

Will Ukraine's Refugees Ever Go Home?

03.03-10.2023
Newsweek

YOU LIE!

But you're probably no **George Santos**. Here's why

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FEATURES

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Born to Lie

What science says about both ordinary fibbers (like most of us) and really extreme liars (like, for instance, George Santos).

by DAN HURLEY

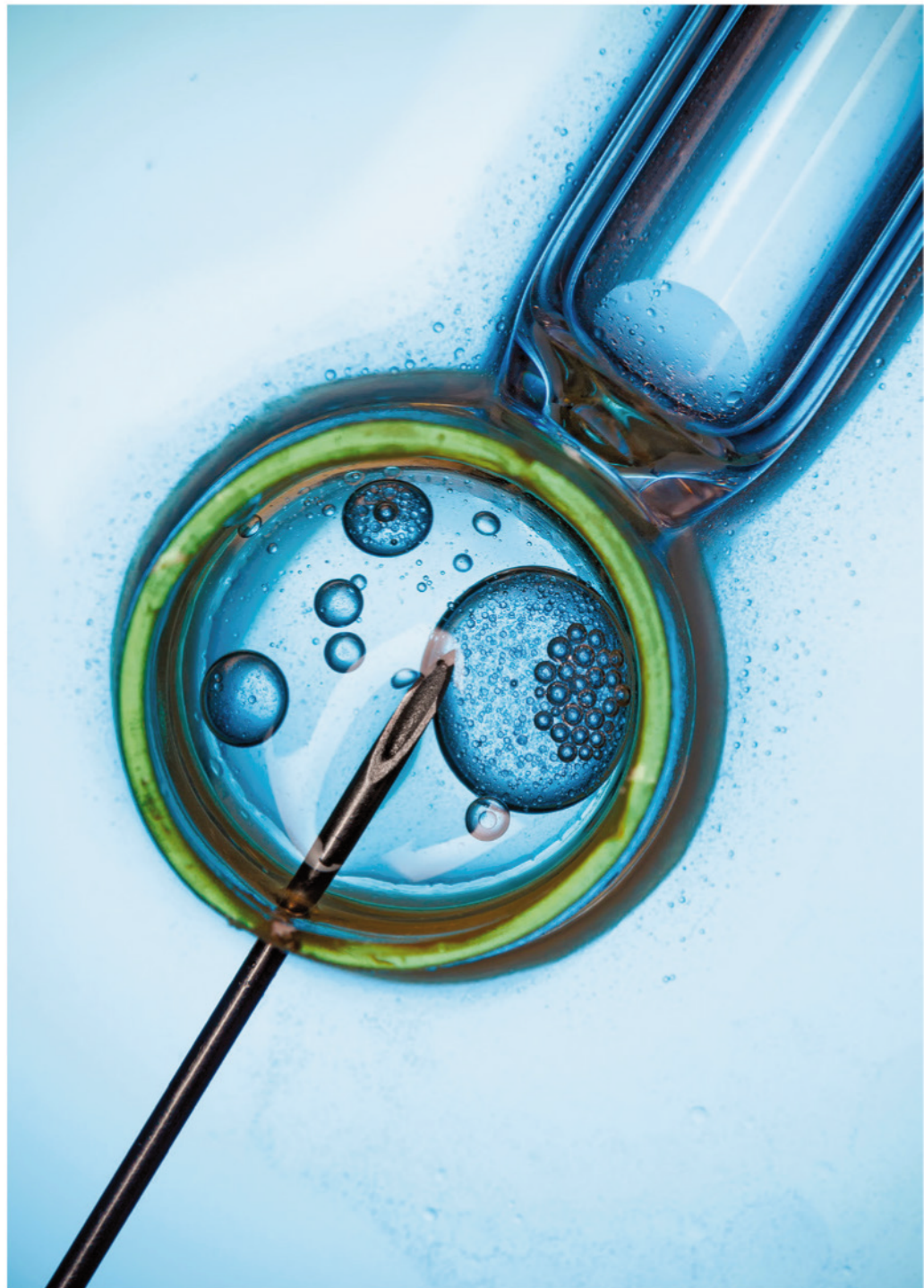
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America's Best Fertility Clinics 2023

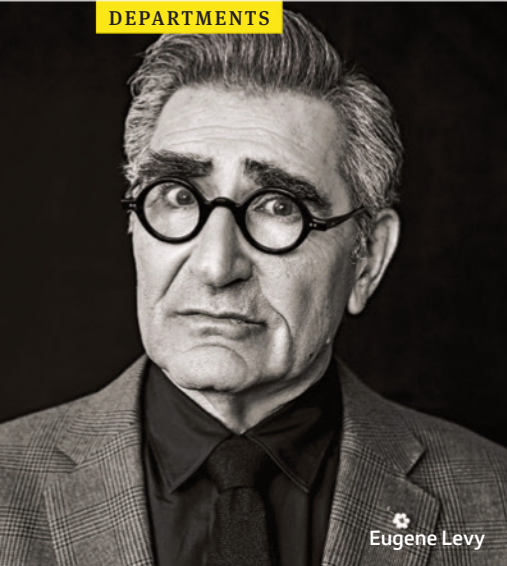
Newsweek and global research and data firm Statista teamed up to find the most highly ranked facilities in the country.

FERTILITY HELP As demand for in vitro fertilization (IVF) and other forms of assisted reproductive technology grow, so does the need for high-quality fertility care. Our new ranking can help with the search.

COVER Photo-illustration by Gluekit for *Newsweek*; Source photos by Jackie Molloy/Bloomberg/Getty and Morsa Images/Getty



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ANNIVERSARY

Newsweek Turns 90

FROM OUR FIRST ISSUE ON FEBRUARY 17, 1933, *Newsweek* has been committed to journalism that is factual and fair, aiming to inform readers not just about the most important news developments of the week but also to provide insights and perspectives to help make sense of them. In the nine decades since, the world has changed, evolved and become, many would argue, increasingly polarized. What remains the same: our dedication to bringing you the highest-quality journalism, our belief that good-faith debate is in the public interest and our welcoming of diverse views and voices to the search for common ground.

Looking back at *Newsweek* covers over the past 90 years is a time capsule of sorts, showcasing the breadth of our coverage and some common themes. War is a constant, political shenanigans come in as a close second, science is an ongoing fascination and pop culture a pleasurable escape from everyday troubles. Through it all, *Newsweek* has continued to play a major role in American culture, helping to define, explain and advance the national conversation. We hope to do the same for the next 90 years—and more.



1930s

The first issue of *Newsweek* cost a dime and featured seven stories on the cover, one for each day of the week. Coverage ranged from the rise of Nazism to the end of Prohibition and the genius of Albert Einstein.



DECEMBER 08, 1934



APRIL 04, 1938

1940s

War and the economy dominated coverage, as Hitler pressed on, Germany eventually surrendered and the nation recovered from the Depression, buoyed by FDR's New Deal. By decade's end, a new trend emerged: the baby boom.



SEPTEMBER 20, 1943



MAY 07, 1945



AUGUST 09, 1948

1950s

Newsweek covers documented political movements from the rise of McCarthyism to the fight against segregation. Plus: TV became part of the mainstream (who didn't love Lucy?) and a queen who would rule for 70 years was crowned.



APRIL 03, 1950

Newsweek



JUNE 01, 1953

Newsweek



JANUARY 19, 1953

Newsweek



SEPTEMBER 13, 1954

1960s

The era's tumultuous events included the growth of the civil rights movement, the first warnings about smoking and assassinations that left us horrified and heartbroken. There upbeat moments too: mod fashion, mop-tops and a moon landing.



JULY 29, 1963



NOVEMBER 18, 1963



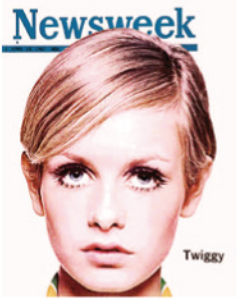
DECEMBER 02, 1963

Newsweek



APRIL 23, 1945

Rewind



APRIL 10, 1967



APRIL 15, 1968

1970s

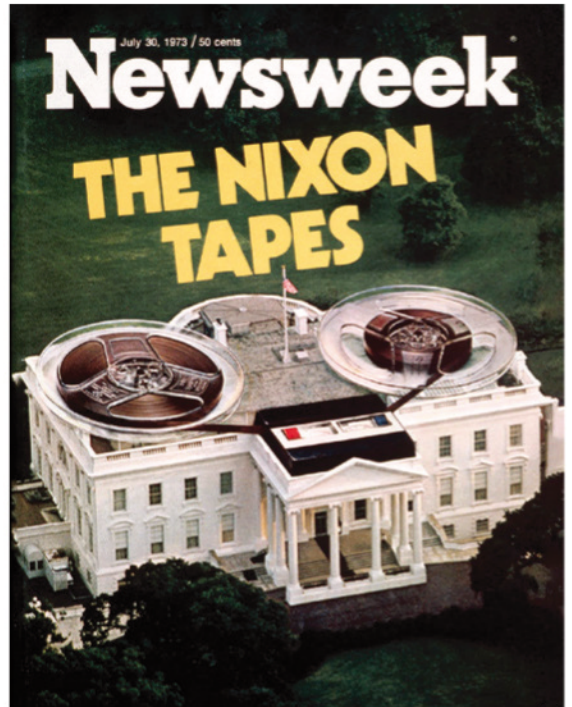
Newsweek's award-winning "Nixon Tapes" cover was an icon of the Watergate era, a time also defined by surging activism (antiwar, plus women's and gay rights). The Bunkers became family, and we cheered for cultural heroes and antiheroes alike.



FEBRUARY 24, 1964



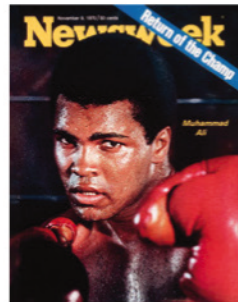
MARCH 23, 1970



JULY 30, 1973



MAY 18, 1970



NOVEMBER 09, 1970



NOVEMBER 29, 1971



JUNE 17, 1968



AUGUST 11, 1969



MARCH 13, 1972



NOVEMBER 06, 1972



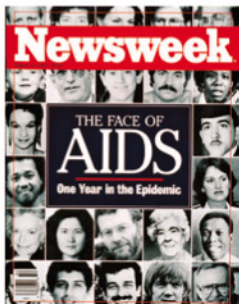
JUNE 06, 1977

1980s

“Bush suffers from a potentially crippling handicap—a perception that...he is, in a single mean word, a wimp,” *Newsweek* famously wrote. Other cover-worthy events: the AIDS epidemic, the Tianamen Square massacre and the first woman in space.



JUNE 13, 1983



AUGUST 10, 1987



JUNE 12, 1989

1990s

Words that still ring true: “In death Diana may well loom as large—if not larger—than she did in life,” *Newsweek* wrote. Other big moments captured on the cover: Mandela’s release, Anita Hill’s accusation, OJ’s arrest, the Clinton sex scandal and more.



FEBRUARY 19, 1990



OCTOBER 21, 1991



NOVEMBER 18, 1991



NOVEMBER 01, 1991



SEPTEMBER 08, 1997



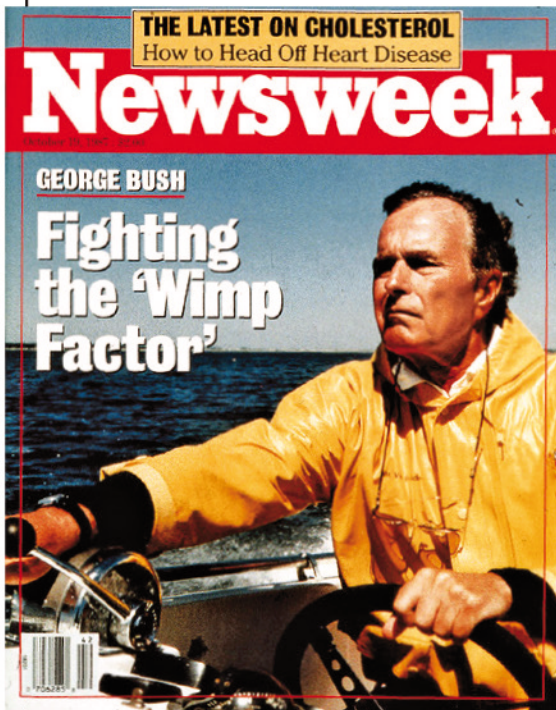
DECEMBER 06, 1993



JUNE 27, 1994



MAY 01, 1995



OCTOBER 19, 1987

Rewind



JANUARY 15, 1996



APRIL 20, 1998



NOVEMBER 30, 1998



MARCH 29, 1999



AUGUST 24, 1998

2000s

The new millennium brought “electoral limbo” over the 2000 vote, immortalized by the split-face cover of George W. Bush and Al Gore and, in 2001, the horror of 9/11. Bookending the decade: the election of the first Black U.S. president.



NOVEMBER 20, 2000



SEPTEMBER 11, 2001



APRIL 09, 2001



JULY 07, 2003



APRIL 11, 2005



NOVEMBER 26, 2007



NOVEMBER 17, 2008



JUNE 15, 2009

2010s

Everything old is new again. *Newsweek* cover subjects of the prior decade are back in the news: GOP presidential candidate Nikki Haley, NBA scoring leader LeBron James, gun control. Also noteworthy: the killing of Osama bin Laden.



JULY 12, 2010

2020s

It's not everyday that a prince—now king—writes exclusively for you. HRH Charles' 2022 essay on climate change was a change of pace in a decade so far dominated by the pandemic, Ukraine war and Trump's legal woes. Lizzo helped too.



APRIL 03, 2020



OCTOBER 09-16, 2020



MAY 16, 2011



DECEMBER 24, 2021



JANUARY 21, 2022



APRIL 01-08, 2022



JULY 29, 2022



MARCH 11, 2022



MARCH 02, 2011



FEBRUARY 22, 2019



JANUARY 01-06, 2023

BAKHMUT, UKRAINE

Taking Cover

A Ukrainian mortar team waits for Russian shelling to cease before attempting to return fire toward an enemy position on February 16. The city of Bakhmut lies in the Donetsk province, part of Ukraine's heavily industrialized eastern Donbas region, now partially occupied by Russia. Ukrainian forces have been holding the city for months against assaults led by Russian Wagner Group mercenaries, at great cost to both sides. As the February 24 one-year anniversary of the war approached, Russia intensified attacks across southern and eastern Ukraine.

▶ JOHN MOORE



GETTY

MARCH 10, 2023

NEWSWEEK.COM

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ATOYAC DE ÁLVAREZ, MEXICO

New Leaves

A soldier burns coca plants, from which cocaine is extracted, on a plantation in the southern state of Guerrero on February 15. The mountainous and difficult-to-access region has long attracted poppy and marijuana growers. Authorities say as heroin prices in the U.S. have fallen with the rise of fentanyl, however, Guerrero has become a center of Mexico's small but growing cocaine industry.

📷 ▶ FRANCISCO ROBLES



CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Generation Next?

Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley at her first campaign rally on February 15. The former South Carolina governor and United Nations ambassador is challenging both President Biden and the only other announced candidate for the GOP nomination so far, her old boss Donald Trump. In her campaign kick-off, Haley, 51, called for "mandatory mental competency tests for politicians over 75 years old."

📷 ▶ WIN MCNAMEE



EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

The Question

People leave flowers, mourn, pray and cry at a makeshift memorial at "The Rock" at Michigan State University on February 14. A day earlier, a gunman had killed three students and critically injured five others at two locations on the sprawling campus, before shooting himself. He had with him two handguns that had been legally purchased but not registered, and a list of other targets.

📷 ▶ SCOTT OLSON



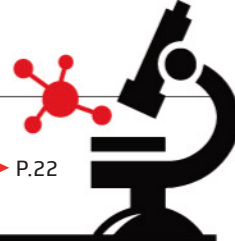


CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: AFP/GETTY; GETTY (2)



MASS DESTRUCTION

Repeated bombings in residential areas have rendered many Ukrainian homes uninhabitable. Here, a woman from the village of Mala Tokmathka on the southern front surveys the damage to her house.



“These women trusted that science would be a meritocracy.” ▶ P.22



AFP/GETTY, TOP; RIGHT: THE NOUN PROJECT

WORLD

No Place Like Home

After one year of war, 17 million displaced Ukrainians face a tough truth: Most will never go back

ONE YEAR SINCE THE START OF RUSSIA'S FULL-scale invasion, roughly half of Ukraine's pre-war population of 40 million people has been driven from their homes, creating the largest refugee crisis of the 21st century. The big, unanswerable question: When, if ever, will they be able to return home again? As the conflict continues to displace additional Ukrainians every day, the resulting uncertainty has the potential to reshape a continent scarred by its deadliest war in decades.

The experience of Yura Skobolev, a displaced father of five from Ukraine's southern Kherson region, reflects the dilemma that families face. Skobolev, his wife and children endured eight months of occupation after the war began but were finally, and ironically, forced to flee after Ukrainian forces took back the territory, when Russia began launching retributive artillery strikes from the opposite bank of the Dnipro River.

“When we call our neighbors back in the village, you can hear the cows and chickens in the background,” Skobolev tells *Newsweek*. “The neighbors say, ‘Oh, everything here is fine.’ Then, five minutes later, they say, ‘Give me a minute to get down into the cellar. They’re shelling us again.’”

Skobolev and his family, unsure of where they will go next, are currently living in temporary housing in Odesa. They are among the millions of displaced Ukrainians who have faced a similar dilemma since the war began. Of those, 8 million are now located in other countries in Europe. Just under 6 million are still in Ukraine—renting apartments in the country's relatively quiet West, staying with relatives who can offer a spare sofa or finding a bed in dormitories set up by aid organizations both international and domestic. Nearly 3 million other Ukrainians, some voluntarily and some not, have migrated to locations within the

by

MICHAEL WASIURA

internationally recognized borders of the Russian Federation.

Less than a quarter of those who evacuated in the early days of the war, though, have been able to go home—despite many of the displaced expressing a desire to do so. To date, over 5 million refugees have returned to cities such as Kyiv, Lviv and Odesa, as well as former frontline regions like Mykolaiv and Kharkiv. And experts say the odds of those who remain displaced ever resuming the lives they knew before the start of Russia's full-scale invasion are long.

"If the Russia-Ukraine war is like other conflicts we've studied—and there's no reason to think it's not—then the vast majority of displaced Ukrainians are not going home," says Shelly Culbertson, a RAND Corporation senior policy researcher specializing in post-conflict stabilization.

Snapshots Of Life Interrupted

One other thing the experts who have studied refugees from other conflicts say: The experience of uprooting their lives under threat of Russian rockets, artillery, torture or rape will inevitably have long-term consequences for the millions of displaced Ukrainians. While their individual stories are unique, they collectively form a portrait of human suffering, combined with resilience, that will come to define the war as much as the bombings, destruction and casualties.

Yulia (who, like other displaced Ukrainians interviewed, asked to be identified by first name only), her husband and their teenage daughter boarded an overcrowded train-to-anywhere from Kharkiv in early March 2022 after spending several nights in hallways and basements hiding from Russian airstrikes. Although Ukrainian martial law already prevented all able-bodied

military-age men from exiting the country, Yulia's husband suffers from diabetes, a condition that allowed the family to cross over into Poland together. They ultimately settled in Germany, where he receives medical treatment of a sort not readily available in Ukraine even during peacetime. As a result, even if Russian rockets were no longer striking Kharkiv, it is unlikely that the family would opt to return home.

“Roughly half of Ukraine’s pre-war population of 40 million people has been driven from their homes, creating the largest refugee crisis of the 21st century.”

Vladimir, a taxi driver from a frontline town in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region that's been nearly completely destroyed by the war, suffered a stroke and broken hip when a Russian artillery blast blew him out of a second story window in April. For three months before he was evacuated to a volunteer-run rehabilitation center in central Ukraine, Vladimir used vodka as a painkiller. He is now applying for a disability pension that would pay him 2,000 hryvnia (\$50 U.S.) per month. He hopes to stay in the rehab center indefinitely.

Alyona marched in the pro-Ukraine protests held in Russian-occupied Kherson during the early days of the full-scale war. As more and more local activists began disappearing for days at a time, however, Alyona, along with her daughter, made their escape, passing through a Russian filtration camp—where she was



strip-searched for “pro-Ukrainian tattoos”—en route from Kherson, through Crimea and mainland Russia, into the Republic of Georgia. Her husband, a sailor who was on a commercial ship off the coast of China on February 24, 2022, ultimately joined them in Tbilisi. Even though the city of Kherson was liberated by Ukrainian troops on November 11 of last year, Russian artillery fired from the opposite bank of the Dnipro River has made it impossible for the family to return to their apartment.

Natalia, from a village in the Mykolaiv region, cut her three teenage daughters’ hair in the hope of better protecting them from sexual predators, after the arrival of Chechen fighters in town. The Chechens had ordered the young women out of their basement hiding place and threatened them with sexual violence until a Russian officer



SAFE PASSAGE Below left: Ukrainian refugees walk to safety in Poland at a western border crossing. Above: Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky.

intervened. After a few weeks living under occupation, Natalia secured her family’s passage into Ukrainian-controlled territory through a “green” corridor lined with the carcasses of shot-up civilian cars. They would happily return from Moldova to their recently liberated village, but have no place to return to since their house was destroyed in the fighting.

An Indefinite Journey

The history of prior wars that have forced millions from their homes in the past three decades offer grim prospects for those, like Natalia, hoping to return to Ukraine.

“In specific cases, different factors lead to different outcomes, but when we look at conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Syria,” Culbertson explains, “the proportion of refugees who have returned home 10 years after the start of the average protracted conflict is right around 30 percent.”

“Protracted” is the operative word. The number of Ukrainians who remain displaced indefinitely, whether in country or abroad, will depend on a variety of factors: the level of damage inflicted on civilian infrastructure over the course of the war; the capacity of the national

government to rebuild when the fighting ultimately ceases; the prospect of returnees reestablishing a viable economic life in the communities they have fled and the intensity of ethnic and political tensions resulting from a war that has seen a notable uptick in Russian-speaking Ukrainians making the conscious choice to embrace the official state language, Ukrainian, both on the street and in their private conversations.

However, these factors depend largely on one critical, as-yet unknowable input: the ultimate length of this war.

“From what we’ve seen, if fighting continues for six years or longer, the percentage of refugees who return shrinks down to very small numbers, Culbertson says. “Given the level of destruction we’ve seen already in Eastern Ukraine, even if the war were to end tomorrow, in certain regions it would still require several more years to remove mine hazards, to restore electricity and water services, to rebuild housing and to bring back the local economy.”

“For some Ukrainians, no matter what happens on the battlefield,” she adds, “going home is not going to be an option for a long, long time.”

Long-Term Accommodation

Culbertson recommends that refugees and host country governments alike should start preparing for a future in which “a large number of Ukrainians could be part of Europe forever, even if their stated preference would be to return home.”

Such preparations appear to be underway.

Unlike in the case of the comparatively small number of Syrian refugees who arrived in Europe in the mid-2010s, the sudden influx of millions of Ukrainians has not led to

any notable rise in pro-right nationalist parties among the host countries. While the assistance packages available to Ukrainians vary by state—a €451 monthly payment for “socially vulnerable” Ukrainian adults who register in Germany, for example, as opposed to a 300 zloty (€63) “one-time payment” to refugees arriving in Poland—those looking to establish a new life abroad still have ample opportunity to do so.

United for Ukraine CEO Dana Pavlychko, who settled in Germany after fleeing Kyiv with her two small children on February 24 of last year, helps fellow refugees navigate the options available to them.

“We assist displaced Ukrainians with psychological and legal support in more than 40 countries, and we also work to ensure that they have access to accurate information about where they can go, how they can get there and what they can expect to find when they arrive,” Pavlychko tells *Newsweek*.

Poland has taken in the largest number of refugees (1,563,386), with Germany (1,055,323) and Czechia (486,133) rounding out the top-three destination countries. In most

European states, Ukrainians have been granted the right to work, put their children in public schools, receive medical care and extend their legal term of stay for up to three years. However, because Ukrainian martial law severely restricts able-bodied men between the ages of 18-65 from leaving the country, the overwhelming majority of the refugees consist of mothers, children and the elderly.

“Most Ukrainians say they want to return home,” Pavlychko explains. “They left behind homes, careers and, in many cases, husbands. But if you have children, it’s not possible to send them to school when there are air alert sirens all across the country almost every day. It’s not possible to have them study online when there are constant power outages. It’s not possible to take care of elderly relatives when the heat is turned off in the middle of winter. And so even if certain areas of Ukraine are quote-unquote ‘safer’ than others, returning home isn’t the best option

NO END IN SIGHT The longer the war, the less likely Ukrainian refugees will return home. Here, soldiers in Donbas take cover after firing at Russian positions.

for most of those who are currently located abroad.”

In a nation of 40 million stories, however, there are still myriad examples of Ukrainians abroad weighing their options and choosing the hardships of home over the security of life in a developed economy protected by NATO’s Article 5 collective security guarantee.

Nastia and her two children fit into this category. When Nastia’s husband, Andrei, woke up on the morning of February 24, 2022, the windows of their Mykolaiv apartment were shaking. After a few days of family discussions held in their building’s basement, Nastia, Andrei and the kids decamped to his mother’s house in a village a safer distance away from invading Russian forces. After news of the Bucha massacre started coming out in early April, Andrei—an able-bodied man of military age, and thus ineligible to leave the country with them—drove his wife and children through two days’ worth of checkpoints to the Polish border, where they were met by Nastia’s mother.

“I called Andrei from Poland every single day for four months, crying and saying, ‘I want to come home. I want to come home,’” Nastia told *Newsweek* over tea in the kitchen of her Mykolaiv apartment. “Andrei would answer, ‘You have stay there for the safety of the kids.’”

By August, however, the Russian offensive in Ukraine’s eastern Donbas region had stalled, and HIMARS strikes were wreaking havoc on the occupiers’ supply lines on all fronts of the war. Although Mykolaiv was still under fire, a Bucha-style massacre in Andrei’s mother’s village no longer seemed like a risk worth keeping the family apart over. And so Andrei again made the trip up to





HOME AGAIN A woman and her children eye the damage to buildings near their apartment in Mykolaiv. They originally fled to Poland but returned this summer.

the Polish border, this time to bring his family back for good. After the Ukrainian liberation of Kherson in mid-November pushed Russian forces out of artillery range, they were even able to move back into their Mykolaiv apartment.

“Since New Year, you can see a lot more lights on in windows at night,” Nastia notes. “If people really want to be in Ukraine, then they return to Ukraine. If they never had much luck here to begin with, or if they were already looking to emigrate, then they stay in Europe. We wanted to be in Ukraine, but not everyone is making the same choice.”

Strangers In A Familiar Land

Of course, not all Ukrainians who want to be in Ukraine still have the option of returning to the home they knew on February 23, 2022. While many of the 8 million refugees currently in Europe enjoy at least the small luxury of being able to sit down over tea to conduct a kitchen table cost-benefit analysis before deciding whether or not to purchase a one-way ticket from Berlin or Brussels

to “relatively safe” Kyiv or Chernivtsi, those from a depressingly long list of suddenly world-famous mid-sized cities all but unknown one year ago—Mariupol, Kherson, Severodoneck, Bakhmut—have already had that choice made for them.

The approximately 6 million Ukrainians who remain internally displaced almost all fall into this latter category. Unlike their compatriots abroad, where comparatively rich European governments are still willing and able to offer a generous combination of housing subsidies, cash assistance, medical care and access to schools, Ukrainians inside

“If the Russia-Ukraine war is like other conflicts we’ve studied—and there’s no reason to think it’s not—the vast majority of displaced Ukrainians are not going home.”

Ukraine can count on their government to provide a 2000 hryvnia (\$50) per month assistance payout, and not much else.

As a result, an integrated network of aid organizations—both international and domestic—have mobilized to meet the need. It is made up mainly of volunteers who evacuate at-risk civilians from active warzones, just as it is mainly volunteers who house them, clothe them, feed them and help them find opportunities to re-establish some form of independent life. For all of the much-deserved praise that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has garnered as a result of his death-defying choice to request “ammunition, not a ride,” it is not the still-too-often corrupt, still-too-often underfunded, still-too-often sclerotic Ukrainian state that is beating back an all-out, year-long military assault from a nuclear power three times its size. It is Ukrainians themselves.

“I could have gone to Europe and definitely built a more respectable material life for me and my son,” Alexandra Naumenko, an accountant who devotes most of her ample energy to running the Dnipro Charm IDP shelter in central Ukraine, tells *Newsweek*. “But I feel like those of us living in comparatively more calm areas have a responsibility to do whatever we can to help those who are fleeing from areas where there is active fighting.”

In the early days of the invasion, Dnipro became a transport hub for displaced Donbas residents, along with escapees from occupied Melitopol and Mariupol. Back then,

A HOUSE DIVIDED Since able-bodied men of fighting age are not allowed to leave Ukraine, the majority of refugees are women, children and older people.

World Central Kitchen volunteers cooked meals for the 50-some IDP shelters struggling to cope with a sudden influx of nearly half-a-million temporary new residents. Since June, however, when Russia's eastern offensive culminated following the seizures of Lysychansk and Severodonetsk, the flow of refugees coming from the east has slowed substantially. Even with new arrivals from places such as Bakhmut and Soledar showing up nearly every day, the population of Dnipro Charm has fallen from 200—double its actual capacity—to around 80.

“We have a few residents here who arrived in April, but mostly our task is to get people back on their feet so that they can find semi-permanent living situations, whether that be in Western Ukraine or in Europe,” Naumenko explains. “Since the start of the war, 5,000 people have passed through our shelter, which means that almost everyone who arrived here was able to find a better place to move on to eventually.”

On a Tuesday afternoon this February, just a couple of weeks shy of the war's one-year anniversary, several Dnipro Charm residents gather in a makeshift kitchen for tea and cookies and, after an hour or two of small talk, home-made chicken soup prepared by a matronly resident named Lyudmila. Several children live in the shelter, and, with local schools still working in online mode, Naumenko usually brings her son, Danil, to work with her rather than leaving him at home in an apartment located a less-than-comfortable distance from an industrial site that has



“Most Ukrainians say they want to return home. They left behind homes, careers, and, in many cases, husbands.”

been targeted by Russian rockets on multiple occasions. On this particular afternoon, a vivacious 12-year-old girl, Albina, dressed in a donation center t-shirt reading “Dreams Come True If You Don’t F*** Up,” had gotten hold of a toy microphone, which she was using to announce “Attention. Attention. Air Raid Alert.” The children found it hilarious.

Dnipro Charm’s adult residents were more sober minded. One of them, a grandmother from Lysychansk who has been at the shelter

since last summer, asked how long it would be before she could go home. The consensus response—that even in the unlikely event that Ukrainian forces were to succeed in liberating her hometown tomorrow, the process of de-mining, rubble clearing and reconstruction could take years—was not the answer she was hoping to hear.

However, after a pause punctuated by a sip of tea, she accepted the situation, displaying the kind of resilience that, when multiplied by 40 million, has wielded enough power to fight off a Russian invasion. “At least we’re warm here,” she says. “We have soup. We can sleep in a place where there are no explosions. Compared to the boys on the front, we’re living pretty.” **N**

► **Michael Wasiura** is a NEWSWEEK contributor living in Odesa, Ukraine. You can follow him on Twitter @michael_wasiura.

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WORK

Cracking the Ivory Tower's Glass Ceiling

How 16 women scientists banded together to prove unequal treatment—and informed lasting change

Women in academia and the sciences are finally getting their due: The key to mRNA vaccines—which helped bring COVID-19 vaccines to market so speedily—came from the lab of 65-year-old Katalin Karikó; Rochelle Walensky leads the Centers for Disease Control and this fall, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and six out of the eight Ivy League universities will be led by women presidents. While opportunities for women in academia and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers have a long way to go, things are significantly better, and that is a result of an unparalleled group effort by 16 female members of the MIT faculty to bring about change. Their work resulted in a groundbreaking admission by the school in 1999 of a pattern of marginalization of its female faculty. As a result of the report, the ranks of tenured women faculty at MIT grew significantly: universities across the country began fixing the gender gap in salaries—which many called “Nancy Hopkins raises” after the ringleader in the MIT group; the National Science Foundation’s ADVANCE program spent \$365 million over the next 25 years nationwide to establish programs to identify and address gender disparities and many other inequalities were addressed. The story of Nancy Hopkins and how she and her 15 colleagues fought for fair treatment is told in Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Kate Zernike’s THE EXCEPTIONS (Scribner, February). In the excerpt below from her book, Zernike shares the roots of how she came to research this triumph.

IN MARCH 1999, A STORY ABOVE the fold on the front page of the *Boston Sunday Globe* reported that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology had acknowledged long-standing discrimination against women on its science faculty. It was “an extraordinary admission,” as an article on the front page of the *New York Times* called it two days later, by which point the news had traveled around the world by radio, television and a fever pitch of emails between female scientists who had long known they were not valued as highly as men but talked about it only

among themselves, if at all. Here was one of the most prestigious institutions in the world, synonymous with scientific excellence. The discrimination had happened not in some dark age but in the 1990s, the dawn of a new millennium, decades after legislation and the women’s movement had pushed open the doors of opportunity. Most women starting their careers at the time did not think bias would block them. Women who complained of discrimination typically ended up in the deadlock of he-said, she-said. Now the president of MIT was saying it was true.

by
KATE ZERNIKE



That admission came about not because of a lawsuit or formal complaint, but because of the work of 16 women who had started as strangers, working in secret, and gathered their case so methodically—like the scientists they were—that MIT could not ignore them. They upset the usual assumptions about why there were so few women in science and math and unleashed a reckoning across the United States as other universities, philanthropies and government agencies rushed to address the bias and the disparities that had disadvantaged women for decades. “A climate change in the whole of academia,” as an astronomer at the California Institute of Technology called it.

I was the reporter who wrote the story in the *Globe*. I had recognized that it might resonate—though I could not predict how much—because of my father, a physicist who

COURTESY OF MIT MUSEUM



A MAN'S WORLD Nancy Hopkins (here with colleagues at the MIT Cancer Center lab in the 1980s) helped pave the way for fairer treatment of female scientists.

had arrived in the United States in 1956 to work for a small engineering firm in Cambridge populated by MIT graduates and consultants. My parents had moved before I was born, but my father visited me often in Boston on his way to see his collaborators at Lincoln Laboratory, an MIT research center, and he had suggested that I look into the work that a physicist named Millie Dresselhaus at MIT—known as the “Queen of Carbon”—was doing to encourage more women to enter the profession.

I had ignored him, until I heard about the women at MIT. They made me think of my mother, who was around the same age as the oldest of them. My mother had wanted to go to law school when she graduated from college in 1954, but her father surveyed his lawyer friends in Toronto and told her that no one would hire her. So she went to business school

“These women trusted that science, with its emphasis on data and facts, would be a pure meritocracy. They discovered there is no such thing.”

instead, up the street from MIT, enrolling in the Harvard-Radcliffe Program in Business Administration, which was the only way women could attend the Harvard Business School. That year *The Wall Street Journal* reported on the program in the middle column of its front page, reserved for offbeat or “light” features. It quoted business leaders marveling that the Radcliffe girls were “just as smart as the boys,” but lamenting that “too many marry

too soon.” (“They’re too good-looking, they’re just the right age, and there are too many men at the bank.”) My mother herself worked in a bank after she finished, quit to get married, and raised three children, but always regretted that she had not gone to law school. Her decision to go when I was 7—I was the youngest of her three—became the defining event of my childhood. She inquired at Yale, where a man told her, “I wouldn’t let my wife go to law school.” She ended up instead at Pace University.

A year or two after she graduated, she was in the law library there and decided to look herself up in the Harvard Alumni Directory. There she found her name followed by a series of acronyms: BA, MBA, JD, W/M. Not recognizing the last one, she went to the key and discovered “wife and mother.”

My mother was then commuting three hours a day to her job at a law firm in lower Manhattan and still made dinner most nights. I was about 12 and did not fully understand her fury as she came rushing out of the law library, where I was sitting on the steps. She drove home ranting, “W slash M! W slash M?” In time it became a family joke. But I can’t say I had fathomed it even by the time I started my own career in Boston. Across the river, Cambridge was no longer the city where my parents had their first apartment; now it was tony restaurants and out-of-reach real estate prices. Twenty-five years after coeducation, I presumed my mother’s experience was deep in the past.

The MIT women made me see it was not, at least not in science. They had identified the new shape of sex

discrimination, more subtle but still pervasive. I was struck by their ingenuity, and how they had enlightened the men who ran the university. Their experience became a metric for how I thought about my own life and the questions and debates around women that I would write about. In time, what the MIT women had described began to look less faraway, more relevant. So much had changed, and yet.

Then as now, I saw the story as one of remarkable persistence and risk on the part of 16 women who did not consider themselves activists. Led by a reluctant feminist, they were more pragmatic than revolutionary. They were not interested in publicity; they just wanted to get on with their work. As I explored their story—and the story of women in science before and after them—the word that kept coming up, in different conjugations, was *exception*. Women who succeeded in science were called *exceptional*, as if it were unusual for them to be so bright. They were exceptional not because they could succeed at science but because of all they accomplished despite the hurdles. Many had pushed past discrimination for years by excusing individual situations or incidents as exceptional, explained not by bias but by circumstance. Only when they came together did the MIT women see the pattern. That recognition alone made them exceptional, too.

I had known Nancy Hopkins, the molecular biologist who came to lead them, for 20 years before I realized that she had started her life as Nancy Doe. Like John Doe or Jane Doe, the generic everywoman whose example tells the larger story. The exception who proved the rule. **N**

► Adapted from *THE EXCEPTIONS*, published by Scribner. Copyright © 2023 by Kate Zernike.



Kate Zernike

BY MEREDITH WOLF SCHIZER

Q—Why write this book? Why now?

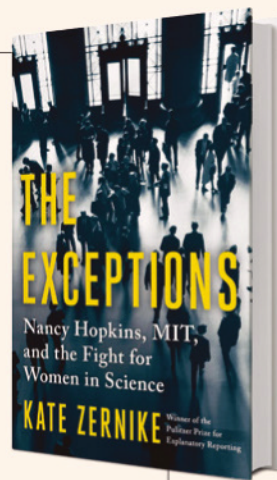
A—I started thinking about doing this book in January 2018, just as the #MeToo movement was surging. Those egregious cases made me reflect on the kind of discrimination the women at MIT had talked about in 1999: the subtle ways women are marginalized in the workplace, especially as they get older. I think it is more pervasive, and more insidious. The great insight of the MIT women was that it wasn't enough to open doors to women, you had to make sure you valued and treated them equally into their careers. It struck me that the problems faced by women in science crystallize the broader problem, which is that we still don't take women as seriously in intellectual and professional settings. This story is even more relevant now, as the country again debates whether we still need affirmative action. These women trusted that science, with its emphasis on data and facts, would be a pure meritocracy. They discovered there is no such thing.

Nancy Hopkins and her colleagues' efforts led to advances in academic sciences. Did this translate to other areas of academia and STEM careers more broadly?

When the MIT Report came out, there had never been a single fe-

male department head at MIT. Now the university is run by women, from the board of trustees to the president's office and the dean of science. (So is the state of Massachusetts and the city of Boston.) There was one female president of the Ivy League at the time, this fall, six of those eight institutions will be led by women. That's a small and elite subset, but those universities can set trends. There are other subtle changes: when the MIT women started looking into the problem, no female professors were taking maternity leave because of the stigma. Now female scientists on many campuses say it's no longer the exception to see female colleagues dropping off their children at day care centers on campus, many of which did not exist in 1999. It is routine for universities to stop the tenure clock for women (and men) when they have children. The president of the National Academy of Sciences and





President Biden's top three science advisers are women, as were the people leading the development of vaccines as the world fought the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, very few women win Nobel Prizes in science, which reminds us we have a long way to go in nurturing and valuing the contributions of women.

Given the pay disparity between women and men in STEM jobs today, how significant was the MIT group? What's next in the fight?

Women in most fields still earn less than men for the same work. Changing that can't be on one group of women at one university, it's up to the men and women leading companies and universities. The MIT women didn't even think the report would be read beyond their own campus. But the publicity around their story prompted other universities to do similar audits. It also led the National Science Foundation to establish a program that has addressed differential treatment in teaching assignments, awarding of grants and bias in hiring.

The attrition rate for women in science and engineering schools is still disproportionately high. And a report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine in 2018 found that about half of all women on those faculties experience sexual harassment. Of those cases, a small percentage involved sexual coercion. The biggest problem by far was what the MIT women had identified, what the report called "gender harassment." It's the sexist putdowns about women in science, crude comments that have the effect of making women feel they are not welcome in these environments. This is

especially true for women who are doubly marginalized: women of color, lesbian women or those who are what we traditionally consider masculine in appearance or behavior.

When then-president of Harvard, Larry Summers commented on women's "issues of intrinsic aptitude," it set off another firestorm of debate on the subject. Is women's success in the field still seen as "an exception" to many?

I followed that story pretty closely in 2005, but I was still shocked when I went back to see the flood of articles at the time defending Larry Summers, even when there was plenty of research to refute what he said. Some of his ideas—not just that women lacked intrinsic aptitude but that they didn't want to work 80-hour weeks—have been around since the earliest part of the last century. I do think now there is more awareness. "The exceptions" also refers to the way these women explained away the small ways in which they were being discriminated against; they assumed it had to do with the particular circumstances, or blamed themselves. I think now we better understand the systemic bias.

Nancy's report has never been released publicly. Why? Do you think information in it could help the cause for current and future women seeking to crack the glass ceiling?


MIT did not release the full report because it contained stories from or about female professors that had been told with the promise

of confidentiality. You couldn't make those stories anonymous; even saying "a junior faculty member in math" would identify the woman because there were only one or two. The stories are in the book, and I do think they illustrate the assumptions and patterns women still have to work against, the pitfalls to avoid.

What was the most surprising thing you learned when researching this book?

It should not surprise me, or us, but I was reminded of how long we've been talking about the same problems, and even coming up with solutions, but not doing anything. President Kennedy's Commission on Women in 1963 recommended paid maternity leave; it took decades to get it. Research in the 1970s showed that all of us—women and men—value the same resume less if it has a woman's name instead of a man's on it. I was reminded that every generation thinks it has solved the problem, only for every generation to discover it anew.

What's the key to providing equal opportunity to girls and women in the sciences?

Changing attitudes is key, as institutions hire and as we talk about who is doing the most significant work in science. Who do we think of when we hear the word "genius"—research shows us it tends to be men. At MIT, the School of Engineering had remarkable success hiring more women after this report, because of a male dean who refused to accept when search committees came back, as they so often had, and said there was no qualified woman to hire. He said: Look harder. 



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST/GETTY

BORN

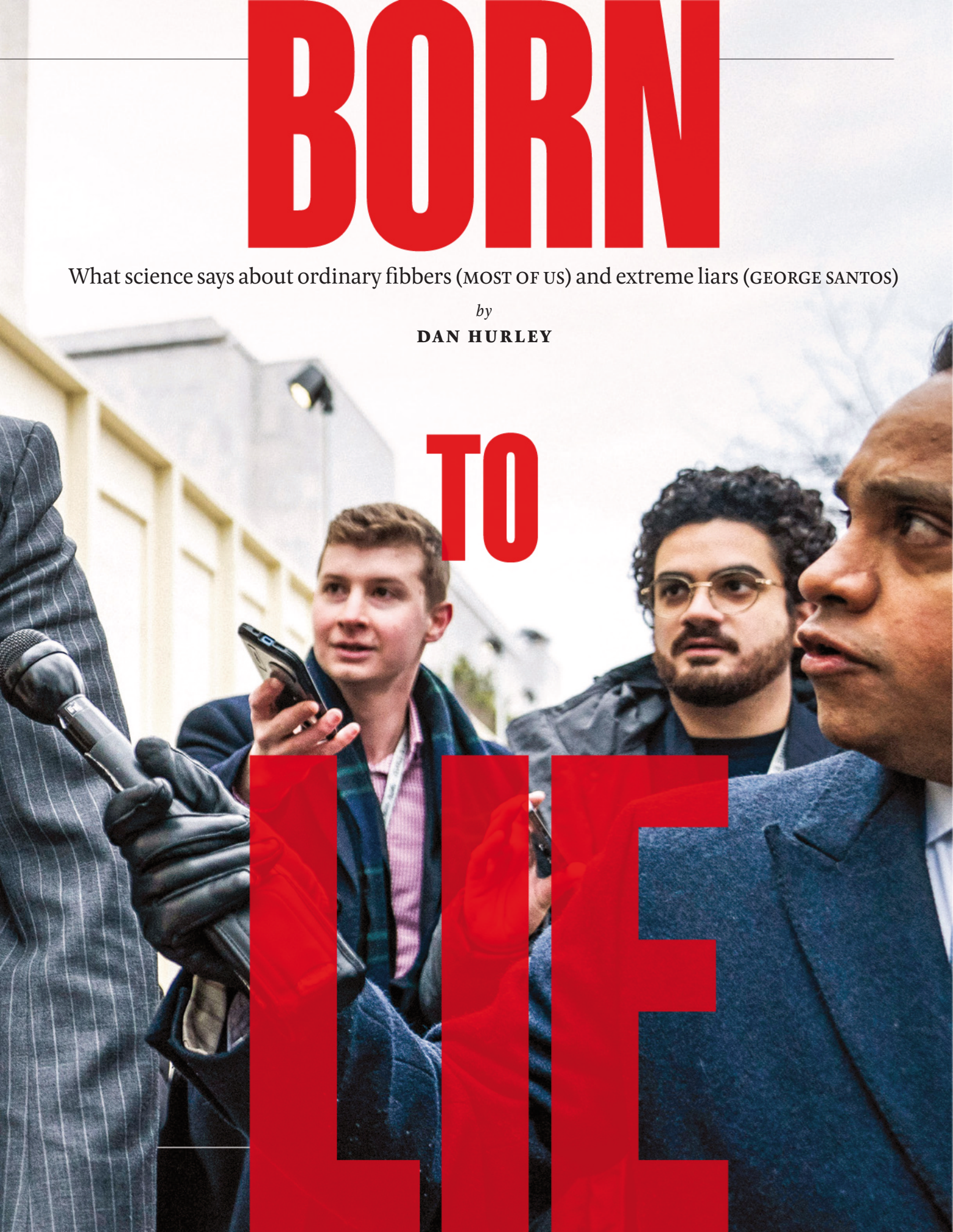
What science says about ordinary fibbers (MOST OF US) and extreme liars (GEORGE SANTOS)

by

DAN HURLEY

TO

LIE



TWENTY YEARS AGO, WHEN VIRONIKA WILDE was 12 years old, she began to lie. A lot. She lied about her age and her weight. She lied about having a speaking role on the hit TV show *Degrassi* when she had only been an extra. She lied that she had been in a car when a drive-by shooting occurred. Throughout her teen years and into her twenties, she lied constantly and blatantly, with little worry over whether or not her preposterous stories were believable.

“When you’re in the habit of doing it, it’s hard to stop,” Wilde says. “The lies I told as a kid were pretty easy to figure out. But as I got older, I thought my lies were really clever.”

Not until she suffered a mental breakdown in 2012 did Wilde decide she had to change. Like a recovering alcoholic, she even went back to old friends and confessed about her lies. “When I finally started telling the truth,” she says, “for the first time I got the reactions from people that I always thought I would get from lying.”

Now an author and poet living in Toronto, Wilde says the lies slipped away once she began to love and accept her true self.

If only George Santos had learned the same lesson.

Within weeks of winning his first race for Congress in November, Santos was outed as a prolific, outrageous liar. He lied about where he went to high school and college, about being Jewish and having a grandmother who died in the Holocaust (he isn’t and she didn’t), about working in finance at Citigroup and Goldman Sachs, about where his campaign money came from and how he spent it, about starting an animal charity, about his mother dying on 9/11 and about having four employees who died at the Pulse nightclub shooting in 2016.

Of course, Santos is hardly alone in his lying. Former President Donald Trump is under investigation for lying about the results of the 2020 election (even as a significant portion of the electorate insist that President Joe Biden is the liar.) Such stories go a long way toward explaining why so many people think not only politicians, but also car salespeople, lawyers, real estate agents and (ahem) journalists are not to be trusted. As a Gallup poll released on January 10 shows, fewer than 25 percent of respondents considered people in those professions to rate high or very high for honesty and ethical standards. A whopping 62 percent rated members of Congress as low or very low.

THOSE WHO LIE
Bernard Madoff (below)
ran the biggest Ponzi
scheme in history.
Victoria Talwar (bottom
right) says parents
shouldn’t freak when
their kids lie. Cain killed
Abel (top right) and
lied to God about it.

But how common is lying, really? As it happens, science has an answer: not very. Aside from a small percentage of people who, like Santos, are prolific liars, most of us are pretty darn honest. We also have a strong natural tendency to believe what others tell us, studies have found—which is how the Santosians of the world get away with it.

Lying, in fact, can be a good thing, science has found: In children it’s a sign of growing cognitive maturity, while in adults it protects against unnecessarily harming others’ feelings. In business negotiations, exaggerations and even outright lies are so common that anyone who buys a home without first having it inspected is considered a fool. Researchers have even begun to learn why most of us are bad at detecting when someone is lying (and found new ways to do much better).

The truth about lies and liars turns out to be surprisingly reassuring, according to a wealth of new scientific studies. Reassuring, that is, if you believe in science.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: JIN LEE/BLOOMBERG/GETTY; GEOFFREY CLEMENTS/CORBIS/VC/GETTY; GETTY; COURTESY OF VICTORIA TALWAR



Teach Your Children to Lie

IF YOU THINK SANTOS IS THE LEBRON JAMES OF lying, think again. Liars have been around since Cain killed Abel and lied about it to God, as told in Genesis. In the late 1600s, a British swindler named William Chaloner scammed the Royal Mint and Bank of England before being proved guilty by Sir Isaac Newton. In the 1920s, Charles Ponzi cooked up a type of pyramid scheme that now bears his name. In 2008, Bernard L. Madoff was found to be running the biggest Ponzi scheme in history, having swindled clients out of \$64.8 billion.

My all-time personal favorite lie was one of the most common, ordinary kind, carried out in partnership with my best friend when I was 13. To see the band Three Dog Night at Madison Square Garden in New York City, I told my mother that I was sleeping over at his house. He told his mother that he was sleeping over at my house. Neither ever found out.

Lying turns out to be a very teenage thing to do, as most parents learn. “Lying peaks in adolescence and then declines all through adulthood and into the senior years,” says Victoria Talwar, professor

PEA
STRE

“WE HUMANS ARE BY OUR NATURE A SOCIAL SPECIES. IN ORDER FOR COMMUNICATION TO FUNCTION EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY, WE HAVE TO EXPECT THAT OTHERS ARE TELLING US THE TRUTH.”



of developmental psychology at McGill University and author of *The Truth About Lying: Teaching Honesty to Children at Every Age and Stage* (APA LifeTools, 2022).

Preschoolers lie, too, but not very convincingly, Talwar says, and usually just to get out of trouble. (“Did you eat the last cookie?” “No,” the toddler says, with chocolate smudged on her face.) By elementary school, the lies become more complex, and are often aimed at puffing up their reputation. “A boy in my son’s class said he had taken a trip to Mexico and brought back a parrot,” Talwar says. “He had no parrot. He was trying to get attention.”

Given how common the occasional childhood lie can be, Talwar urges parents not to freak over it. “I’ve seen parents get very upset,” she says. “The

worst time by far was when I had a parent who flipped out because her four-year-old had lied to her. She was a fundamentalist Christian. She called her child a sinner.”

Lying in very young children is actually a sign of cognitive development, according to Kang Lee, a professor of developmental psychology at the University of Toronto who has been studying deception in children and adults for 30 years.

“Most two-year-olds are very honest,” Lee says. “Only about 25 percent will lie when we test them in our studies. By three, about 50 percent will lie. At four years, about 80 percent lie. By the time they get to elementary school, almost everybody lies in my studies.”

Learning to lie requires children to have the cognitive self-control to suppress the truth and the understanding of something simple but profound: that what they know might be different from what others know. If Liam puts a toy in the closet while Celeste is out of the room, he needs to grasp that she won't know where it is when she returns. Lee calls this skill “mind reading.”

“It turns out that those kids who lie at an early age have better mind-reading abilities and better self-control than those who do not lie,” Lee says. “That's very surprising. We always thought that kids who lie lack moral character, that they have lower IQ, that they must be worse at everything. Instead, it looks like lying is a normative developmental behavior.”

So important is “mind reading” to a child's social development that Lee has taught it to three-year-olds who were not yet able to lie. Over a period of 10 days, he has them play games to demonstrate that what he knows and likes can be different from what the child knows and likes. For instance, he gives a child three cups with a tiny ball inside one of them. While Lee closes his eyes, he tells the child to move the ball into another cup. It might take over a week of



“WHEN THE TRUTH WOULD CAUSE IMMEDIATE EMOTIONAL HARM AND THE PERSON CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT, MOST PEOPLE THINK THAT LYING WOULD BE ETHICAL.”

TANGLED WEB
Immanuel Kant (bottom) said truth-telling is “not to be limited by any expediency.” But the University of Chicago’s Emma Levine (left) says the ethics of lying are complicated. Below: Boys play a shell game.



practice, but eventually it will dawn on the kid that Lee doesn't know where it was moved to, even though the child does know. The result, Lee says, is that the child becomes better at understanding others and getting along with them (and, alas, better at lying).

Having studied some 10,000 children, Lee emphasizes that children lie relatively rarely (outside of his experiments), and usually just to be polite, as in telling Grandma that those socks she gave him for Christmas are awesome. Reassuringly, he says, “Although they lie to get out of trouble, they don't lie to get others into trouble.”

Prolific Liars and the Truth Default

SCIENTISTS WERE ONCE CONVINCED THAT LYING BY adults was shockingly common, because on average their studies showed that. Then, in 2009, a group of researchers conducted a survey of 1,000 U.S. adults to dig deeper into the prevalence of lying during a 24-hour period. Sixty percent of the respondents, they found, hadn't lied once. But 5 percent of the respondents had told fully half of all the lies. The overall average, in other words, was being skewed by a tiny percentage of prolific liars.



“Most people don't lie very much—somewhere between zero and two lies per day,” says Timothy R. Levine, professor and chair of the department of communications at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. “When they do lie, it tends to be about innocuous things, like saying you love the meal your friend prepared, even if you don't.”

Levine's research has revolutionized our understanding of lying. Along with the fact that most of us lie very little, he also found what con artists have long known: Most of us generally expect others, even strangers, to tell us the truth. He calls this “truth-default theory” and spelled out his findings in a 2019 book *Duped: Truth-Default Theory and the Social Science of Lying and Deception* (University of Alabama)

“If I'm lost and ask you for directions, I don't think you're going to lie to me,” he says. “We humans are by our nature a social species. In order for communication to function efficiently and effectively, we have to expect that others are telling us the truth.”

Levine points to a poster in his office that says he was drafted into the NBA but turned it down to go to graduate school, then left school for a while to play in the rock band Soundgarden. “I'm 5'8” and overweight,” he says. “But you would not believe how many people come into my office, see that poster and say, ‘I didn't know you played basketball.’ We're all more gullible than we think we are.”

Usually that's okay, because most people are fairly honest. The trouble comes when prolific liars like Santos hijack our trusting nature.

When Lying Is the Right Thing To Do

WHEN IS IT ACCEPTABLE, OR EVEN APPROPRIATE, to lie? Don't ask the 17th century philosopher Immanuel Kant. In his essay “On a Supposed Right to Tell Lies From Benevolent Motives,” he argued that lying is never ethically right. He conjured up the extreme scenario of a murderer coming to your door while holding a knife and asking if his intended victim (hiding in a back room) is there. Even then, Kant insisted, you must tell the truth. “To be truthful (honest) in all declarations,” he wrote, “is therefore a sacred unconditional command of reason, and not to be limited by any expediency.”

Hogwash, most everybody else says: To condemn another to death because you place honesty above

all other values is absurd. Beyond that extreme, though, the ethics can get complicated, says Emma Levine, associate professor of behavioral science at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

“Many of our most difficult ethical dilemmas involve balancing honesty with benevolence,” says Levine (no relation to the truth-default Levine). “Most people think lies that prevent unnecessary hurt and harm are ethical. When the truth would cause immediate emotional harm and the person can’t do anything about it, most people think that lying would be ethical.”

Ethical dilemmas over telling or withholding the truth frequently arise in medical crises, she says, when for instance a person has a very low chance of survival but the doctor spins it optimistically. More mundane is the classic scenario of a wife asking her partner how she looks in a new dress.

“If you’re already out to dinner, most people think it’s ethical to lie and say you love it,” Levine says. “But if you’re still at home, and she can change, then you should tell the truth.”

Even then, though, she says: “You should still be kind. ‘You always look beautiful to me, but that other dress looks even better.’”

Just because most people think it’s okay to lie sometimes, does that necessarily mean it’s truly ethical?

“I don’t think it’s cut and dried,” she says. “When I started this work, it was surprising to me that people actually want to be lied to in certain circumstances. But my personal opinions on lying are increasingly nuanced. Lying is tempting, but the costs are often delayed.”

In other words: the lies George Santos told helped him get elected, but he is now forever known as someone whose word can never be trusted. Even little white lies, told too often, can whittle away at a person’s reputation, as people catch on that they’re a B.S. artist.

Levine finds it especially unnerving that research has shown that people are more willing to accept a lie when it is beneficial to their belief system, social circle or political leaning. Even many supporters of former President Donald J. Trump, for instance, recognize that he routinely tells whoppers, but are willing to go along.

“We’re willing to promote and follow people we recognize as liars if we see them as promoting our goals in a politically polarized world,” she says. “That’s unfortunate.”

GRANDDADDY OF LIARS
George Santos is not the first big time liar, nor the last. In the 1920s, Charles Ponzi cooked up a type of pyramid scheme that now bears his name.

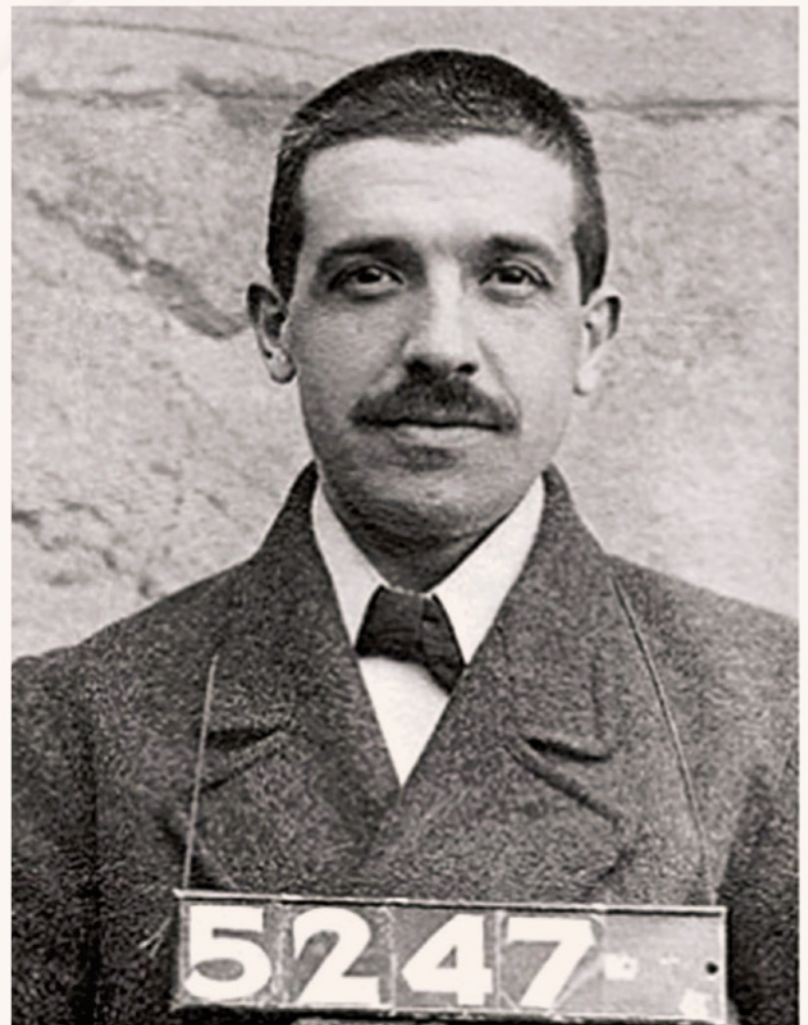
When You’re a Fool to be Honest

MAURICE SCHWEITZER, A PROFESSOR AT THE WHARTON School of Business, has studied business situations where lying is not only appropriate but expected.

“If we’re playing poker, I expect you to bluff,” he says. “If we negotiate, I expect you to lie about your bottom line, to say things like ‘I have another interested buyer’ or ‘That’s beyond my budget.’”

In a course on negotiations that he teaches at Wharton, Schweitzer says, “I tell my students they should expect to lie and be lied to. It’s self-defense. There are norms in business, and it’s incumbent on you to not take every claim for granted.”

If a home owner tells a potential buyer that the home does not have termites, it’s up to the buyer to have the home inspected. “If you just took my word for it, it’s your fault if you move in and find there



are termites. Or if I'm selling you my used car and you don't get it checked out by a mechanic before buying it, that's on you."

The good news is that even the most naïvely trusting negotiators can learn quickly from experience, Schweitzer says.

"We do negotiation simulations in my class," he says. "The most naïve students go in and get completely taken advantage of in their first session. I can't believe you lied to my face," they say. But by their third negotiation, they're much, much more savvy."

While lying may be a commonplace in business negotiations, Schweitzer says, in other areas of life the expectations are different.

"It's all about the rules of the game and what game we are playing," he says. "I don't lie to my social partners, and I don't expect a politician to lie like



"WE'RE WILLING TO PROMOTE AND FOLLOW PEOPLE WE RECOGNIZE AS LIARS IF WE SEE THEM AS PROMOTING OUR GOALS IN A POLITICALLY POLARIZED WORLD. THAT'S UNFORTUNATE."

George Santos did. We trusted his claims about his volleyball scholarship and his Holocaust story and all the rest because nobody expected such crazy lies."

Now that we have learned our lesson, Schweitzer says, a lot more vetting of politicians' claims will be necessary. "It creates a lot of friction in the system," he says. "You tell me you graduated from this college, now I have to check with the institution. You tell me you worked at Goldman Sachs, I've got to check. It's expensive and time-consuming, because now we have somebody who exploited our trust."

How to Tell Lies from Truth

DAVID LIVINGSTONE SMITH, PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY at the University of New England, became interested in lying and deception due to what he calls "a dramatic and painful experience of being deceived. It had to do with my spouse at the time having an affair. It eventually led to our divorce."

In his book, *Why People Lie* (Griffin, 2007), Smith offers a simple explanation: lying usually works.


Even plants lie, he says, pointing to the mirror orchid, which displays blossoms that look like female wasps. "The flower also manufactures a chemical cocktail that simulates the pheromones released by females to attract mates," he writes. The bird dung crab spider looks and smells like bird poop to hide from predators and attract prey. "Even a cat crouching to approach a mouse is deception," Smith says. And among we humans, "Certain clothing can serve as a lie, by disguising an unflattering body."

Given their ubiquity, one might think that we would be pretty good at detecting lies. But Timothy Levine has found in a series of experiments that people are only slightly better than chance at distinguishing a lie from the truth. Even then, the only reason for that slight edge is because some people are simply terrible at lying and so are easily seen through.

What makes us so bad at detecting lies? "Part of the reason is that people go on demeanor," says Levine. "They judge people based on how they

SAVVY LIARS

In business, lying is not only appropriate but expected, says Maurice Schweitzer (above) of the Wharton School of Business. "If we negotiate, I expect you to lie about your bottom line."



**“SINCE THE SANTOS
STORY CAME OUT, I’VE BEEN
RECEIVING EMAILS FROM
PATHOLOGICAL LIARS.
“IT’S A COMPULSION THAT
DESTROYS THEIR LIVES.
THAT’S WHY THIS
IS NOT GOING TO
END WELL FOR HIM.”**

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST/GETTY; HOLLY HAYWOOD; ART IMAGES/GETTY; GETTY

come off. People who are the confident, friendly extroverts of the world tend to be believed. People who have a little social anxiety or are a little socially awkward tend not to be believed. So the more you ignore your impressions of the people and the more you listen carefully to what they're saying, the better able you will be at ferreting out deception."

Another way to be a better lie detector, Levine says, is to do some research up-front before a meeting, and then go in with questions that you already know the answer to. "It's called strategic use of evidence," he says. "If you know the truth, you can tell if someone is telling you a lie." When you can't prepare beforehand, he says, "Ask questions that you know you can fact-check later. Or ask questions to get a lot of contextual information, so you can assess plausibility."

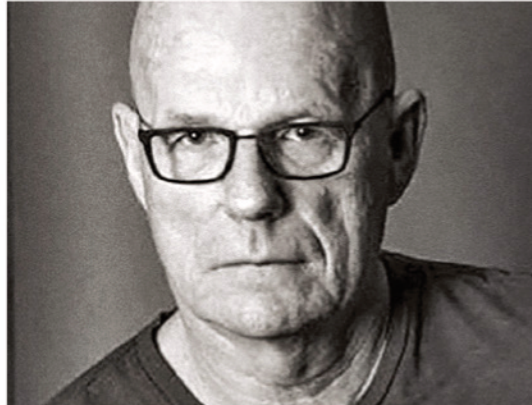
Although a small weekly newspaper, *The North Shore Leader*, did raise questions about George Santos before he was elected, unfortunately the big media outlets muffed it. One question, however, remains unanswered to this day: why? Why would anyone lie about so many things that could so easily be disproved, right down to being a star on the volleyball team at Baruch University, which in fact he never attended? Seemingly unable to control his lying, he even once told a New York radio station that his team beat Harvard and Yale.

"We slayed them," he said. "Every school that came up against us, they were shaking at the time."

What leads a person to make up crazy stuff like that? Gaining an advantage—in Santos's case, winning a seat in Congress—is not enough to explain it. Instead, Santos would seem to fit the bill for a pathological liar, one whose lies flood out of control, even when there is little to gain. Nearly one-third of pathological liars grew up in a troubled home where lying was a commonplace.

"There are still people in my family who pathologically lie," Vironika Wilde says. "After I started working on it and saying I've got to stop doing it, I began to see them for what they are."

Psychologists call it *pseudologia fantastica*, and have found that up to 40 percent of sufferers have neurological abnormalities. Currently, however, the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, considered psychiatry's "Bible," lists the condition only as a symptom of other disorders, such as antisocial or narcissistic personality disorder. Many in the field say it deserves its own listing. Timothy Levine,



WHY NOT DECEIVE?
Left: George Santos takes his place in the 118th Congress. Above: Sir Isaac Newton, in the late 1600s, proved the guilt of a swindler of the Bank of England. Top: David Livingston Smith says people lie because it usually works.

for instance, says the condition can be as devastating as alcoholism or compulsive gambling.

"Since the Santos story came out, I've been receiving emails from pathological liars," Levine says. "It's a compulsion that destroys their lives. They don't want to do it, but they can't stop. They get fired from their jobs. Their romantic partners dump them. It's hugely dysfunctional. That's why this is not going to end well for Santos."

For his part, Santos now says he regrets all his lies. "I'm embarrassed and sorry for having embellished my resume," he told *The New York Post*. "I own up to that We do stupid things in life."

That might be the one truthful thing Santos has ever said. **N**

Newsweek

AMERICA'S
BEST



Fertility
CLINICS

2023



FROM LEFT: RAIMUND KOCH/GETTY; KATHRIN ZIEGLER/GETTY

A

S DEMAND FOR IN VITRO FERTILIZATION (IVF) and other forms of assisted reproductive technology (ART) in the United States continue to grow among people of all ages, so does the demand for high quality fertility care. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), while the use of ART has more than doubled in the last decade, it still lags far behind potential demand. In 2019, the CDC says, 2 percent of the 3.7 million infants born in the U.S. were conceived with the use of ART.

While there is abundant public information available about the average success rates of different forms of ART, there are few sources for the assessments and recommendations of medical experts on the quality of the services provided at particular fertility clinics alongside objective metrics. To fill that need, *Newsweek* and global research firm Statista are proud to introduce our ranking of America's Best Fertility Clinics 2023.

We surveyed over 3,000 physicians and other fertility medicine professionals and combined the results of that survey with key performance indicators and accreditation data to produce our list of the top 100 fertility clinics in the country. We've ranked the top 50 in descending order and have listed numbers 51 through 100 alphabetically by name. We hope you find America's Best Fertility Clinics 2023 helpful as you look for the clinics that are right for you. ▶ **Nancy Cooper**, *Global Editor in Chief*



Methodology

FOR AMERICA'S BEST FERTILITY Clinics 2023 only facilities defined as fertility clinics and ART providers by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were considered.

The list is based on three data sources:

- 1 – A nationwide online survey:** Healthcare personnel working in and referring to fertility clinics were asked to recommend the leading fertility clinics in the U.S.
- 2 – Key performance indicators:** ART metrics with a focus on indicators relevant to fertility clinics published by the CDC.
- 3 – Accreditations:** By the College of American Pathologists Reproductive Laboratory Accreditation Program and The Joint Commission.

During the survey period

from November to December 2022, *Newsweek* and Statista invited over 3,000 reproductive endocrinologists, infertility specialists, obstetricians/gynecologists working in and referring patients to fertility clinics, other medical professionals (for example, registered nurses, laboratory assistants) and fertility clinic administrators/managers working in fertility clinics to participate in the survey. Participants were asked to assess the quality in five categories for each recommended facility and to assign a ranking position to a set of fertility clinics.

For the complete methodology, see [newsweek.com/bfc-2023](https://www.newsweek.com/bfc-2023).

The rankings are composed exclusively of clinics that are

eligible regarding the scope described here. The ranking is the result of an elaborate process which, due to the interval of data-collection and analysis, is a reflection of the last calendar year. Furthermore, events preceding or following the period January 11, 2022 to January 10, 2023 and/or pertaining to individual persons affiliated/associated with the facilities were not included in the metrics. As such, the results of this ranking should not be used as the sole source of information for future deliberations. Moreover, due to the current legal uncertainty pertaining to abortion laws in the U.S., metrics were analyzed solely for states in which abortion restrictions do not explicitly apply to IVF or other

reproductive medicine services, personhood status is not explicitly given to embryos within the context of IVF or reproductive medicine services and/or where the discarding of embryos is not considered an abortion by law. Reference to specific commercial products, manufacturers, companies, or trademarks does not constitute its endorsement or recommendation by the U.S. government, Department of Health and Human Services or the CDC. The information provided in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information about fertility clinics or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to a facility. The quality of fertility clinics that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.

TOP 50

The clinics at the top of this year's list of 100, ranked in descending numerical order

- 1 Weill Cornell Medicine—Center For Reproductive Medicine**
NEW YORK CITY
- 2 UCSF Center For Reproductive Health at Mission Bay**
SAN FRANCISCO
- 3 Brigham and Women's Hospital Center for Infertility and Reproductive Surgery**
BOSTON
- 4 Columbia University Fertility Center**
NEW YORK CITY
- 5 Duke Fertility Center**
MORRISVILLE, NC
- 6 Advanced Fertility Center of Texas**
HOUSTON
- 7 Cleveland Clinic Fertility Center**
BEACHWOOD, OH
- 8 NYU Langone Fertility Center**
NEW YORK CITY
- 9 Mayo Clinic Assisted Reproductive Technologies**
ROCHESTER, MN
- 10 Massachusetts General Hospital Fertility Center**
BOSTON
- 11 Carolinas Fertility Institute**
WINSTON-SALEM, NC
- 12 Washington University Fertility and Reproductive Medicine Center**
ST. LOUIS
- 13 Nashville Fertility Center**
NASHVILLE, TN
- 14 Boston IVF—The Waltham Fertility Center**
WALTHAM, MA
- 15 Emory Reproductive Center**
ATLANTA
- 16 San Diego Fertility Center**
SAN DIEGO
- 17 RMA Basking Ridge**
BASKING RIDGE, NJ
- 18 UHealth Center for Reproductive Medicine**
MIAMI
- 19 Pacific NW Fertility**
SEATTLE
- 20 Pacific Fertility Center Los Angeles**
LOS ANGELES
- 21 Advanced Fertility Center of Chicago**
GURNEE, IL
- 22 Aspire Houston Fertility Institute**
HOUSTON
- 23 Spring Fertility**
SAN FRANCISCO
- 24 Shady Grove Fertility—Rockville**
ROCKVILLE, MD
- 25 UCLA Fertility and Reproductive Health Center**
LOS ANGELES
- 26 University of Pennsylvania—Penn Fertility Care**
PHILADELPHIA
- 27 Seattle Reproductive Medicine**
SEATTLE
- 28 CCRM Colorado Fertility Clinic**
LONE TREE, CO
- 29 Reproductive Partners Medical Group—Los Angeles**
REDONDO BEACH, CA
- 30 California IVF Fertility Center**
SACRAMENTO, CA
- 31 Dallas-Fort Worth Fertility Associates**
DALLAS

- 32 Fertility Center of Miami**
MIAMI
- 33 South Florida Institute For Reproductive Medicine**
SOUTH MIAMI, FL
- 34 The Reproductive Medicine Group**
TAMPA, FL
- 35 Atlanta Center for Reproductive Medicine**
ATLANTA
- 36 Northwestern Medicine—Center for Fertility & Reproductive Medicine**
CHICAGO
- 37 HRC Fertility**
PASADENA, CA
- 38 Boca Fertility**
BOCA RATON, FL
- 39 Pacific Fertility Center**
SAN FRANCISCO
- 40 CCRM Minneapolis Fertility Clinic**
EDINA, MN



- 41 **Center for Reproductive Medicine and Robotic Surgery (CRMRS)**
ST. LOUIS

- 42 **Fertility Center of Southern California**
IRVINE, CA

- 43 **IVF Michigan Fertility Centers–Bloomfield Hills Fertility Center**
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI

- 44 **CCRM New York City Fertility Clinic**
NEW YORK CITY

- 45 **University Of Michigan–Center For Reproductive Medicine**
ANN ARBOR, MI

- 46 **Fertility Centers of Illinois–Chicago–River North Clinic & IVF Center**
CHICAGO

- 47 **The Fertility Center of Las Vegas**
LAS VEGAS

- 48 **Fertility Associates of Memphis**
MEMPHIS, TN

- 49 **Fertility Specialists Medical Group**
SAN DIEGO

- 50 **Center for Reproductive Medicine & Advanced Reproductive Technologies**
MINNEAPOLIS

A-Z

The second 50 clinics in our list of the 100 best across the nation in alphabetical order by name

Advanced Fertility Associates
SANTA ROSA, CA

Advanced Fertility Care
SCOTTSDALE, AZ

Arizona Associates For Reproductive Health–ACFS Fertility
SCOTTSDALE, AZ

Arizona Reproductive Medicine Specialists (ARMS)
PHOENIX

ART Institute of Washington
BETHESDA, MD

Atrium Health CMC Women’s Institute
CHARLOTTE, NC

Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Health Center for Fertility, Endocrine and Menopause (CFEM)
WINSTON-SALEM, NC

Austin Fertility and Reproductive Medicine–Westlake IVF
AUSTIN, TX

Boston IVF–Albany
LOUDONVILLE, NY

Boston IVF–The Portland Fertility Center
SOUTH PORTLAND, ME

Boston IVF at The Women’s Hospital
NEWBURGH, IN

Brown Fertility Jacksonville IVF Center
JACKSONVILLE, FL

California Center for Reproductive Health
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA

California Fertility Partners
LOS ANGELES

Carolina Conceptions
RALEIGH, NC

CCRM Boston & NH Fertility Clinics
NEWTON, MA

CCRM Houston Fertility Clinic
HOUSTON

CNY Fertility Center
SYRACUSE, NY

Coastal Fertility Specialists
MOUNT PLEASANT, SC

Columbia Fertility Associates
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dallas IVF–Frisco Fertility Clinic
FRISCO, TX

Fertility Centers of Illinois–Highland Park IVF Center
HIGHLAND PARK, IL

Fertility Partnership–St. Louis Fertility IVF
SAINT PETERS, MO

Florida Fertility Institute
CLEARWATER, FL

Florida Institute for Reproductive Medicine
JACKSONVILLE, FL



FROM LEFT: ANTONIO MARQUEZ LANZA/GETTY; GETTY



Pacific Reproductive Center
TORRANCE, CA

Palm Beach Fertility Center
BOCA RATON, FL

Poma Fertility
KIRKLAND, WA

**Prisma Health Fertility
Center of the Carolinas–Faris Rd.**
GREENVILLE, SC

**Reproductive Endocrinology
Associates of Charlotte**
CHARLOTTE, NC

**Reproductive Medicine
Associates of Philadelphia**
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA

**Reproductive Partners
Fertility Center–San Diego**
LA JOLLA, CA

RMA Long Island IVF
MELVILLE, NY

**Shady Grove Fertility–
Pennsylvania**
WAYNE, PA

**Southern California Center
For Reproductive Medicine**
NEWPORT BEACH, CA

Southwest Fertility Center
PHOENIX

**Stanford Medicine Fertility
& Reproductive Health**
SUNNYVALE, CA

**Virginia Center for
Reproductive Medicine**
RESTON, VA

Western Fertility Institute
ENCINO, CA

Wisconsin Fertility Institute
MIDDLETON, WI

Fort Worth Fertility
FORTH WORTH, TX

**George Washington
University–Fertility & IVF**
WASHINGTON, D.C.

**IVF Florida Reproductive
Associates**
MARGATE, FL

**Johns Hopkins Medicine–
Fertility Center**
LUTHERVILLE, MD

**MCRM Fertility–St. Louis
Fertility Clinic**
CHESTERFIELD, MO

Michigan Reproductive Medicine
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI

**Midwest Women's
Healthcare Specialists**
KANSAS CITY, MO

New Direction Fertility Centers
GILBERT, AZ

Ohio Reproductive Medicine
COLUMBUS, OH

ORM Fertility–Downtown
PORTLAND, OR

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UNCHARTED

See Climate Change Through the Lens of Art

What happens when artists reckon with climate change? They visualize the air, sculpt the fluid, recreate a preserved underwater zone and process climate anxiety for us to ponder. Artists creatively grapple with environmental issues in an intimate and poetic way, contemplating the relationship between humans and nature. From colorful murals in Dublin to plastic waste installations in Frankfurt to dew-shaped stainless steel pins in Seoul, here are impactful exhibitions that may offer fresh perspective, some reflections, an alarm—or even some relief. —FAN CHEN

FROM LEFT: CLAUDIA ANDUJAR; ADAM REICH/THE SHED; TOP RIGHT: CHARLES SYKES/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY

The Most 'Reluctant Traveler' of All

Eugene Levy doesn't have "a great sense of adventure" and would rather relax poolside with a piña colada than host a travel show. ▶ P.48



"The Yanomami Struggle"

The Shed
NEW YORK CITY

Artists of the Yanomami, one of the largest Indigenous groups living in Amazonia today, are telling their stories of the fight for preserving rainforest and Indigenous rights over the past five decades. A look into more than 80 drawings, alongside Brazilian photographer Claudia Andujar's documentation of the Yanomami struggle, will offer a new perspective on climate justice and thoughts on how art can connect with environmental activism. *Through April 16.* (See #02 on following spread)



▲
01

“Art Spot”

**Various Locations
COLUMBUS, OHIO**

Red paper cutouts, a hand-embroidered couture gown, walls of flowers or magnolia leaves, lamps made of translucent paper—these are some of the varied, vivid, visual interpretations of climate change issues on display in storefront windows throughout downtown Columbus. This weekend, stroll around the art district and take a few minutes to contemplate the themes being explored—from deforestation to extreme weather to coral bleaching to insects decline. *Through June 2023.*



04

“Kind Words Can Never Die”

◀ **Irish Museum of Modern Art
DUBLIN**

Color becomes the new language to address climate change through this museum’s courtyard murals created by artist Navine G. Dossos. She collected climate data charts and diagrams, stripped numbers and words and transformed the simple lines and columns into new visual representations of the intimate, psychological effects of ecological change. The installation is a collective effort of 48 participants. *Through July 30.*

1

2

02

“The Yanomami Struggle”

**The Shed
NEW YORK CITY**

(See previous spread)



3

▲
03

“Tomorrows”

**Museu do Amanhã
RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL**

“We will live longer, but how?” asks The Museum of Tomorrow, also known as the museum of questions. The answer may lie in the interactive section where visitors play the Civilizations game; here, the fate of a virtual civilization is in the hands of four players. Structured in five parts—Cosmos, Earth, Anthropocene, Tomorrows and Us—the exhibition projects possible scenarios in the next 50 years as a result of climate change and human activities. *On permanent display.*

05

“Healing: Life in Balance”

**Weltkulturen Museum
FRANKFURT, GERMANY**

Artists like Marina Abramović and Alejandro Durán offer their climate solutions by restoring balance with nature through various art forms. Their poetic answers for future global coexistence lie in an installation made of 464 blue plastic waste objects collected along Mexico’s coast and a film portraying relations between human flesh, stone and wind, among others. *Through September 3.*



01: IAN ALEXANDER; 03: BUDA MENDES/GETTY; 04: YIANNIS HADJIASLANIS; 05: WOLFGANG GÜNZEL



6

“Navigating North”

Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma
HELSINKI

Cool winds blow from the north to feature works by 48 artists from and working in northern Finland in this exhibition exploring the relationship between humans and nature. It depicts how nature serves as both “a source of life and strength, but also an object of control and exploitation.” *Through April 2.*

06

07

“Maya Lin: Nature Knows No Boundaries”

Pace Gallery
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

In the eyes of celebrated artist Maya Lin, the texture of water can be stainless steel pins, green glass marbles, stacks of wood or recycled silver. At her first solo show in Korea, which features her works since 2007, Lin investigates and visualizes water in various forms. The environmental activist used this eternal symbol of time and contemplation to question resource scarcity and climate precarity in our times. *Through March 11.*



09

“Our Ecology”
Mori Art Museum
TOKYO

In the summer 1982, artist Agnes Denes planted and harvested two acres of wheat on a billion-dollar-plot of land in Manhattan as a protest against global warming and economic disparity. Four decades later across the globe, her work becomes a centerpiece in an upcoming exhibit that examines severe environmental issues neglected during Japan’s booming era from the 1950s to ’70s. It poses the fundamental questions of who are we, and to whom does Earth’s environment belong? *October 18, 2023–March 31, 2024.*

7

9

08

“Air”

Queensland Gallery of Modern Art
SOUTH BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

The air itself becomes visible in this exhibit of more than 30 Australian and international artists when presented as a wall of 30,000 hand-folded paper butterflies, a painting of volcanic ash, a column of smoke and more. Raising questions about air pollution and global warming, the show explores the form and meaning of air—something which suddenly became a focus for many during the pandemic and the concern about the potential for airborne transmission of the virus. *Through April 23.*



8

06: WIHURI FOUNDATION COLLECTION; 07: SANGTAE KIM; 08: JOE RUCKLI/QAGOMA; 09: JOHN MCGRAIL/ LESLIE TONKONOW ARTWORKS + PROJECTS, NEW YORK

Talking Points

The Washington Post

"I TOLD HIM TO GET RID OF THE GUN. HE KEPT LYING TO ME ABOUT IT."

—Michael McRae, father of the Michigan State University shooter


"WHEN YOU KICK BACK, IT HURTS THEM MORE IF YOU'RE WEARING HEELS!"

—GOP presidential candidate Nikki Haley



NIKKI HALEY

THE CUT

"Let's remove 'anti-aging' and talk about what you can put into your body to preserve your quality of life."

—ACTRESS NIA LONG ON AGING



NIA LONG

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

"The right-wing movement is not dead and will live on."

—FORMER BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT JAIR BOLSONARO



JAIR BOLSONARO



"Christians have recognised since ancient times that God is neither male nor female."

—The Church of England

The New York Times

"I try to make sure that my lab and the people I hire come from diverse backgrounds so that our thoughts and the way that we do our science shakes the table a little bit."

—VIRAL IMMUNOLOGIST KIZZMEKIA CORBETT



"I VALUE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR ALL DEAF PEOPLE TO ENJOY THESE SONGS."

—Justina Miles, ASL performer for Rhianna's Super Bowl half-time show

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PARTING SHOT

Eugene Levy

NEVER HAS A TITLE FIT A SHOW'S SUBJECT MORE THAN EUGENE LEVY'S new Apple TV+ travel show *The Reluctant Traveler* (February 24). When the idea was pitched to him, he thought, "That's so not me. What am I going to do? I don't care to travel that much." But he came around when he realized *that's* the show. For example, how does someone like Levy approach a night hike in the Costa Rican rainforest? "I didn't get any enjoyment out of it. 'Watch out for that spider.' Okay, you know what? We don't need that. I get it, but I would really rather be back at the hotel bar." What about the food in Finland? "I wasn't quite sure what the diet would be. I'm not a big fish eater. What's left? Reindeer?" But Levy soon realized "you can't say you don't want to go to a place if you haven't been to the place" and that "this show has gotten me through some things. I absolutely surprised myself." He adds, "I think it's really been good for me. At this age, 76, to have had the opportunity to do this, to say yes to do it.... Now I kind of see the other side."

I'm the type of person who loves travel shows but hates to travel.

You're the guy we're trying hit. We're hoping [seasoned travelers] get a chuckle out of it and find it enjoyable. But [it's for] the people that don't like to travel, maybe thought they never had it in them, didn't really care and would much rather stay at home.

That's me! Where did the idea for the show come from?

I got a call from my agent...Apple wants to talk to you. We get on the phone, and I go through all my reasons for not wanting to do the show. I'm not a chatty person, don't have a bubbly personality, I'm not really curious, I don't really have a great sense of adventure. The producer, David Brinley, said *that's* the show. It's a travel show, but it's the guy who really doesn't like to travel.

What are some of the experiences that you were surprised by?

South Africa, because I had never ever wanted to go. As the week went on, I was finding myself growing very fond of the whole environment, the landscape and all these wild creatures that I had no desire to see.

Your idea of a perfect vacation?

Beach. Piña colada. Golf. A good steak. Every single day. Here's the idea, just go and do something where you don't have to think. Just chilling by a pool and occasionally somebody comes by and says, "Would you like a cool drink?" —H. Alan Scott



"This show has gotten me through some things. I absolutely surprised myself."

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**2022
World Car
of the Year**



**2022
UK Car
of the Year**

**2022
German Car
of the Year**



**2022-2023
Japan
Import Car
of the Year**



**2023
MotorTrend
SUV
of the Year**



IONIQ 5, the protagonist of electrification.

Since its world premiere, IONIQ 5 has proven to many that it's not just another face in the crowd. Named the '2022 World Car of the Year' and more on the list of distinguished accolades, IONIQ 5 has taken bold steps into a new electric era.

It yields an impressive driving range based on an EV-dedicated platform and delivers a holistic experience through a unique exterior design and innovative living space.

As the demand for electrification accelerates each day, Hyundai will continue to take on its lead role at the forefront of progress.

www.hyundai.com/worldwide



Fuel economy and CO₂ results for the Hyundai IONIQ 5: MPG (l/100km): Not Applicable, CO₂ emissions: 0g/km, Electric range: 384-507km (dependent on model and battery size). Range dependent on ambient temperature, battery state of charge and condition, driving style, vehicle payload, vehicle electronics, heating and climate settings. IONIQ 5 tested under WLTP regulations. Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Availability of specific features may vary by regional markets.