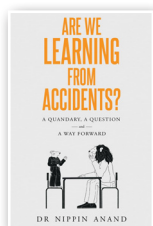


If you want to read more about some of the issues raised in *HindSight*, then these books might be of interest.

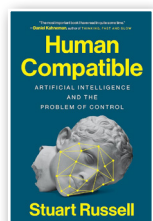


Are We Learning from Accidents? A Quandary, A Question and a Way Forward, by Nippin Anand (2024)

From the publisher: "Are we learning from accidents? Dr Nippin Anand's research into the Costa Concordia disaster and his interviews with Captain Schettino suggest not. The answer to the problem of learning lies not so much in

designing fail-safe technologies and user-friendly systems as in questioning our fears, myths, beliefs, rituals, worldviews and imagination about risk and safety. When we recognise the mythical and non-rational nature of risk and safety beliefs, our focus will shift from counting and controlling hazards towards pathways that make us humble, curious, doubtful and conscious about the human 'being'. When we begin to accept that humans are fallible, we search for better ways to humanise the risks and relate to people. Through a lived journey of dissonance, disturbance, learning and change, this book offers an alternative pathway to wisdom in risk intelligence, and a method to tackle risks in an uncertain world."

"This brilliant book combines deeply personal insights and scholarly work, brought to bear on the important case of the Costa Concordia ship disaster. It's full of riveting stories about shipping, punctuated by cool-headed analyses of mistakes and learning in general. Nippin's labor of love will make everyone who reads the work a better, more interesting person."
(Lee Clarke, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, Rutgers University)



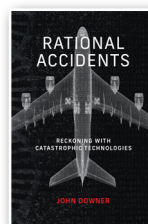
Human Compatible: AI and the Problem of Control by Stuart Russell (2020)

From the publisher: "Humans dream of super-intelligent machines. But what happens if we actually succeed?"

Creating superior intelligence would be the biggest event in human history. Unfortunately, according to the world's pre-eminent AI expert, it could also be the last.

In this groundbreaking book, Stuart Russell sets out why he has come to consider his own discipline an existential threat to humanity, and how we can change course before it's too late. In brilliant and lucid prose, he explains how AI actually works and its enormous capacity to improve our lives - and why we must never lose control of machines more powerful than we are. Russell contends that we can avert the worst threats by reshaping the foundations of AI to guarantee that machines pursue our objectives, not theirs. Profound, urgent and visionary, *Human Compatible* is the one book everyone needs to read to understand a future that is coming sooner than we think."

"A thought-provoking and highly readable account of the past, present and future of AI... Russell deploys a bracing intellectual rigour... but a laconic style and dry humour keep his book accessible to the lay reader."
(The Financial Times)



Rational Accidents: Reckoning with Catastrophic Technologies by John Downer (2024)

From the publisher: "An unflinching look at the unique challenges posed by complex technologies we cannot afford to let fail—and why the remarkable achievements of civil aviation can help us understand those challenges.

Nuclear reactors, deep-sea drilling platforms, deterrence infrastructures—these are all complex and formidable technologies with the potential to fail catastrophically. In *Rational Accidents*, John Downer outlines a new perspective on technological failure, arguing that undetectable errors can lurk in even the most rigorous and "rational" assessments of these systems due to the inherent limits of engineering tests and models. Downer finds that it should be impossible, from an epistemological viewpoint, to achieve the near-perfect reliability that we require of our most safety-critical technologies. There is, however, one such technology that demonstrably appears to achieve these "impossible" reliabilities: jetliners.

Downer looks closely at civil aviation and how it has reckoned with the problem of failure. He finds that the way we conceive of jetliner reliability hides the real practices by which it is achieved. And he shows us why those practices are much less transferrable across technological domains than we are led to believe. Fully understanding why jetliners don't crash, he concludes, should lead us to doubt the safety of other "ultra-reliable" technologies.

A unique and sobering exploration of technological reliability from an STS perspective, *Rational Accidents* is essential reading for understanding why our most safety-critical technologies are even more dangerous than we believe."

"Rational Accidents is an important contribution to our understanding of safety and accidents. Downer finds the key to high reliability in jet aircraft less in keen engineering design, and more from engineers' and operators' deep learning from past accidents."

(Scott D. Sagan, Caroline S. G. Munro Memorial Professor of Political Science and Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University)