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Editorial

Reviews of popular science books

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Do you read popular neuroscience? Do you think Oliver Sacks is spot on and use his books to engage students or do you reckon his patient reports are more like novels or science fiction? Are you taken by Antonio Damasio's powerful arguments or do you think he did not get his philosophy exactly right? Do you enjoy the writings of William Calvin, Susan Greenfield, Vilayanur Ramachandran or do you think they should have quoted your work?

Have you ever witnessed a case of mismatching an object for a face in the absence of basic visual deficit? Do you get annoyed at cocktail parties when people refer to "The man who mistook his wife for a hat" as the first reported agnosic, when this condition has been known since Lissauer, not to

mention Pliny the elder? Or do you think it is important that gifted writers share with laypeople accrued knowledge of the brain?

Popular books are indeed instrumental in divulging knowledge of our topics, yet they are rarely properly and thoroughly reviewed in scientific journals. We are opening the book review section in *Cortex* to encompass books which are not necessarily academic. Hence, we invite reviews of popular books on any subject relevant to our readership. If you are interested in commenting on any of such books which have been recently published, please let us know and we will get the book for you.

Send your proposals to: sarah.macpherson@ed.ac.uk.

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