



In ***Under a White Sky***, author Elizabeth Kolbert presents readers with what she calls the “Anthropocene irony.” After all that humans have done to destroy nature, is ingenuity now its only hope of survival? A search for answers sends her packing from Moku o’ Lo’e to the Mojave Desert to Melbourne and more than a few other places in between. In a grand display of human hubris, Kolbert finds engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs trapped in an infinite cycle of inventing new solutions to the problems created by old ones. With a whole lot of imagination, it might work. Probably not. But one thing’s for certain— there’s no going back now. It’s a new kind of world.

About the Author

Revered as one of America’s best science and nature writers, Elizabeth Kolbert is the author of Pulitzer prize-winning *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* and *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change*, one of the New York Times Review’s 100 Notable Books of the Year (2006). A staff writer at The New Yorker since 1999, she’s written dozens of pieces for the magazine. Her work has also appeared in the New York Times and New York Times Magazine, Vogue, Mother Jones and more.

Praise from UD Experts

“In her new book, *Under a White Sky*, Elizabeth Kolbert explores the complex impacts of large-scale technological solutions to environmental problems. Starting with an exploration of the downstream consequences the establishment of the Chicago’s Sanitary and Ship Canal had on the Mississippi River, and ending with a discussion of whitening the sky by adding reflective aerosols high in the atmosphere to decrease solar heating, Kolbert guides readers through the intertwined impacts and feedbacks that human-developed control on natural systems can have. *Under a White Sky* demonstrates that humans have the capacity and creativity to develop large-scale technological solutions that may be necessary to address challenges in the climate system, but emphasizes that such approaches must be developed thoughtfully with an eye to long-term, far-reaching impacts.” –

Dana Veron, Associate Professor of Geography and Spatial Sciences and First Year Seminar Instructor

“A highly engaging and insightful overview of some of our most pressing environmental crises; the short-sightedness (and greed) that caused them; and how, with a bit more humility and attentiveness to the natural world itself, we might extricate ourselves from problems we have caused for ourselves, our incredibly beautiful biosphere, and creatures large and small across the planet.” – *Mckay Jenkins, UD Cornelius Tilghman Professor of English, Journalism and Environmental Humanities*

BIOGRAPHY

Elizabeth Kolbert traveled from Alaska to Greenland, and visited top scientists, to get to the heart of the debate over global warming. Her book, *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, a book about mass extinctions that weaves intellectual and natural history with reporting in the field began as an article in *The New Yorker*. It was a *New York Times* 2014 Top Ten Best Book of the Year and

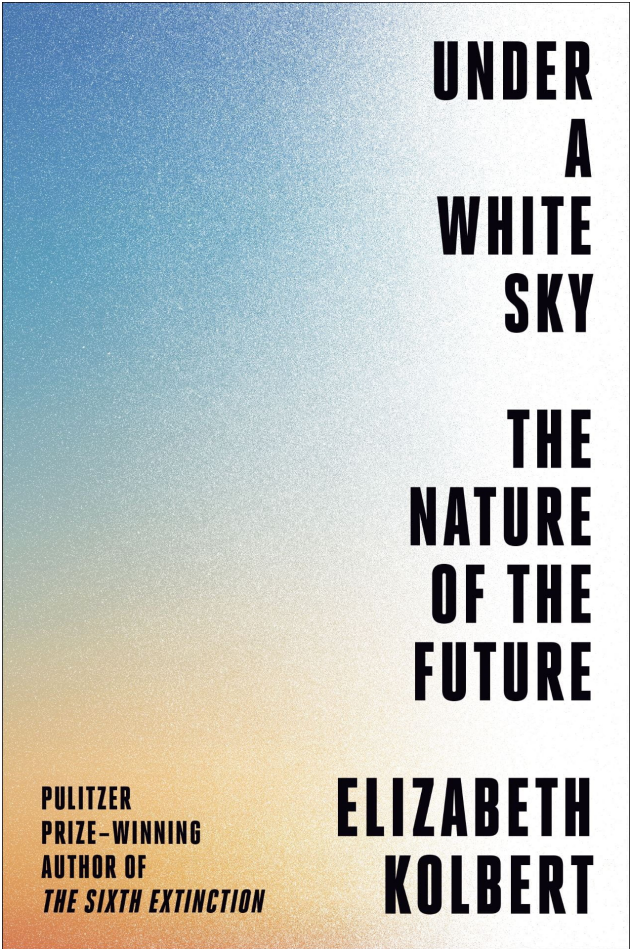
is [number one](#) on the *Guardian's* list of the 100 Best Nonfiction Books of all time. [The Sixth Extinction](#) also won the [2015 Pulitzer Prize](#) in the General Nonfiction category, and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle awards for the best books of 2014. In 2019 it was the chosen book for the [Chicago Public Library's One Book, One Chicago](#) program, and was named as one of *Slate's* [50 Best Nonfiction Books of the Past 25 Years](#). Her next book, [Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future](#), was a national bestseller and was named one of the best books of the year by the *Washington Post*, *Time*, *Esquire*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Library Journal*. It was also recommended by Barack Obama and Bill Gates.

Growing out of a groundbreaking three-part series in *The New Yorker* (which won the 2005 National Magazine Award in the category Public Interest), [Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change](#) brings the environment into the consciousness of the American people and asks what, if anything, can be done, and how we can save our planet. She explains the science and the studies, draws frightening parallels to lost ancient civilizations, unpacks the politics, and presents the personal tales of those who are being affected most—the people who make their homes near the poles and, in an eerie foreshadowing, are watching their worlds disappear. [Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change](#) was chosen as one of the 100 Notable Books of the Year (2006) by *The New York Times Book Review*.

Elizabeth Kolbert has been a [staff writer for The New Yorker](#) since 1999. She has written dozens of pieces for the magazine, including profiles of Senator Hillary Clinton, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and former Mayor Rudolph

Giuliani. Her series on global warming, “The Climate of Man,” appeared in *The New Yorker* in the spring of 2005 and won the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s magazine award. Also in 2006, she received the National Academy of Sciences Communication Award in the newspaper/magazine category and was awarded a Lannan Writing Fellowship. In September 2010, Kolbert received the prestigious Heinz Award which recognizes individuals who are addressing global change caused by the impact of human activities and natural processes on the environment. She has also been awarded a National Magazine Award in the Reviews and Criticism category for her work in the *New Yorker*, the Sierra Club's David R. Brower Award, and the Walter Sullivan Award for Excellence in Science Journalism from the American Geophysical Union. In 2016 she was named the 12th Janet Weis Fellow in Contemporary Letters at Bucknell University. She is also the recipient of the 2016 [Sam Rose '58 and Julie Walters Prize at Dickinson College for Global Environmental Activism](#). In 2017 she received the [Blake-Dodd Prize](#) from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2019 she was the recipient of the [Pell Center Prize for Story in the Public Square](#). In March 2021 she was voted into the [American Academy of Arts and Letters](#).

Elizabeth Kolbert’s stories have also appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Vogue*, and *Mother Jones*, and have been anthologized in [The Best American Science and Nature Writing](#) and *The Best American Political Writing*. She edited *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2009*. A collection of her work, *The Prophet of Love and Other Tales of Power and Deceit*, was published in 2004. Prior to joining the staff of *The New Yorker*, Kolbert was a political reporter for *The New York Times*.



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