

How to fail out of your graduate program

A tongue-in-cheek guide aims to help students avoid common grad school mistakes

By Owen Parsons

Thinking of applying to work in a laboratory just because the supervisor is hip and happening? Or perhaps you're planning on getting a doctorate to please your overbearing parents? If so, you might want to consider picking up a copy of Kevin Haggerty and Aaron Doyle's handbook on these and other surefire ways to jeopardize your postgraduate studies.

57 Ways to Screw Up in Grad School is a lighthearted yet comprehensive guide to making it through postgraduate education in one piece. The book covers everything from deciding where to apply and putting together an application through submitting your thesis and taking the next steps

The reviewer is at the Autism Research Centre, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 1TN, UK. E-mail: oep20@cam.ac.uk

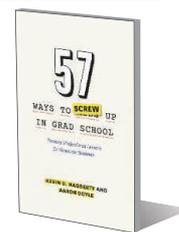
in your career. Each of the book's 57 pieces of advice starts with a tongue-in-cheek title, offering up different ways in which you could potentially shoot yourself in the foot during your graduate studies, such as "Avoid your supervisor and committee" or "Expect people to hire you to teach your thesis." The authors then present sensible and sound advice on how to avoid such pitfalls. The guide also covers topics such as having an active social life, developing a range of transferable skills, and even avoiding a social media crisis.

Haggerty and Doyle present their advice in the singular first person, combining their academic nous to provide a clear and identifiable narrative throughout the book. The two authors are well equipped to offer advice on the ins and outs of grad school, having both served as graduate chairs for their respective departments. They apply this experience well throughout the book, recalling a compendium of mistakes that

57 Ways to Screw Up in Grad School

Perverse Professional Lessons for Graduate Students

Kevin D. Haggerty and Aaron Doyle
University of Chicago Press,
2015. 199 pp.



they have either committed themselves or observed firsthand. Although the material covered predominantly focuses on the American graduate school structure, it is still relevant to international students if taken with a pinch of salt.

While the book is primarily geared toward prospective graduate students, it also offers a host of helpful tips for those in the midst of their doctorates. The chapters are well structured and coherently grouped into topics ranging from working with your advisor(s) to managing your research program to preparing for graduation, allowing readers to dip in and out as they please.

Literally following the "57-step program" would undoubtedly guarantee disaster. Luckily, this book offers readers practical and entertaining advice on how to get the most out of the graduate school experience.

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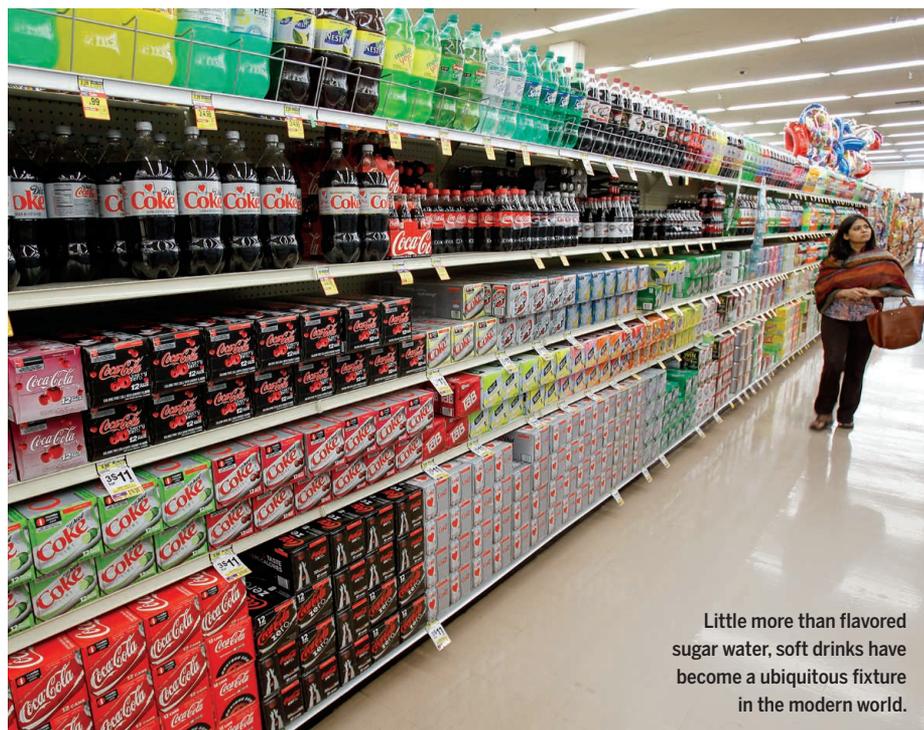


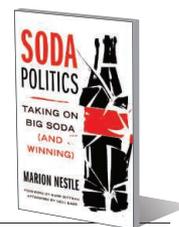
PHOTO: MARIO ANZUONI/CORBIS

Little more than flavored sugar water, soft drinks have become a ubiquitous fixture in the modern world.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Soda Politics Taking on Big Soda (and Winning)

By Marion Nestle
Oxford University Press,
2015. 524 pp.



The standard operating practices of companies like Coca-Cola and PepsiCo demand the same level of scrutiny as cigarette companies, and for many of the same reasons, argues Marion Nestle in the introduction of her new book, *Soda Politics*. What follows is a thorough and unflinching look at the soft-drink industry's role in promoting the consumption of sugary drinks despite growing evidence that they are detrimental to our health. The book begins with a basic primer of the range of health problems that have been linked to soda consumption, from tooth decay to obesity and diabetes, hitting its stride with an eviscerating assessment of the industry's marketing and advocacy practices.

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