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# PLATO AT THE GOOGLEPLEX

## Why Philosophy Won't Go Away By Rebecca Newberger Goldstein

*“Plato at the Googleplex is an important and amazing book...It is amazing because the book takes great risks—including the risk of including 21<sup>st</sup> century dialogues about Plato’s philosophy, and thereby risking comparison with the greatest writer of philosophical dialogues that ever lived—and succeeds, in part because [Goldstein] keeps the dialogues as lighthearted in tone as they are serious in intent...Goldstein beautifully combines the skills of a distinguished novelist with breathtaking philosophical scholarship. I repeat, this book is important and amazing.”*

— **Hilary Putnam, John Cogan University Professor of the Humanities Emeritus, Harvard University**

*“Plato lives! Brilliantly re-creating Plato’s philosophic dialogues, Goldstein transports the ancient Greek philosopher to the twenty-first-century headquarters of Google, where his probing voice engages three modern hosts in exploring what knowledge means in an age of computerized crowd sourcing...Though Goldstein’s gifts as a novelist animate these dialogues, her scholarly erudition gives them substance.”— ★ *Booklist (starred)**

*“A witty, inventive, genre-bending work...Goldstein’s philosophical background serves her impressively in this reconsideration of Plato’s work, and her talent as a fiction writer animates her lively cast of characters...[Her] bright, ingenious philosophical romp makes Plato not only relevant to our times, but palpably alive.”*

— ★ *Kirkus (starred)*

*“A MacArthur Fellow and award-winning author of fiction and nonfiction, Goldstein always delivers something exciting for inquiring minds. Here, she imagines Plato brought to life, hashing out challenges from Fox News on religion and morality, keeping Freudians and tiger moms from coming to blows, and wondering why crowd sourcing trumps experts. C’mon, philosophy is fun, and it sells.”*

— **Barbara Hoffert’s MY PICK, *Library Journal***

At the heart of the latest work from acclaimed philosopher and novelist Rebecca Newberger Goldstein lies one question: is philosophy obsolete? In **PLATO AT THE GOOGLEPLEX** (Pantheon Books/March 4), Goldstein proves why philosophy is here to stay – and in fact more relevant today than ever before – by revealing its hidden (though essential) role in today’s debates on religion, morality, politics, and science.

Goldstein does so in a wholly unique way – by imagining Plato (the original philosopher) come to life in the twenty-first century. As he embarks on a multicity speaking tour, Goldstein asks: how would Plato handle a host on FOX News who denies that there can be morality without religion? How would he mediate a debate between a Freudian psychoanalyst and a Tiger Mom on how to raise the perfect child? How would he answer a neuroscientist who, about to scan Plato’s brain, argues that science has definitively answered the questions of free will and moral agency? And what would Plato make of Google, and the idea that knowledge can be crowdsourced rather than reasoned out by experts?

Goldstein also provides an in-depth study of Plato’s views, while examining the culture responsible for producing them. With scholarly depth and a novelist’s imagination and wit, she probes the deepest issues confronting our time, by allowing us to understand the source of Plato’s theories, and to eavesdrop as he takes on the modern world.

Goldstein will be touring across the country, with stops in Philadelphia, New York City, Boston, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Seattle. She is available for interviews.

### **About the author**

Rebecca Newberger Goldstein received her PhD in philosophy from Princeton University. Her award-winning books include the novels *The Mind-Body Problem*, *Properties of Light*, and *36 Arguments for the Existence of God: A Work of Fiction*, as well as studies of Kurt Gödel and Baruch Spinoza. She has received a MacArthur “Genius” award, has been designated Humanist of the Year and Freethought Heroine, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She lives in Massachusetts.

**PLATO AT THE GOOGLEPLEX: Why Philosophy Won’t Go Away**

**By Rebecca Newberger Goldstein**

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