

~ NEW BOOK INFORMATION, October 2015 ~

## **Nuclear is for Life A Cultural Revolution**

*by Professor Wade Allison, MA DPhil*

This book is written for the educated reader who may not be scientific but is curious to know why nuclear energy is often rejected as the preferred source of carbon-free energy. Nuclear energy is plentiful, safe and cheap. What is the evidence for such unexpected claims? Why do many people turn away from nuclear and are their reasons for rejecting it justified?

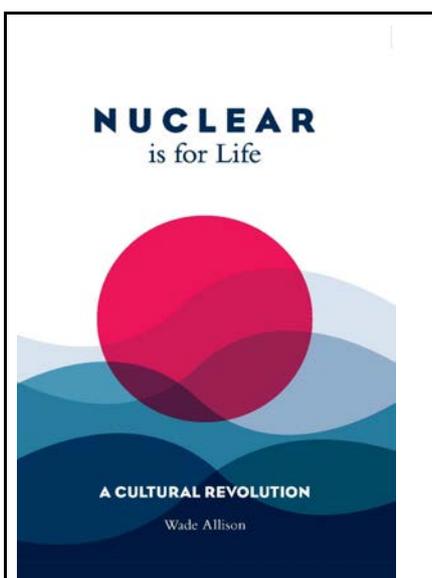
Many of the questions raised in the book are not technically difficult, though more people should ask them. The answers are important for everyone which is why much of the book is written in an accessible style supported by illustrations and general asides.

Most people see nuclear energy as exceptionally dangerous, and it is the demand that it should appear exceptionally safe that makes it expensive. But, actually, how dangerous is it? Reactions may be emotive but the evidence should be allowed to speak!

Life has evolved protection against radiation, and high doses are used to cure cancer. Low and moderate doses are not threatening at all – there was not one radiation casualty at Fukushima. The book looks at other accidents, too, and what is known from the physical and biological sciences – including the record of a century of life-saving uses of radiation in medicine.

But perceptions are not just matters for science. The author reaches out to involve a range of human experience so as to fit the nuclear story into its proper place in human culture. He retraces the history of how it came to be so seriously misplaced in the twentieth century and explains why current radiation regulations are based, not on science, but on 70 years of social and political reaction to fear. Indeed, by freeing nuclear power from such science-blind restrictions it could provide the plentiful cheap power needed to mitigate the effects of carbon.

In addition society also needs mutual trust and confidence in science without which life on a densely populated planet becomes miserable and unstable. We owe it to our children to educate and help them to understand the real opportunity before them.



### **MORE INFORMATION**

[www.nuclear4life.com](http://www.nuclear4life.com) and  
[www.radiationandreason.com](http://www.radiationandreason.com)

### **BOOK DETAILS**

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### **ALL OTHER ENQUIRIES AND REQUESTS**

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## About the author

Wade Allison is a Fellow of Keble College and an Emeritus Professor of Physics at the University of Oxford. There he researched, studied and taught for 40 years, covering subjects such as electromagnetic radiation, particle and nuclear physics, and medical physics. His first book was an advanced student book: *Fundamental Physics for Probing and Imaging* (2006). Concerned that many otherwise educated people have significant misconceptions about radiation and nuclear energy he wrote his second book for a wider



audience: *Radiation and Reason, the Impact of Science on a Culture of Fear* (2009). It attracted considerable attention around the world, especially following the accident at Fukushima Daiichi in 2011, after which it was published in Japanese and Chinese. Since then he has been to Japan several times to lecture and to visit teachers, community leaders, doctors and evacuees in the region affected by the accident. This book is his third -- he notes, incidentally, that he has never had any connection to the nuclear industry.

### Some reviews of Allison's earlier book *Radiation and Reason* (2009)

*"I very much agree with the conclusions of this book, and am very pleased to see them presented in a style that makes them accessible to the general reader."* **Sir Eric Ash, FRS**

*"If Professor Allison's well-documented arguments are right – and if people can be persuaded to examine them! – his book gives us a little more hope of confronting the problems posed by both dwindling fossil fuel reserves and the release of their waste products into the atmosphere."*

**Michael Frayn, playwright and author**

*"Sensational."* **Simon Jenkins, The Guardian**

*"This is an important and useful book. Wade Allison's message is simple - we've got it wrong about nuclear power. We've over-reacted to the level of risk posed by low level radiation exposure, and because of that we make nuclear power ridiculously expensive. The arguments are very powerful."*

**Brian Clegg, Popular Science website**

*"Even if you disagree with where Allison takes his arguments, a large part of the book is a good accessible review of the science of radiation and its biological effects. This in itself makes it a potentially valuable read for activists interested in nuclear and environmental issues."* **Peace News**

*"Why I'm becoming a pro-nuke nut..... The other scholar challenging my nuclear views is Wade Allison....we must consider all alternatives available to us — including nuclear energy, which just a few months ago I fervently opposed."* **John Horgan, Scientific American**