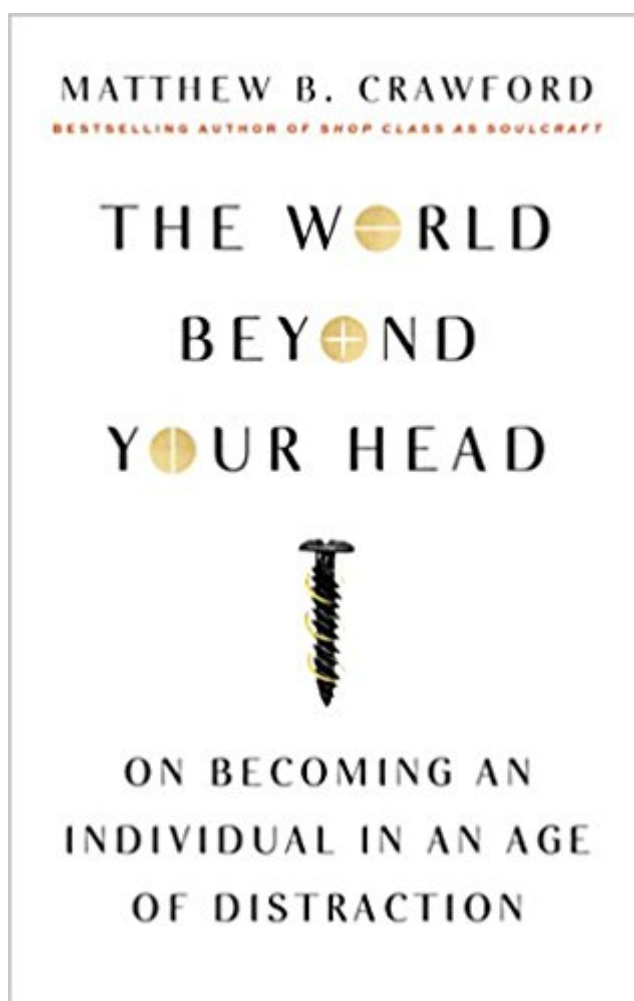


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# The World Beyond Your Head: On Becoming An Individual In An Age Of Distraction



## Synopsis

A groundbreaking new book from the bestselling author of *Shop Class as Soulcraft*! In his bestselling book *Shop Class as Soulcraft*, Matthew B. Crawford explored the ethical and practical importance of manual competence, as expressed through mastery of our physical environment. In his brilliant follow-up, *The World Beyond Your Head*, Crawford investigates the challenge of mastering one's own mind. We often complain about our fractured mental lives and feel beset by outside forces that destroy our focus and disrupt our peace of mind. Any defense against this, Crawford argues, requires that we reckon with the way attention sculpts the self. Crawford investigates the intense focus of ice hockey players and short-order chefs, the quasi-autistic behavior of gambling addicts, the familiar hassles of daily life, and the deep, slow craft of building pipe organs. He shows that our current crisis of attention is only superficially the result of digital technology, and becomes more comprehensible when understood as the coming to fruition of certain assumptions at the root of Western culture that are profoundly at odds with human nature. *The World Beyond Your Head* makes sense of an astonishing array of common experience, from the frustrations of airport security to the rise of the hipster. With implications for the way we raise our children, the design of public spaces, and democracy itself, this is a book of urgent relevance to contemporary life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for "Shop Class as Soulcraft" "Both impassioned and profound." --Christopher Shea, "The Washington Post" "Recent press coverage has sent word-of-mouth buzz on "Shop Class "through

the roof, but it really is a book whose time, in our culture, has come." --Susan Salter Reynolds, " Los Angeles Times" Praise for "Shop Class as Soulcraft" "Both impassioned and profound."

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--Susan Salter Reynolds, " Los Angeles Times" Praise for "The World Beyond Your Head"--: Praise for "Shop Class as Soulcraft"

Matthew B. Crawford is a senior fellow at the University of Virginia's Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture and a fabricator of components for custom motorcycles. His bestselling book *Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work*, which has been translated into nine languages, has prompted a wide rethinking of education and labor policies in the United States and Europe, leading *The Sunday Times* to call him "one of the most influential thinkers of our time."

Very stimulating reading, with challenging ideas that rocked my conceptions about learning. The proposal for an attention commons is relevant, as we are more and more solicited by all kinds of interest groups despite ourselves. However, I felt left down by the modesty of the recommendations at the end of the book, which were not proportioned to the magnitude of the indictment. A comment of secondary importance: the chapter on the construction and repair of organs in Virginia was very detailed, and although not without interest, too long in relation to the substantial previous parts of the book.

Lonergan posed the question "How can the mind become conscious of its own bias when that bias springs communal flight from understanding which is supported by the whole texture of our civilisation?" This book points to a way out by heightening our awareness of our epistemic system without being technically tedious and obtuse. In penetrating the meaning of things it never loses contact with common sense, an amazing achievement.

This book will really made an impact on me and makes you think about modern media and the pervasive impact of the internet, and particularly cellphones, on your attention and your time. Really increases your awareness of the interruptions we allow our world to make to us. Very interesting and compelling. I have been sharing with all my friends and family. I strongly encourage you to read or listen to the book - it is awesome brain food.

Crawford went beyond his first book to make a thought provoking statement about the state our cultural transformation and how participation in a community of craftsman and its ideals of excellence can be beneficial to our unity as a people.

Insightful, makes you think - and brush up on your vocabulary! Excellent book and I'm torn because I would not want the author to dumb it down but at the same time the use of 50 cent (or 2 dollar!) words would get in the way at times and distract from the idea at hand. This is why I hesitate in giving five stars. I do highly recommend this book.

A very different refutation of Kant's idealism, lassoing Michael Polanyi, Andy Clark, and Simone Veil among others, to his older championing of knowing how things work.

It will give you a more critical and human perspective on the feature of our consumer oriented culture that we take for granted.

If you like long rants this is your cup of tea. If not then read a summary of it instead.

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