Acclaim for *Economics Uncut*

‘Sex, drugs, rock and roll and so, so much more – there is enough here to persuade even the deepest skeptic of the analytical power and breadth of economics. The material is presented with careful attention to the evolution of economic ideas, as well as state-of-the-art economic theory and empirical analysis. Many strands of economic thought are represented. Any class would be enriched by examples drawn from this expansive collection.’

– Alan B. Krueger, Bendheim Professor of Economics and Public Affairs,
Princeton University, USA

‘If you thought you could hide your secrets from the prying eyes of economists, think again. From sex to drugs to gambling to crime, this book will show you how the tools of economics can be used to understand just about any human behavior. This book will assuredly be the unofficial economist’s guide to vice for the foreseeable future.’

– Steven D. Levitt, Alvin H. Baum Professor of Economics,
University of Chicago, USA

‘This exciting book shows that economics can explain a dizzying array of real world phenomena and that economics can be great fun. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to see the progress that has been made in using the tools of neoclassical economics to understand a wide range of seemingly irrational behavior.’

– Edward L. Glaeser, Professor of Economics, Harvard University, USA

‘For students who care about how the world works, microeconomics should be one of the most relevant and exciting subjects they study. Yet many students view microeconomics as some kind of abstract theory, and fail to understand how it relates to the real-world decisions made by firms, consumers, and governments. It is therefore essential that students be shown detailed examples of the application of microeconomics to practical problems – studying the theory alone is simply not enough. This outstanding book provides those examples, and would make a perfect supplementary text for any intermediate microeconomics course. The topics and examples covered are extremely timely and interesting, and are explained with great clarity. Instructors take note: students will find this book fascinating, and reading it will give them a much deeper understanding and appreciation of microeconomics.’

– Robert S. Pindyck, Tokyo-Mitsubishi Professor of Economics and
Finance, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

‘Economics recently has developed an imperialistic policy. Economists now write on many, many things which were not included in the traditional economic curriculum. This book is an example, but the reader may think that it should have been included in the traditional curriculum. All the activities analyzed have economic implications and the study is a good example of applying economics in new areas. The reader may be a bit shocked by applying economics to such things as prostitution, but I think he will conclude that economics has something to say and that practical people trying to organize government controls in many areas would gain by reading this book.’

– Gordon Tullock, Professor of Law and Economics,
George Mason University, USA

‘Who would not be curious to know what economics can tell us about drugs, crime, sex, religion and sports? So read this book – it demonstrates convincingly how much standard economics provides us with great new insights.’

– Bruno S. Frey, Professor of Economics, University of Zurich,
Switzerland

‘Economics is all around us, and this terrific collection highlights the role of economic forces even in domains where the reader may not expect it. As a collection, the book’s chapters make the case forcefully that economic incentives are embedded in all domains of life, and that even sex, drugs and rock ’n’ roll are amenable to economic analysis. A collection that showcases modern economics as the lively discipline it is. It would be hard to be a student and not be excited by the possibilities.’

– Justin Wolfers, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of
Pennsylvania, USA

‘This fascinating book shows that economics can be used to understand almost every aspect of human behavior: the consumption of addictive goods, divorce, pornography, sports, religion, suicide, criminal behavior, abortion, and rock ’n’ roll. The conventional wisdom is that these behaviors should be studied by sociologists and psychologists. Simon Bowmaker and his collaborators demonstrate the fallacy of this proposition with great insight and clarity. Their analysis is provocative, penetrating, profound, and always entertaining. The reader is quite likely to conclude that there is only one social science. All in all a most remarkable book. Bravo!’

– Michael Grossman, Distinguished Professor of Economics,
City University of New York Graduate Center, USA

‘Those who think economics has little to say about the real world will change their minds after reading the essays in this splendid collection. Well written and authoritative, they show how the economic way of thinking can shed light on an unexpectedly diverse range of issues.’

– Robert H. Frank, Professor of Economics, Cornell University, USA

‘Who said that academic economists need to get out more? This book will certainly shatter the illusion that economic analysis has little to say on topics of everyday interest.’

– Evan Davis, Economics Editor, BBC, UK

‘This wonderful new volume shows that economic tradeoffs influence all of the decisions that we make. The book both educates and provokes its readers by using the rational actor model to explain seemingly pathological human behavior like suicide, drug addiction, and prostitution.’

– David Laibson, Professor of Economics, Harvard University, USA

‘This is an important book that showcases the strength of economics for understanding human behavior and provides a convincing case for why economics should be reckoned as *the* social science. The chapter on prostitution provides the most comprehensive discussion of the topic to date.’

– Lena Edlund, Associate Professor of Economics,
Columbia University, USA

‘Sex, drugs, suicide, murder, football – instead of a “dismal science”, this book makes economics seem popular, or rather notorious. A rational analysis of these topics contains something to offend everyone. You may not agree with these papers but they will challenge you to think more deeply.’

– Robert Cooter, Herman Selvin Professor of Law, University of
California, Berkeley, USA

‘Economics is most useful – and most provocative – when the spotlight of its intellectual rigour is trained on social issues. This book demonstrates how economists think about sex, drugs, and rock ’n’ roll. This is an illuminating approach to subjects usually obscured by woolly thinking and conventional platitudes. It should be compulsory reading for anybody devising or legislating public policy.’

– Diane Coyle, author of *Sex, Drugs, and Economics* and
Paradoxes of Prosperity

‘Economics is not about forecasting interest rates, but about how we live our daily lives. Simon Bowmaker’s wide-ranging analysis illustrates how fruitful and unexpected that approach can be.’

– John Kay, Fellow, St John’s College, Oxford and Visiting Professor of Economics, London School of Economics, UK

‘Economics is generally associated with the financial pages of newspapers apart from front page discussion of major topics such as inflation, budget deficits, or unemployment. However, the topics discussed in many of the other pages of a typical newspaper, such as crime, divorce, or sport, are also appropriate for economic analysis. Economics is concerned with decisions and many important topics in today’s society involve taking drugs or committing a crime or getting a divorce, for example, and so can be examined from an economic point of view. Many of these areas can be considered from different directions: legal, medical, political, religious, sociological, or psychological, and economics can be added to this list. No single viewpoint can be considered the dominant one, in most cases, but together a deeper understanding of the area will result. This book provides deep and stimulating discussions of a dozen or more important and interesting areas in accounts prepared by economic experts. It illustrates how what has been called the “dismal science” can be applied widely and usefully.’

– Sir Clive W.J. Granger, Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego, USA and 2003 Nobel Laureate in Economics

‘In this insightful and entertaining book, Simon Bowmaker introduces readers to the fascinating side of modern economics that applies economic analysis to a wide range of social issues from illegal drugs to religion and everything in between. In this form, economics is anything but the dismal science. This is a fun and enlightening book that shows readers what many economists often forget – that economics is a powerful tool for understanding the world around them.’

– Kevin M. Murphy, George J. Stigler Distinguished Service Professor of Economics, University of Chicago, USA