



The St. Lawrence Seaway Under Construction

Boom Reading Group

We have a folk idea that growth and progress is the result of rational processes and careful planning. Scientific truths are discovered, technologies are developed, and market forces naturally promote the results to our whole society. But, what if the dynamics at play are much less orderly and predictable than we imagine?

This is the question raised by Byrne Hobart and Tobias Huber in *Boom*. In this seminar we will look at their argument and try to answer the question: What is it exactly that drives our progress?

Format and Schedule

The aim of this reading group is not to learn from a particular person but to explore and discuss the ideas presented in *Boom* together. There will be facilitation to help guide the discussion and create relevant documentation, but everything that we learn should emerge from the group.

The group will meet for five 90-minute sessions, meeting on Mondays starting January 13th 2025 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Each session will cover a section of *Boom*, with ~10-20 pages of additional readings to provide context and alternative perspectives on the topics discussed.

Session Structure

Each session will include:

- Place setting to align on the core ideas and themes of the reading
- Group discussion of the assigned book section and analysis of supplementary readings
- Shared articulation of key concepts and themes
- Open dialogue about practical applications and implications

Reading Schedule

If you do not have a copy of the book we will provide a PDF version.

Date	Readings
Monday 1/13: Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Boom Introduction 1 - 17● Against Edenism entire
Monday 1/20: Stagnation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Boom 21 - 94● Kayfabe (Part 1, Part 2) entire
Monday 1/27: Past Bubbles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Boom 99 - 184● The Idea Factory 149 - 162
Monday 2/3: Current Bubbles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Boom 187 - 226● The Prize 3- 18
Monday 2/10: The Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Boom 231-270● God, approximately entire

Your Responsibilities

Participants are expected to complete all assigned readings before each session and actively participate in group discussions. Come with an open and humble posture. Everyone will bring their own perspectives but it is the ability to engage respectfully with different viewpoints and interpretations that will allow us to grow as a group.

Registration

The complete seminar series costs \$125. This covers all five sessions. You can register now at this link: [Boom Reading Group Registration](#)