

THE *Current*

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Library opens voting for UCSB Reads 2027

So many books. So little time. Fortunately for the newest installment of UCSB Reads, what began as a longlist of recommended reading is now a shortlist. And to help select a winner, UCSB Library is encouraging everyone to vote.

[UCSB Reads 2027](#) is the 21st edition of the award-winning campus- and communitywide book program, bringing Santa Barbara readers together to share in the exploration of one common book about a compelling issue of our time. Each year, an advisory committee of UCSB faculty, staff, students and community partners selects a thought-provoking interdisciplinary book by a living author that encourages a wide range of readers to engage with a contemporary social, political, cultural or scientific issue.

The [UCSB Reads 2027 Advisory Committee](#) invites students, faculty, staff and community members to [vote for their top UCSB Reads 2027 pick](#) by Aug 26. One survey participant will be randomly selected to receive a free copy of the chosen book.

UCSB Library's shortlist for 2027 features five nonfiction titles and one fiction title.

["40 Maps That Will Change How You See the World"](#) (2024) by Alastair Bonnett is an intriguing visual journey through forty unconventional maps that challenge traditional worldviews and reveal hidden histories, environmental shifts and global

connections.

[“Enshittification: Why Everything Suddenly Got Worse and What to Do About It”](#) (2025) by Cory Doctorow is sharp, timely critique of how major tech platforms degrade their services for profit, and how regulation, interoperability and user advocacy can help reclaim an open digital world.

[“Is a River Alive?”](#) (2025) by Robert Macfarlane. A lyrical and profound exploration of environmental philosophy that journeys along global waterways to examine what happens when rivers are legally recognized as living entities.

[“Monsters: A Fan's Dilemma”](#) (2023) by Claire Dederer. A nuanced interrogation of the ethical and emotional struggle of loving great art created by morally compromised or abusive people.

[“Raising Hare: A Memoir”](#) (2024) by Chloe Dalton. A moving and tender memoir detailing the quiet bond forged when an orphaned leveret is rescued in the English countryside, offering deep insights into human connection with wild nature.

[“Wild Dark Shore”](#) (2025) by Charlotte McConaghy. An atmospheric and suspenseful novel set against the stark Antarctic landscape, following isolated characters whose past secrets and environmental fragility collide in a fight for survival.

The shortlisted books are available at [UCSB Library](#), [Santa Barbara Public Library](#) and [Goleta Valley Library](#).

The selected book for UCSB Reads 2027 will be announced in the fall, and the program will kick off in early 2027 with a free book giveaway for UCSB students. Throughout the winter and spring quarters, the library will sponsor a variety of events to explore the book’s themes. UCSB Reads 2027 will culminate in the spring at Campbell Hall, with a public lecture by the author, co-presented by Arts & Lectures.

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The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.