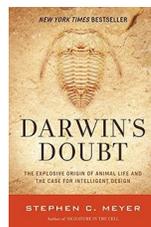
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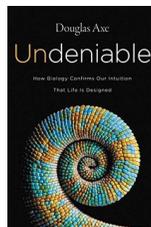
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About the Author

David Klinghoffer is a Senior Fellow at Discovery Institute in Seattle and a contributor to *Evolution News & Views*. He is the author of *How Would God Vote?: Why the Bible Commands You to Be a Conservative* (Random House, 2008.), *Shattered Tablets: What the Ten Commandments Reveal about American Culture and Its Discontents* (Doubleday, 2006), *Why the Jews Rejected Jesus: The Turning Point in Western History* (Doubleday, 2005), *The Discovery of God: Abraham and the Birth of Monotheism* (Doubleday, 2003) and the spiritual memoir *The Lord Will Gather Me In* (Free Press/Simon & Schuster, 1998), a National Jewish Book Award finalist. A former literary editor of *National Review* magazine, Klinghoffer has written articles and reviews for the *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Seattle Times*, *Commentary*, and other publications. He lives on Mercer Island, Washington, with his wife and children.

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Answering the Critics

By [K. W. Lowery](#) on February 9, 2012

Format: Paperback

Signature in the Cell (SiC) details the history and premises of the intelligent design theory. Signature of Controversy details the reactions to SiC from a culture of science that seems to have no place for it. This book is a collection of articles that critique the reviewers of SiC and answers them clearly. Amazingly, some reviewers of SiC have clearly not even read the book, yet have felt compelled to review it (negatively). Some mischaracterize the argument completely. Some are just plain uncivil and even obnoxious. None are really able to refute the argument of the theory, though, which, simply put, is as follows:

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Published 2 months ago by [texankdc](#)

This book is for pointy-headed intellectuals only.

Nobody is permitted to utter a discouraging word about naturalism accounting for the rise of all life from

1. There is no materialistic explanation for the origin of biological information (specified complexity) in DNA.
2. The only known cause of information is an intelligent agent.
3. Since there is no materialistic explanation for the origin of biological information, an inference can be made to an intelligent cause.

Signature of Controversy is a must read for those who have read SitC. You will learn more details why recent origin of life experiments, that supposedly tag ID as a dead-end, actually supplement the design argument. It will bring you into the dialogue that is going on in the blogosphere. Be prepared to access blog sites to read these SitC reviews first hand. It will position you to look objectively at the communities of scientists that are discussing this theory. This book has also helped to solidify the intelligent design argument for me, and hopefully it will do the same for you.

35 Comments 67 people found this helpful. Was this review helpful to you? [Report abuse](#)

Civil responses to uncivil critics

By [Paul Vjecsner](#) on March 28, 2011

Format: Paperback [Verified Purchase](#)

Notwithstanding the offenses heaped upon opponents of Darwinism, the Discovery Institute, Intelligent Design, and specifically the book of the controversy, "Signature in the Cell", and its author, Stephen C. Meyer, their defenders manage to largely abstain from such offenses and engage more pertinently, especially in the present case, in careful argumentation, absent in many disputes.

There is a strong emphasis on correcting accusations of "Creationism" and other "unscientific" approaches, by highlighting as one of Dr. Meyer's chief forms of argument (in his own words) "the method of inferring to the best explanation", which "necessarily requires an examination of the main competing hypotheses that scientists have proposed to explain a given event" (p.18). This is indeed a dominant, "hypothetico-deductive", scientific method, used by Darwin as well, with probabilistic problems. A drawback is its near fallacy of "affirming the consequent", ((A implies B) does not imply (B implies A)). That is why hypotheses, predicting known occurrences, are always subject to change.

In any event, Dr. Meyer makes in his book "a positive case for intelligent design by showing that the activity of conscious and rational agents is the only known cause by which large amounts of new functional information arise" (p.19). Expressions like "functional information", related to "information-bearing properties of DNA", sound a little too vague to me. "Information" in DNA is admittedly a metaphor, since one can simply speak of causation, and "functional" can likewise apply to causes, functioning in producing certain effects. But the argument is sound, by concerning the functional forms of organisms in the sense that they function to attain certain purposes. And "the activity of conscious and rational agents is the only known cause" of objects in our world that function to attain certain purposes.

We are dealing of course with man-made, inanimate, objects, and it may be questioned whether the same rules apply to the animate, the living. As a matter of fact, the animate is rather decisive in this respect, as I have endeavored to demonstrate, if with listeners not inclined to "think outside the box". The box is the "natural-explanation" mindset, which limits causes (e.g. pp.109-110) to "undirected", "unguided", physical or chemical forces. No one considers "directed" forces as part of nature; they would be relegated to the supernatural. Prominently the former, to be sure, are our own directed, purposeful, actions. But this is dismissed as somehow a result of "blind" Darwinian forces, mysteriously unexplained.

There is much more though to the "directed", "guided", in nature. Not only our actions are directed, but so are the activities of our bodies. They are obviously known to be directed toward the goal of self-preservation, as are activities in all organisms, making them alive. There is accordingly no need to seek unobserved guidance, purpose, in the functional structure of organisms. The guidance is observed in their behavior, aimed at survival, which is correspondingly also responsible for their adaptation, refuting "unguided" natural selection.

Allow me to also mention the matter of reviews and accompanying items on Amazon (p.53). I understand too well the feelings generated by "abusive 'reviews' making...little pretense of having turned a single page", etc. I fare much worse than what I see concerning Dr. Meyer's book. Overlooking the attacks on him, he is a well-respected member of a large constituency widely sharing his views. I have myself a book featured on Amazon, and of 4 "reviews" only one writer saw the book,

the elements without being savagely and arrogantly attacked by biologists... [Read more](#)
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Terrific !
Published on October 1, 2014 by Dan Brewton

Great Resource
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happy I have a hard copy at home to reference and show my friends who are scientists, and like most scientists, have accepted the conventional narrative w/o consideration of the... [Read more](#)
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with a favorable result. The other writers were displeased with my reviews and comments, of which I do many, regarding other books. They engage in the nastiest behavior, including "tags" that are meant to characterize my book and have nothing to do with it. Ironically, they associate me with the Discovery Institute, although I am a totally independent thinker, as may be gleaned from the above.

8 Comments 70 people found this helpful. Was this review helpful to you? [Report abuse](#)

OK supplement

By [Harrison Koehli](#) on July 9, 2013

Format: Paperback

As the title makes clear, this is a series of responses to criticisms of Stephen Meyer's book, *Signature in the Cell*. It's a small volume, readable in a sitting or two, and contains responses written by Discovery Institute-affiliated scholars and writers, including Douglas Axe, David Berlinski, David Klinghoffer, Casey Luskin, Paul Nelson, Jay Richards, Richard Sternberg, and Meyer himself. While the volume does an excellent job responding to critics (many of whom didn't even both to read Meyer's book before reviewing it, seemingly), because of the overall poor quality of the criticisms to start out with, there isn't a whole lot of new information here (aside from Sternberg's three-part look at a fascinating genomic signal in LINE and SINE DNA, showing that Alu-like sequences seem to be species specific, aggregating in similar sections of the genomes of different species). Berlinski's witty two-page rejoinder is probably the highlight of the book for me. So, *Signature of Controversy* (***) is fine as a supplement, but you're not missing much if you just stick to Meyer's book (which is excellent, by the way).

7 Comments 17 people found this helpful. Was this review helpful to you? [Report abuse](#)

WARNING: REQUIRES AN OPEN MIND TO FULLY APPRECIATE

By [Robert Steven Thomas](#) [TOP 500 REVIEWER](#) on April 28, 2013

Format: Paperback **Verified Purchase**

Argue though we may ... Darwinism absolutely is NOT "settled science." There are simply too many loose, unsupported claims and gaps, in addition to the famous "missing links." In the age of DNA, genomics and epi-genomics this last statement couldn't be more brutally evident. This book does a masterful job of describing just "some" of the problems with Modern Darwinism and how they may, one day, be resolved. Whether you are a creationist, atheist or something in-between, as long as you possess an open mind, this book will open your eyes to the multi-facets of the debate from both perspectives and points of view.

2 Comments 4 people found this helpful. Was this review helpful to you? [Report abuse](#)

Signature in the Cell - Book all about DNA

By [nasamike](#) on November 21, 2012

Format: Paperback **Verified Purchase**

This book was like taking a college class in microbiology, yet it was a very good read. I could understand it very fast because of the way the author used analogies to everyday things. I think it's a must read for anyone interested in what DNA is all about. You can learn the history of the search for how genetic information is passed on, and understand easily why there is more to this universe than Energy and Matter interacting randomly over immense time. There is another entity we call, "Information", which is distinct from Energy and Matter, but just as elemental. I loved the analogy about those plastic letters with the magnets that we stick on the refrigerator. Maybe you can accept the extremely high improbability of the letters being formed naturally over immense time, just from the interaction of energy and matter. But, when you see them all forming an understandable sentence without errors or extras, you know that communication of Information took the intervention of intelligence. So clearly, Intelligence is not just a mixture of Energy and Matter over time. Read this book.

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