

Feynman on institutional truth, a fiscal paper, and a psychedelic-policy tipping point

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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A focused list of three unusually concrete recommendations: Bill Gurley’s Feynman talk and primary-source guide, a model-driven Stanford paper on migration and public finances, and Michael Pollan’s book as a reported catalyst for psychedelic-policy interest.

The most compelling recommendation is Patrick O’Shaughnessy’s endorsement of Bill Gurley’s *Searching for Feynman*: he called it a “Great talk” and said it kept him “locked in.” The underlying All-In post identifies it as Gurley’s presentation and links a companion resource guide. [1, 2]

Recommended resources

Searching for Feynman

- **Content type / creator:** Video talk by Bill Gurley, presented at the All-In Summit. [2]
- **Link:** All-In Summit video post · companion resource links. [2]
- **Recommended by:** Patrick O’Shaughnessy, who found the talk compelling without giving away its destination. [1]
- **Key takeaway:** The companion guide turns the talk into a primary-source syllabus: Richard Feynman’s “Appendix F — Personal Observations on the Reliability of the Shuttle,” his own account of the Rogers Commission, the commission’s full report, and the televised ice-water demonstration. Its governing principle is that “Reality must take precedence over public relations, for nature cannot be fooled.” [3]
- **Why it matters:** This is more useful than a bare talk recommendation. It gives readers the original evidence and the institutional context

needed to examine how uncomfortable technical facts are handled under organizational pressure. [3]

Migration, Household Employment & Europe's Public Finances

- **Content type / creator:** Research paper by Usama Polani, published in August 2026. The title is reflected in the Stanford SIEPR link Patrick Collison shared. [4, 5]
- **Link:** Stanford SIEPR paper. [4]
- **Recommended by:** Patrick Collison, who called it an “excellent paper.” [4]
- **Key takeaway:** The abstract argues that fiscal contribution depends on every adult’s employment and earnings, household composition, and national tax and welfare rules. It reports very low employment among female migrants from Central Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa, often persisting into the second generation, while men from those countries are concentrated in low-paid work. Under the paper’s specified model, a male entrant with an economically inactive wife and two children needs entry pay between p68.6 and p80.3 on the national full-time pay distribution for the family to break even; even if the wife works at the calibrated pay, the man must still earn above median national pay. [5]
- **Why it matters:** The paper is valuable precisely because it exposes the assumptions behind broad claims about migration and public finances. Its thresholds are model projections under stated employment, earnings, tax, welfare, and pension assumptions—not universal outcomes for every household. [5]

How to Change Your Mind

- **Content type / creator:** Book by Michael Pollan. It is the external resource worth carrying forward from Tim Ferriss’s conversation with Tania de Jong about Australia’s medical-psychedelics campaign. [6, 7]
- **Link:** Episode discussion page. [8]
- **Recommended by:** Tim Ferriss, who described the book as having “really shifted the tectonic plates” of what was possible for psychedelics in the United States and elsewhere. [7]
- **Key takeaway:** Ferriss’s point is about influence: he says a very high proportion of prominent philanthropists and supporters of psychedelics trace their interest back to the book as a tipping point. [7]
- **Why it matters:** Read it as a movement-history recommendation—a way to understand how a public-facing book helped change the perceived policy frontier and mobilize support—rather than as a standalone account of the clinical evidence. [7]

Sources

1. X post by @patrick_oshag
2. X post by @theallinpod
3. Searching for Feynman
4. X post by @patrickc
5. Migration, Household Employment & Europe's Public Finances
6. X post by @tferriss
7. How to Legalize Medical Psychedelics in Your Country — Tania de Jong
on Australia's Breakthrough
8. X post by @tferriss