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## Book Review: Astronomy at the Frontiers of Science

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## Astronomy at the frontiers of science



ed. by Jean-Pierre Lasota Springer, 2011

357p, 9789400716575 \$179.00

LC Call Number: [QB43](#)

Lasota (Paris Institute of Astrophysics, France) has compiled a very eclectic and engaging mix of essays on astronomy-related topics. The book, the first in the "Integrated Science and Technology Program" series, is divided into four parts. The first set of discourses explores the interface between astronomy and physics. A second section examines the history, sociology, and politics of astronomy, with special focus on how priorities for astronomical research are set. A discussion of the expensive tools that make astronomy a "big science" fills out most of a third section. The final chapters of the book are a potpourri dealing with topics such as why astrology is not a science, what it is like to be an astronomer, the merits of virtual astronomical research, and exobiology. The latter could be called the confluence of astronomy with all the other sciences. This is a unique book that fills a niche rarely addressed by other works. Some of the chapters are a bit too technical for the lay reader, but anyone with an interest in astronomy will find it a good read.

Summing Up: Recommended. All levels/libraries.

Reviewer: [T. D. Oswalt](#), Florida Institute of Technology

Recommendation: Recommended

Readership Level: All Readership Levels, General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Two-Year Technical Program Students, Professionals/Practitioners

Interdisciplinary Subjects:

Subject: [Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy](#)

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