

Creationism's Trojan Horse:

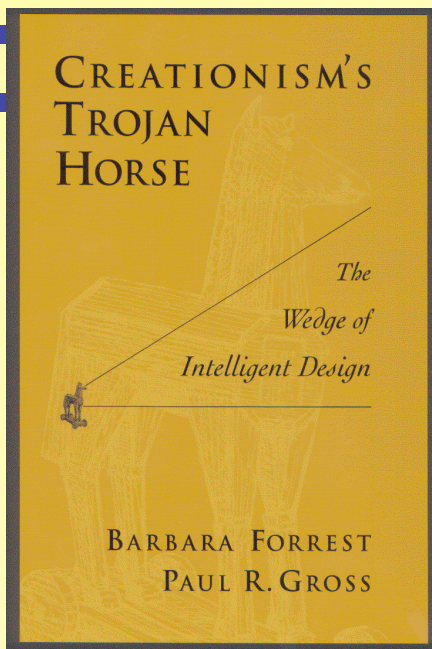


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The Wedge of Intelligent Design

In *Creationism's Trojan Horse*, Forrest and Gross examine in full detail the claims and operations of the "Intelligent Design" movement, the most recent manifestation of American creationism. Explaining and analyzing what "design theorists" call their "Wedge Strategy," they document the Wedge's aggressive political and public relations campaigning. The most notable feature of the movement's purportedly new scientific paradigm is an abject failure to produce scientific data in support of its claims or even a coherent research program. Instead, the Wedge maintains a crowded nationwide schedule of lectures, popular publications for its mostly conservative Christian constituency, and media appearances, all sustained by generous funding from religious benefactors. The Wedge has intruded itself efficiently into educational politics at local, state, and national levels.

Forrest and Gross detail efforts of intelligent design proponents to influence science standards in Kansas and Ohio, and to influence federal education legislation through the so-called "Santorum amendment" of the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act. They demonstrate the continuity of intelligent design with traditional creationism, including all the scientific claims, exposing its religious core and purposes. By displaying the movement's alliance with Religious Right extremism, the book reveals the significance of William Dembski's statement that the intelligent design movement's challenge to the "evolutionary naturalism of Darwin" is "ground zero of the culture war."

About the Authors

Barbara Forrest earned a Ph.D. in philosophy in 1988 and is professor of philosophy at Southeastern Louisiana University. Her most recent publication on intelligent design is "The Wedge at Work: How Intelligent Design Creationism Is Wedging Its Way into the Cultural and Academic Mainstream," in *Intelligent Design Creationism and Its Critics*, MIT, 2001.

Paul R. Gross's Ph.D. in Zoology was awarded in 1954. He is University Professor of Life Sciences, emeritus, at the University of Virginia, and holds honorary degrees from the Medical College of Ohio and Brown University. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. With Norman Levitt, he authored *Higher Superstition: The Academic Left and Its Quarrels with Science*, Johns Hopkins, 1994.

Endorsements

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"Intelligent Design 'theory' (ID) has been well described as Creationism in a cheap Tuxedo. One of its luminaries, we are told, has 'angrily denied that ID is stealth creationism.' He's right. There's no stealth about it. It *is* creationism. Unfortunately, ID 'theorists' have a streetwise political professionalism to outweigh the amateurishness of their science, and we therefore cannot ignore them. Barbara Forrest and Paul Gross meticulously document their pretensions, destroy their arguments, and expose their true motivation. An excellent and sadly necessary book." --- Professor Richard Dawkins, author of *The Selfish Gene* and *A Devil's Chaplain*

"This is the definitive work on modern creationism, an exhaustively detailed and compelling exposure of the attempt--by the well-known process in nature called by biologists 'aggressive mimicry'--to corrupt science in the service of sectarian religion. In the process, the book explores the larger and seemingly endless struggle between religion-based tribal values and science-based universal values." --- Edward O. Wilson, University Research Professor, Emeritus, Harvard University

"Forrest and Gross have combined scrupulous standards of documentation with a fluid and lively narrative to generate an engrossing and chilling account of how a few people have been able to wreak havoc with science education. A must-read for anyone interested in how America can be hijacked." --- Ursula Goodenough, Professor of Biology, Washington University and author of *The Sacred Depths of Nature*

"A scholarly and penetrating analysis of why intelligent design is simply a form of creationism, and why both are in turn a form of religious ideology, with nothing to do with serious science. A must read for educators, scientists, and policy makers. A wake up call for everybody else." --- Massimo Pigliucci, Professor, University of Tennessee, author of *Denying Evolution: Creationism, Scientism, and the Nature of Science*

"With all the rigor and detail of Ronald Numbers's *The Creationists* but with the passion and verve of Richard Dawkins or Stephen Jay Gould, *Creationism's Trojan Horse* incisively analyzes the latest evolutionary step of creationism: 'intelligent design.' Forrest and Gross's history and critique of intelligent design creationism is both authoritative and fascinating, painstakingly researched and compellingly argued. *Creationism's Trojan Horse* will be the standard work on intelligent design creationism for years to come." --- Dr. Eugenie C. Scott, Executive Director, National Center for Science Education

"*Creationism's Trojan Horse* documents the disturbing movement to sneak religious dogma back into science education, driven by the vague fear that Americans can't handle the truth. Educators, scientists, and politicians would do well to understand this movement and its tactics, and this book is a superb and timely analysis." --- Steven Pinker, Johnstone Professor, Harvard University, and author of *How the Mind Works* and *The Blank Slate*

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