

The Whole Economy Is Rife with Ponzi Schemes

Scientific America

[Kaushik Basu](#)

June 2014

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-whole-economy-is-rife-with-ponzi-schemes/>

If you are involved in any way in financial services or financial products, *Scientific America's* presentation on the Ponzi Economy is an exceptional read, especially how the author covers malignant financial products and naturally occurring Ponzi schemes. Seriously, would any investor have participated in mortgage backed securities with a sub-prime ninja component (ninja: loans granted to people with no income, job, or assets).

The Biology of Risk

The New York Times Sunday Review

John Coates

June 7, 2014

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/08/opinion/sunday/the-biology-of-risk.html?_r=0

In *The New York Times Sunday Review*, the article "The Biology of Risk" quantifies the human condition of the risk-taker vs. the risk adverse, and how we can be both. "The appetite for risk is an unstable trait."

Something Fun:

The Best Commencement Speeches, Ever

NPR

Jeremy Bowers, Emily Davis, Danny DeBelius, Christopher Groskopf, Anya Kamenetz, Meredith Rizzo, Sami Yenigun

May 19, 2014

<http://apps.npr.org/commencement/>

NPR has hand-picked over 300 great commencement speeches going back to 1774. My personal favorite is Ray Bradbury's commencement speech to the Caltech Class of 2000, titled "The Great Years Ahead." We became addicted to the *Martian Chronicles* as a teen, and from there it has been all great reads.



Ironic:

Fermi Paradox

SETI Institute

<http://www.seti.org/seti-institute/project/details/fermi-paradox>

We could exhaust the issue of other life in the Universe, but my favorite discussion point centers around Fermi Paradox/Dilemma. Enrico Fermi was one of our great scientists, and his question can be summarized in three words: “Where are they?”

I Was Promised Flying Cars

New York Times Sunday Review

Adam Frank

June 6, 2014

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/08/opinion/sunday/i-was-promised-flying-cars.html>

If you are old enough to remember *The Weekly Reader*, you may wonder as do we, what happened to the dream of the flying car? Here is a rational explanation courtesy of *The New York Times*.



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