

David Shenk: C.V.

### Contact information

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### Educational background

Wyoming High School, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1980-1984

Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island (B.A, English), 1984-1988

### Work experience

Author, Essayist and Lecturer, 1988 - present

Consultant to PBS's production of "The Forgetting" (based on my book of the same name), broadcast January 2004

Occasional Commentator, National Public Radio, 1996 - present

Staff Producer, National Public Radio, 1991-1993

Editor-in-Chief, *Hilltop Frolic Gazette*, Hilltop Elementary School, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1973-1974 (Third Grade)

### List of publications

#### **Books**

*The Immortal Game: A History of Chess, or How 32 Carved Pieces on a Board Illuminated Our Understanding of War, Art Science, and the Human Brain*, Doubleday, 2006 (Anchor, 2007)

*The Forgetting: Alzheimer's, Portrait of an Epidemic*, Doubleday, 2001 (Anchor, 2004)  
- also published in separate editions in Britain, Italy, Spain, Catalonia, Holland and Japan

*The End of Patience: More Notes of Caution on the Information Revolution*, University of Indiana Press, 1999

*Data Smog: Surviving the Information Glut*, HarperCollins, 1997 (updated, 1998)  
- also published in separate editions in Britain, China, Korea, Germany, Holland and Japan

*Skeleton Key: A Dictionary for Deadheads*, Doubleday, 1994 (Co-authored with Steve Silberman)  
- also published in Japanese

### **Selected essays and articles**

"Watching You: The World of High-Tech Surveillance," *National Geographic*, November 2003

"Buckle Up: Safety Instructions for a Speedy Life," *CIO* magazine, March 1, 2000.

"Dept. of Timing," *The New Yorker* (Talk piece), May 10, 1999.

"Benri Sugiru" A Critical Look at Technology's Effect on Japanese Culture," *Japan Society Newsletter*, May 1999.

"Money + Science = Ethics Problems on Campus," Cover story for *The Nation*, March 22, 1999.

"Wider den Datensmog," *Der Spiegel*, March 8, 1999.

"Behold the Toys of Tomorrow," *The Atlantic Monthly's* website, January 7, 1999.

"Why You Feel the Way You Do," *Inc.*, January 1999

"Know Thy Motherboard," *Feed*, December 3, 1998.

"Death of a Comic," *Feed*, May 29, 1998.

"Be Afraid," *Feed*, July 28, 1998

"The Pictures," *The New Yorker* (Talk piece), June 1997.

"Biocapitalism: What price the genetic revolution?" *Harper's*, December, 1997

"Technorealism: A New Way to Think about Technology, Politics, and Culture," *The Nation*, March 1998.

"Hating Gates: The Culture of Microsoft Bashing," Cover story for *The New Republic*, January, 1998.

"To Mac or Not to Mac," *Technology Review*, March/April 1998

"Think-tank Warfare," *Salon*, June, 1997

"A New Brevity," *Wired*, July, 1996.

"The Pedagogy of Pasta Sauce," *Harper's*, September, 1995

### **Columns and Commentaries**

Commentator, "All Things Considered," National Public Radio, 1997 – Present.

Columnist, *HotWired*, 1997.

Columnist, MSN, 1996-1997

Commentator, "Marketplace," Public Radio International, 1994-1996

Columnist, *Spy Magazine*, 1994-1996

### **Awards and Honors**

Named one of the "Top 100 Business Gurus" by Accenture Institute for Strategic Change, 2003

First Prize, "Popular Medicine" category, 2002 British Medical Association Medical Book Competition

Named one of "10 Masters of the New Economy" by CIO magazine, 2000

Named one of "21 new economy gurus for the 21st century" by Darwin magazine, 2000

U.S.-Japan Fellow, Japan Society, 1998

Media Studies Fellow, Freedom Forum Media Studies Center, Columbia University, 1995-1996

Praise For THE FORGETTING  
by David Shenk

"A remarkable addition to the literature of the science of the mind....Shenk has drawn together threads of neurobiology, art history and psychology into a literary portrait of Alzheimer's disease perfectly balanced between sorrow and wonder, devastation and awe."  
-- **The Los Angeles Times Book Review**

"Riveting...superb...a must-read for anyone interested in the wretched ailment that is Alzheimer's."  
-- **The San Francisco Chronicle**

"Deeply affecting...a fascinating meditation on the scientific, political and cultural history of Alzheimer's disease."  
-- **The Washington Post**

"Intelligent and unusually circumspect."  
-- **The New York Review of Books**

"A graceful, masterful portrait of [the] illness...Readers can't help but be taken by Shenk's humanity and compassion, which brim throughout."  
-- **The Los Angeles Times (daily paper)**

"Written with a researcher's attention to detail and a storyteller's ear."  
-- **The New York Times**

"Destined to be a classic...Shenk's guided tour is free of medical jargon, filled instead with clear and sometimes memorable phrasing."  
-- **The Seattle Times**

"An elegant new book ... [Previous Alzheimer's books] have rarely ventured beyond conventions of anguished family memoir, caregiver's survival guide or life-in-the-lab docu-drama. In 'The Forgetting,' David Shenk attempts something grander, and succeeds admirably."  
-- **Newsweek**

"A brilliant and quirky new book on Alzheimer's [that] offers food for thought on the unthinkable and a new, deeper understanding of the coming epidemic."  
-- **Salon.com**

"Compelling and immensely humane . . . . Shenk's integration of historical and scientific information and personal stories makes for an absorbing read."  
-- **Newsday**

"An excellent new book."  
-- **The New Yorker**

"Fascinating...A quirky mix of medical history, the voices of patients and their families, and accounts of the search for a cure...Shenk makes the science understandable and recounts personal stories that are both moving and illuminating."

-- **Business Week**

"Carefully researched and engagingly written."

-- **The Wall Street Journal**

"A dazzling literary and scientific history of Alzheimer's disease."

-- **The Detroit Free Press**

"A sobering but important book."

-- **The Atlanta Journal and Constitution**

"Fascinating...As good as the science in this book is, it takes a back seat to Shenk's eloquent reflections on the meaning of memory and aging, and their connection to our sense of self."

-- **The Washington Monthly**

"Completely absorbing, fascinating, the best of writing."

-- **Amy Tan**

"The definitive work on Alzheimer's. A truly remarkable book ."

-- **John Bayley**

[The reviews from London for the British edition]

"A startling book...[it] unfolds like a film, with several storylines racing to a finish."

-- **The Daily Telegraph**

"Shenk is a wonderful writer on science....He has an eye for the social and financial forces that shape scientific interests and he brings key players, whether proteins or people, to dramatic life."

-- **The Independent**

"[An] absorbing and enlightening book...an engrossing story."

-- **The Times Literary Supplement**

Praise For DATA SMOG  
by David Shenk

"DATA SMOG is an indispensable guide to the big picture of technology's cultural impact."  
-- **The New York Times**

One of the best books of 1997.  
-- **Minneapolis Star Tribune.**

"Shenk has written a concise, insightful and welcome critique of the communications world we have created."  
-- **The Chicago Tribune**

"DATA SMOG is the *Silent Spring* for the Digital Age."  
-- **The Boston Globe**

"A must-read for technophiles and neo-Luddites alike."  
-- **The New York Post**

"If you're looking for a survival guide for the information age, this is your book."  
-- **The Houston Chronicle**

"Regardless of where you stand, both books [*What Will Be* and DATA SMOG ] make good reading. Read Dertouzos to find out where we're headed, and Shenk to find out how to make the best of it once we get there."  
-- **The Washington Post**

"This is a marvelous book."  
-- **The Capital Times (Madison, Wisconsin)**

"Stunningly eloquent."  
-- **PC Magazine Online**

"A valuable book....If everyone who isn't yet online read Data Smog before joining America Online or getting Net access, their lives -- and the Net itself -- would have a much better shot at staying sane."  
-- **Salon**

"David Shenk has written a brilliant confirmation of the fact that information is neither knowledge nor wisdom, and that too much data can dull the mind. One should read this splendid book very soon, while the mind is still intact."  
-- **Roger Rosenblatt**

"This book is an oxygen mask. Take it along when you need to breathe. This careful, informed, and passionate argument should take the stuffing right out of the cheerleaders of the (indiscriminate) Information Age."

-- Andrei Codrescu, commentator, National Public Radio

Praise for THE END OF PATIENCE  
by David Shenk

"A collection of radio and print essays offering well-thought-out insights into the information revolution we are now experiencing....Mostly fascinating and always insightful, this shows us both the promise and the pitfalls of new technology and how it affects us all."  
-- KIRKUS REVIEWS

"Provocative...witty, often savagely funny."  
-- PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

"With equal measures of plain old common sense and uniquely gifted insight, David Shenk is the ideal guide through today's head-on collision of culture and technology. Following up on the success of *Data Smog*, Shenk may understand the Information Age better than anyone else: he sees benefits and perils that everybody else seems too rushed to notice, and I predict that the "notes of caution" he sounds in *The End of Patience* will be remembered by future generations for their prophetic accuracy. As you read, you'll find yourself crying out in astonishment and complete agreement. If you feel overwhelmed by 'too much information,' you're right -- and you need this book."  
-- DAN RATHER, CBS News

"AN IMPORTANT BOOK . . . Shenk offers something unique and valuable to a culture shell-shocked by the speed and fragmentation of communications and language in the Digital Age."  
-- JON KATZ, author, *Media Rants and Virtuous Reality*

"FINALLY, TECH-CRIT FOR TECHNOPHILES! Some philanthropist should buy a copy of "The End of Patience" for every graduating engineering student. Shenk is a technology critic who knows and appreciates technology, but who learned to see what most modern citizens are conditioned to ignore -- the shadows, the pitfalls, the hidden costs of technologies. The world needs to learn how to think about technology in new ways. While others look at the power or the wealth promised by new inventions, Shenk asks the most important question: Where is the human in all this?"  
-- HOWARD RHEINGOLD, author, *Virtual Reality and The Virtual Community*

"David Shenk looks at the new face of our world with a curiosity and connection-making responsiveness that make him exhilarating to read. These are bits, takes, provisional sweeps at issues still coming into focus, but taken together they give us a startling glimpse of where we are. Shenk is so close to the present that most readers will mistake it for the future."  
-- SVEN BIRKERTS, author, *The Gutenberg Elegies*

"If the world of constant, instantaneous communication makes you a little nervous from time to time, David Shenk can explain why. This book is a very useful antidote to the endless praise lavished on the new electronic mediums. Read it slowly!"  
-- BILL MCKIBBEN, author, *The Age of Missing Information*