

Ep 61: Books for Secularists

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Looking to explore the currents of thought behind secularism? Here are nine books to begin with.

In this episode, [Emma Park](#) and two guests discuss books that help contextualise Britain's secularist intellectual tradition, tracing a route through classical, Enlightenment, freethought, and humanist history. Each speaker proposes three books which, in their view, embody these interconnected currents of thought in one way or another, and which celebrate free speech and open enquiry.

[Bob Forder](#) is the National Secular Society's historian, and the great-great-grandson of Robert Forder, its first paid secretary.

[Maddy Goodall](#) is Humanist Heritage Coordinator at Humanists UK and in charge of the [Humanist Heritage Project](#).

Got a suggestion for more 'books for secularists'? Email us at podcast@secularism.org.uk or tweet to [@NatSecSoc](#) with [#BooksforSecularists](#).

Nine books for secularists, in order of publication:

- [Lucretius, *On the Nature of the Universe*](#) (mid-first century BC). Prose translation e.g. by [R. Latham](#).
- [Thomas Paine, *Age of Reason*](#) (1794-5)
- [The Trial of the Rev. Robert Wedderburn for Blasphemy](#) (1820)
- Edward Fitzgerald, [Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám](#) (first edition 1859)
- [Charles Bradlaugh, *Speeches*](#) (1890)
- [Florence Dixie, *Towards Freedom*](#) (1904)
- [Dora Russell, *The Tamarisk Tree*](#) (1975)
- [Caroline Fourest, *In Praise of Blasphemy / Éloge du blasphème*](#) (2015)
- [Barbara Smoker, *My Godforsaken Life*](#) (2018)

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[Looking to explore the currents of thought behind secularism? Here are nine books proposed by @DrEmmaPark, @BobosOldBooks and @maddyogoodall for a secularist reading list. Click to tweet](#)

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