

A large, stylized orange nautilus shell graphic is positioned diagonally across the cover, from the bottom left towards the top right. The shell's internal structure is represented by several curved, teardrop-shaped segments in a darker blue color, creating a sense of depth and movement. The background is a solid teal blue.

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2026

EDITION NAUTILUS



Lena Müller

THE LAVISH WOMEN'S CLUB

September 2026 • 152 pages

» *The L lavish Women's Club* is delicate and political, quiet and radical. A novel for those who long for a life outside the capitalist logic of exploitation.« Julia Wolf

Whenever Eli has put her child to bed and suddenly feels claustrophobic in her small flat, she flees to the pub next door. Her work as a translator is threatened by A.I. and as a single mother she hardly finds time for herself.

Gunda has run the pub for 20 years. When a heatwave descends on the city, she rounds up the mothers and children of the apartment block. Together they brave the heat inside the cooler storage rooms of the pub and Gunda starts to talk: of her life in the GDR between obedience and doubt, of dreams, of heated discussions in her radical reading group and how a women's collective with common goals turned into a group of friends with common memories.

Lena Müller studied writing and cultural journalism as well as adult education in Germany and France and works as a freelance translator and author. Her translations include the works of Shumona Sinha and Hugo Lindenberg for Edition Nautilus and have received multiple prizes.

Also by the author: OPEN PITS (2021)



Jochen Schimmang

THE DIVING TOWER IS NOTHING FOR INVALIDS

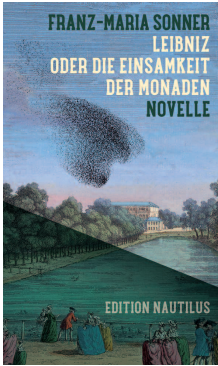
September 2026 • 208 pages

Jochen Schimmang writes in defiance of his own mantra – *Never look back, don't refresh memories!* – and revisits past times and places.

Jochen Schimmang hasn't really said *Farewell to the Discourse*, as his last book title suggests. As an established and almost official chronicler of the Federal Republic of Germany, he has a lot left to tell: Whether he describes his father's unusual ambition in climbing the corporate ladder of the public financial administration or remembers a Sunday afternoon at the public pool in 1955 in between war invalids, whether he admits to an unusual longing for the industrial landscape around Bochum or follows a swimmer into the Baltic Sea – his stories are delicate reminiscences of an astute observer and poetic archivist.

Jochen Schimmang studied political science and philosophy in Berlin and works as a freelance author and translator in Oldenburg. He has received various prizes for his writing.

Also by the author (selection): FAREWELL TO THE DISCOURSE (2024), THE LABSLEEPER (2022), ADORNO DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE (2019), OLD CUSTOMS HOUSE, WESTERN BORDER (2017), BORDERS, MARGINS, NO-MAN'S-LANDS (2014), NEW CENTER (2011)



Franz-Maria Sonner

LEIBNIZ, OR THE LONELINESS OF THE MONADS

August 2026 • 176 pages

A delicate literary approach to Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz and his time: One of the precursors of the Enlightenment rebels against his own impermanence.

Hanover, 1714: G. W. Leibniz, one of the great universal geniuses of the past, is at a turning point in his life. Abandoned by the important royal dynasties, he is anxious to realise as many of his ideas as he still can in his remaining lifetime – for example the calculation machine that still needs to be perfected.

When the Tsar Peter the Great announces a visit, Leibniz hopes for an opportunity to prove his indispensability as a sovereign advisor in Moscow ...

Franz-Maria Sonner writes radio plays and novels, for which he has received several prizes. He has also written multiple crime novels under the pseudonym Max Bronski. Sonner lives in Hanover.

Also by the author: GREGOR MENDEL'S ENCOUNTER WITH FATE (2024)



Karsten Krampitz

HOPE LTD. The Cripples' Commune of Hartroda

September 2025 • 200 pages

**The unbelievable true story of a lived utopia in the heart of the GDR:
The »cripples' commune« of Hartroda**

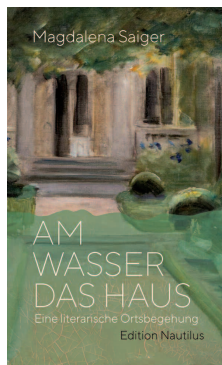
It's the end of the 70s in Arnstadt, Thuringia, and four disabled youths decide to break out of their care home. They want to use their pensions and care allowances to employ carers and go live in the former vicarage of Hartroda provided to them by the church.

Karsten Krampitz tells the story of a community of equals, where everything is shared – books, records, beer, and ailments –, a commune of outcasts who, with wit and audacity, manage to live a self-determined, perhaps even a free, life.

Living on church property, the GDR apparatus appears to leave them alone, but when the GDR collapses in 1989, it becomes clear that the Wall was part of what held the Hartroda »cripples' commune« together.

The book was awarded the Matthias-Vernaldi-Preis 2025 by the Kaspar-Hauser-Foundation, an organisation committed to strengthening the rights of disabled people.

Karsten Krampitz is an author, historian and journalist. He has written for magazines, theatres and the radio, participated in squatting at luxury hotels together with homelessness activists and co-founded »Mondkalb«, a magazine on disability and exclusion. He holds a PhD on the role of the church in the GDR and has received several prizes. This book is his fifth novel.



Magdalena Saiger

THE HOUSE BY THE LAKE A Literary Panorama of the Liebermann Villa

March 2025 · 192 pages

»Magdalena Saiger's language, which cautiously approaches the past, paints pictures of a place which was in turn painted by Liebermann. That is as haunting as it is beautiful.« Katrin Seddig

In the early 20th century, the painter Max Liebermann purchases a piece of land by lake Wannsee, Berlin. Together with his friend, the art collector Alfred Lichtwark, he designs a house and garden – a refuge from the duties of public life, but also a place of inspiration for numerous of his paintings.

Magdalena Saiger's literary panorama of the Liebermann villa traces the many changes undergone by the house and garden throughout the 20th century: After Liebermann's death in 1935 and the seizure of his property on account of his Jewishness, the former upper-class summer retreat is occupied by devoted Reichspost workers on leave; after the war his former artist's studio is turned into the city hospital's surgery; in the 1970s a diving-club sets up an aquarium in the hallway. Each period of occupancy is followed by a period of vacancy – until a cultural foundation decides to return the property to its »original shape«.

The place remains recognisable throughout these changes and offers a reference point for decisions and dreams, lonely walks and flickering memories.

Magdalena Saiger studied German and history in Berlin and Madrid and received a PhD on the migratory nature of places. She has been awarded the Hamburg Literature Prize twice and her previous novel was nominated for several further prizes. She lives in Hamburg. This book is her second novel.

Also by Magdalena Saiger: WHAT YOU DON'T SEE, OR THE UTTER USELESSNESS OF THE MOON (2023)



Katharina Bendixen

AN APPROPRIATE FORM OF LOVE Parental Prose

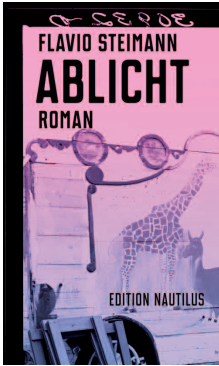
March 2025 · 184 pages

»In biting, confident and entertaining prose Katharina Bendixen depicts the absurdities of modern motherhood that invariably concern us all« Słata Roschal

A lion cub annoys everyone at the children's and animal daycare and is made to undergo various measures to speed up its anthropogenesis. A young woman with a sunflower growing out of her ear refuses to cut off its shoots and things get complicated when she gets pregnant. A mother who deliberately brings up her child without a father senses contempt everywhere. A lecturer presents a program whereby overwhelmed mothers can swap babies in order to find an appropriate form of love. Katharina Bendixen writes of parents and their children, of conflicts and overwhelm, of the societal expectations of motherhood and their contradictions. She does this through a variety of literary approaches: Conventional short stories follow magical-surrealist narratives, fictional therapy reports sit next to fictional exam questions or excerpts from a parents' group chat. She thereby plays with textual forms that surround parents in everyday life and interrogates our stressed and saturated society.

The story »My Time with Rosa« was shortlisted for the W. G. Sebald Literature Prize 2024.

Katharina Bendixen writes books for children, adolescents and adults and has received numerous writing grants and awards. Together with her partner David Blum, she founded the initiative »other writers need to concentrate«, which explores the relationship between authorship, parenthood and other forms of care work.



Flavio Steimann

SNAPSHOT

March 2027 • 112 pages

Lucerne, ca. 1950: The 14-year-old orphan Hermann Egens is the apprentice of the French photographer Reynard Lelouche, who he also lives with. Lelouche hasn't taken him in from the goodness of his heart; rather, the lodgings are the apprentice's salary.

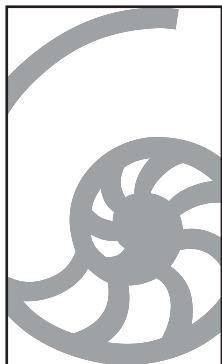
The clumsy youth resorts to silent observation: the girls at the laundry next door, the war photos and nudes barely concealed by Lelouche, the elegant pageboy at the hotel, or the illustrious international hotel guests who come to Lelouche's studio to be photographed – they all become objects of his gaze.

Hermann learns the techniques of photography and his patience and perceptiveness make him take such unusual photos that his master publishes them under his own name without telling him.

Flavio Steimann observes the particular Lucerne milieu of this postwar time, where an orphaned youth has no right but to observe the war traumas, the addictions of his unrestrained master, the failed noblesse of the hotel world, the anachronistic aristocracy, and the appearance of existentialists in the city.

Flavio Steimann is an author of novels, novellas, short stories, and plays. He has received several awards. His novel *Bajass* premiered as a play in Lucerne in 2020.

Also by the author: KRUMHOLZ (2021), BAJASS (2014)



David Blum

THE MASTER AND HIS SERVANT

March 2028 · ca. 136 pages

A pre-modern road novel set in 1800 on the Via Regia in Saxony, Prussia, and Bohemia.

A man is charged with arson and the murder of his master. He does not deny the deeds, but offers his version of the events: After being driven from his farm land by gendarmes, seeing his house get burned to the ground and sending his wife and son into safety, he was picked up by a showman with three wagons. In every city, people pay to get a look at the contents of the first wagon – and exit with a strange expression in their eyes. But the showman – the master – forbids his servant from ever entering the wagon.

The servant sends each salary to his wife and son at his sister-in-law's, but when the showman's wagons reach their town he discovers his family's graves – they died of smallpox shortly after arriving. The servant returns to the showman and discovers the disappearance of one of the oxen. As a punishment, the master makes the servant pull the cart. After an accident, the master believes the servant to be dead and the servant strangles him, after which he finally gets to see what's in the first wagon ...

David Blum studied German and comparative literature, media studies and literary writing in Potsdam and Leipzig. He writes fiction for adults and young adults, children's books and travel guides. Together with his partner, the author Katharina Bendixen, he is a co-founder of the initiative »other writers need to concentrate«.



Sophie Sumburane

THE PINK GIANT, OR NOTHING TO REPORT

March 2026 • 200 pages

A true crime novel inspired by the case of the last serial killer of the GDR: Sophie Sumburane offers a portrait of strong women in an insecure society during the time of German reunification.

It is October 1989 and a woman is brutally murdered in her allotment in the Brandenburg village of Beelitz. While the Wall comes down 50 km away, the village is shaken by suspicion and distrust. As many police officers move across the newly open border to West Germany and others turn out to be members of the Stasi, the case receives little professional attention and sensationalist reporters seem to be testing how far they can cross people's boundaries in their media coverage before that itself becomes criminal. Between 1990 and 1991, four more women and a baby are brutally murdered by the serial killer the tabloids come to call the »Pink Giant« or the »Monster of Beelitz«.

The story follows Hedi and Gabi, two friends whose lives are differently affected by the events: While Hedi's fiancé isolates her at home, Gabi starts working as a reporter for the *Bild* tabloid and learns more about the ongoing investigation ... Sophie Sumburane approaches the case with compassion for the victims, both those of the »Pink Giant« and those of the relentlessly intrusive sensationalist press.

Sophie Sumburane was born in the GDR two years before German reunification. She studied German and African Studies and holds a PhD in forensic linguistics. She is the author of several crime novels, writes for different media and engages in activism against racism and right-wing extremism.

Also by the author: BLIND SPOTS (2022)

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Robert Brack

BARE SKIN

February 2026 • 216 pages

»The resurrection of Hamburg St. Pauli from the ghost of jazz: Robert Brack knows how to turn a crime novel into a piece of Bebop.«
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

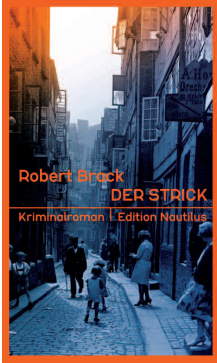
Hamburg St. Pauli, 1951: Jazz pianist Martha, once an idol of the swing youth, returns to her hometown after her career in New York fell short of her hopes. In post-war Hamburg, however, success is also hard to come by – Martha's neighbourhood was bombed during the war and German jazz is passé, everyone is fighting for survival and not all of the Nazis have left.

Despairing as a pianist in a seedy hotel bar, Martha's life takes a turn for the better when she encounters an old friend who wants to open a jazz bar. She makes the acquaintance of the promising bass player GI Paul – but he appears to be in some sort of trouble.

Between run-ins with property speculators, drug dealers and red light gangsters, old adversaries appear – and the distant memory of a mysterious death ...

Robert Brack is an author and translator who lives in Hamburg. He has written numerous crime novels and received multiple awards. This book made the second place of the Krimibestenliste in February 2026.

Also by the author: THE ROPE (2027), BLACK OCTOBER (2023), UNDER THE SHADOW OF DEATH (2012), BLOODY SUNDAY (2010), AND THE SEA RETURNED ITS DEAD (2008)



Robert Brack

THE ROPE

March 2027 • ca. 200 pages

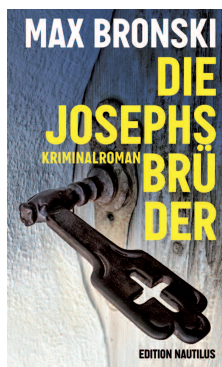
The fifth novel in the Klara Schindler series, which explores the social and political struggles of the 1920s and 1930s in Hamburg.

Klara Schindler, a young communist journalist, is drawn into the bloody events of August 24, 1927, when – during the demonstrations against the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti – she stumbles upon a teenage boy standing next to a police officer’s body, a knife in his hand. She hides the alleged murderer in her room. Shortly afterward, the dead body has disappeared. No one claims to have seen it. Was it really a police officer? Did the boy actually kill the man?

Since he refuses to reveal anything about himself, she is forced to investigate the circumstances behind that day’s bloody events and finds herself on treacherous political ground. But Klara’s world is also falling apart for other reasons: she has fallen in love with the boy. Until then, heterosexual feelings had been foreign to her, she is confused. But the “boy” turns out to be a girl. Klara is enthusiastic, even though the girl doesn’t respond to her advances. The ensuing investigation into the missing corpse uncovers a bloody conspiracy from which the seventeen-year-old had fled ...

Robert Brack is an author and translator who lives in Hamburg. He has written numerous crime novels and received multiple awards. This book made the second place of the Krimibestenliste in February 2026.

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Max Bronski

THE MONKS OF ST. JOSEPH

September 2025 • 136 pages

Monks in need of a security system, a bored antiques dealer and an anarchist demolition expert: an explosively entertaining Munich summer crime novel.

Wilhelm Gossec knows nothing about security. But since his antiques store is experiencing a summer lull and he spends most of his time drinking beer and contemplating bee-keeping with his neighbour, his friend Julius offers him a job at his security firm: He is to visit the Monks of the St Joseph's Order at Hohenwartach Monastery so that Julius' firm can install a new security system there.

A short time after the installation, news of a burglary at the monastery reach them: The burglars appear to have tricked the new security system and stolen religious valuables worth 100,000 €.

When Gossec goes to investigate, he is knocked down. Julius, in turn, is paid an unannounced visit by his friend Ludger, the anarchist burglar and ex-convict he owes the idea for the security firm. What is Ludger suddenly doing back in Munich? Max Bronski once again proves his brilliance in character and plot composition.

Max Bronski (alias Franz-Maria Sonner) is a prolific writer of crime fiction. He is particularly well-known for his crime novel series featuring the antiques dealer Gossec. In 2019, he was awarded the Friedrich-Glauser-Preis for the best crime novel of the year. Max Bronski lives in Hannover.

Also by the author: URS THE BERSERKER (2023), HALDER (2021)



Marc Thörner

COLONIAL WAR WITHOUT A COLONY? Germany in Afghanistan

October 2026 • ca. 180 pages

Five years after Germany's troop withdrawal Afghanistan-expert Marc Thörner offers a reconsideration of the entire military mission.

The German military fought in Afghanistan for nearly twenty years, from 2002 to 2021. Marc Thörner spent numerous years observing the war on-site for German tv and radio – at times even from within different NATO-armies. He reported on a war that was allegedly fought »in defence of German security at the Hindu Kush«, but in reality employed many strategies strongly reminiscent of the German colonial empire: cooperation with corrupt, mafia-like war lords, tribal politics in favour of certain ethnicities, language and (fake) information as a means of psychological warfare.

Thörner spoke with pioneers of the Taliban, with war lords and German military officials, with Afghan citizens, diplomats, ministers and members of the German parliamentary commission of inquiry. His analysis shows that the German narrative of the »war on terror« and »nation building« is sugarcoating the reality now as much as ever. Five years after the defeat he asks whether the military mission should instead be regarded as Germany's last major colonial war.

Marc Thörner is a foreign correspondent and author of non-fiction books. He has reported from Maghreb, the Gulf States, Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan and received the Otto-Brenner-Preis for critical journalism in 2009.

Also by the author: RIGHT-WING POPULISM AND JIHAD (2021), A GENTLE COUP (2014), THE ARAB REVOLUTION AND ITS ENEMIES (2012), THE AFGHANISTAN-CODE (2010)



Volker M. Heins

SANCTUARY CITIES, AND OTHER PLACES OF REFUGE

March 2026 • 216 pages

Where can refugees go if states label them as a problem? An answer can be found in those cities that make supporting refugees and living in solidarity with migrants part of their self-definition in spite of their countries' regulations: sanctuary cities. Volker Heins has done research in Chicago, Kampala, Sheffield and Palermo, Berlin, Bremen and Zurich: What are the real effects of the promise of sanctuary on persons without a residence permit? Are so-called sanctuary cities developing a new concept of urban freedom? And can they offer an answer to national isolationism? Heins offers an impressive analysis of migration, solidarity and the future of open societies at a time when wars, environmental destruction, and arbitrary governments are forcing more and more people to flee and the borders of many countries are closing more and more tightly.

Volker M. Heins is a political scientist and author. He has taught at universities in Germany, the United States, Canada, and Israel. Heins is a co-founder of the »Academy in Exile« and a member of the »Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities« (KWI).

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Timo Daum

IN PRAISE OF SURVEILLANCE

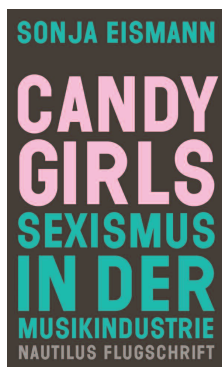
March 2026 • 126 pages

The problem with Surveillance Capitalism is capitalism, not surveillance!

Surveillance does not have a good reputation. It makes us think of authoritarian dystopias or the omnipotence of Big Tech. But the problem with Surveillance Capitalism is capitalism, not surveillance! We have defended privacy, upheld data protection and shouted »my data belongs to me!« What if we were wrong? In this book, Timo Daum offers a provocative criticism of common data security and shows the positive uses of surveillance: be it in traffic, in the health sector or in planning a need-oriented economy. Praising surveillance means recognising its productive force, as a form of care, as a possibility for good government. This essay advocates a change of perspective, it advocates making use of the assets of surveillance through a »positive surveillance policy«.

Timo Daum is a university lecturer and author. His work focuses on the analysis and critique of digital capitalism. His books have received multiple prizes and he is a dissertation fellow at the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation.

Also by the author: AGILE CAPITALISM. LIFE AS A PROJECT (2020), THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE OF CAPITAL (2019), WE ARE THE CAPITAL. CRITIQUE OF A DIGITAL ECONOMY (2017)



Sonja Eismann

CANDY GIRLS **Sexism in the Music Industry**

September 2025 • 200 pages

»Sonja Eismann has put in the work to prove with verve and anger and countless examples how patriarchal the music industry still is.«
Christiane Rösinger

Women and their bodies – obviously only the pretty, youthful, sexy – are what the music industry and the logic of pop revolve around. In song lyrics, women are desired, fetishised, cursed and degraded. Female fans are either seen as a screeching mob or as dumb groupies, always sexually available and incapable of a serious interest or taste in music. A female artist is judged first as a woman – her body too fat, too thin, too perfect, too whatever; she is seen either as an angel or as a whore until, suddenly, she is too old.

With an educational mix of anger and analytical skill Sonja Eismann takes account of the sexism and ageism written deeply into the music industry, how consumers have internalised the male gaze and how abuse and pedophilia are tolerated in almost all genres. She writes about sexist music journalism, about super stars like Taylor Swift, Beyoncé or Peaches, about femicides in song lyrics – and, of course, about counterexamples and resistance. This work is a well-argued, thoroughly-researched, angry middle finger to the music-patriarchy.

Sonja Eismann is a journalist and cultural scientist. She studied comparative literature in Vienna, Mannheim, Dijon and Santa Cruz. In 1998 she co-founded the magazine *nylon* and in 2008 the *Missy Magazine*. She writes for magazines, is an editor of several feminist publications and teaches and researches topics around gender and pop culture at the University.



Isabel Fargo Cole

THE ZENOCENE Paradoxes of Progress

September 2025 • 184 pages

Taking its title from the famous paradox of Zeno whereby motion is an illusion, this collection of essays analyses and comments on the big questions of our time. Isabel Fargo Cole writes about language and the Large Language Models of A.I., about post-growth and creation myths, about the standstill of lockdown, surveillance, left-wing (and right-wing) techno-optimism, and the work of translation. In the face of the constant division of society into ever smaller identities and bubbles and the technological sprint without real progress, could it be possible that we are living in the Zenocene? Cole's essays are analytical, autobiographical and lyrical and have appeared in various major quality newspapers.

Isabel Fargo Cole grew up in New York City and moved to Berlin in 1995, where she works as a freelance writer and translator. She started writing mainly in German in 2003. Her texts have appeared in various literary magazines and her novel *The Green Border* was nominated for multiple prizes.

Also by the author: THE POISON OF THE HONEY BEE (2019), THE GREEN BORDER (2017)

English sample translation available



Lisa Bendiek

LESBIANS MAKE THE BETTER DADS

Queer Families as a Role Model for Equal Parenting

March 2025 • 320 pages

Why are lesbians better parents? What is going wrong in the hetero-normative nuclear family? And why do the state and society find it so difficult to recognize queer families as full-fledged families?

This book is not a guide. It is a manifesto for no longer viewing queer families as deficient, and recognizing that they are better at many things than the normcore straight family – especially considering the equal distribution of paid labour and unpaid care work. Lisa Bendiek explores the diverse realities of queer parenthood by drawing on the findings of various studies as well as her own experiences as a queer parent. She thereby skilfully analyses legal and societal discrimination of queer parents and questions the stereotypical gender roles written into the structure of the heterosexual nuclear family. This book encourages its readers to think out of the box and to leave deeply-rooted assumptions about parenthood and family behind. Bendiek responds to misgivings about queer parents such as their children's alleged lack of well-being with the same empirically-based cockiness with which she suggests that heterosexual parents should follow the example of queer parents in many things: for happier parents and children and for a more equal society.

Lisa Bendiek was born as the daughter of a full-time working mom and a stay-at-home dad. She studied ethnology and psychology in Germany and Paris and works, among other things, in anti-discrimination-education. This includes sensitising teachers to racism and providing argumentation-trainings in feminist rhetoric and against right-wing populism.



Alex Aßmann

FREE IN PRISON

Andreas Baader, the Arson Trial, and Political Violence

April 2025 • 288 pages

In 1968, two years before the founding of the Red Army Faction (RAF), its co-founder Andreas Baader is imprisoned after firebombing two department stores in Frankfurt, West Germany. In contrast to other leftist activists, Baader is neither ideologically educated nor politically ambitious at the time of his imprisonment. He uses the 14 months in solitary confinement to read Wittgenstein and Marcuse, Marx and de Sade, to keep a journal and to write reviews, letters and screenplays. It is a time not only of radicalisation and growing hatred towards the state, but also of education and subjective awakening during which Baader sometimes feels freer in prison than »outside«.

This biography approaches Andreas Baader and the RAF from a hitherto unknown angle, contrasting with the received historicisation. Alex Aßmann was the first person to review Baader's prison papers – hundreds of pages of notes and countless letters, mostly addressed to Gudrun Ensslin. Aßmann's biography skilfully integrates the development of this enemy of the state with the intellectual history of West Germany.

Alex Aßmann is a professor of pedagogy and has written multiple biographies, among them those of Klaus Mollenhauer and Gudrun Ensslin. He lives in the Odenwald.



Lars Distelhorst

DECONSTRUCT IDENTITY POLITICS A New Approach

April 2025 • 240 pages

Just a few years ago, identity politics with its criticism of different forms of discrimination was at the centre of public attention. People affected by discrimination came together and demanded equal participation in society. Topics such as Germany's colonial past or the racism in everyday language were widely talked about, and previously valid classifications were called into question. Then the political balance began to shift. »Woke« became a right-wing slur and the methods of identity politics displayed weaknesses: an under-complex understanding of the performativity of language, a disregard for scientific standards, the neglect of economic contexts and the reproduction of neoliberal ideas. Since the Hamas massacre in Israel on October 7, 2023, and its antisemitic relativization, parts of the movement appear to be heading for political and ethical bankruptcy. How could this happen? Lars Distelhorst examines the philosophical assumptions and methods of identity politics and offers a new approach: re-politicize identity as a tool for emancipatory criticism.

Lars Distelhorst studied political science and holds a PhD in gender politics. He is a professor of social sciences in Berlin.

Also by the author: CULTURAL APPROPRIATION (2021)



Michael Hirsch · Kilian Jörg

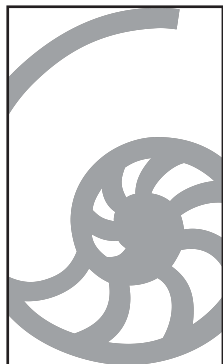
PERFORATE THE STATUS QUO! Autonomous Zones, Radical Democracy and Ecology

April 2025 • 152 pages

The political present is paradoxical: Everyone is aware that business as usual is impossible in the face of the climate catastrophe, yet an alternative to the status quo seems more unimaginable than ever. The political imagination appears desolate and the widespread disenchantment with democracy is exploited by the Right. In this book, Michael Hirsch and Kilian Jörg attempt to »reforest« the political imagination – inspired by the French concept of the Zone à défendre (ZAD, »Zone to Defend«). The famous ZAD in Notre-Dame-des-Landes, which has existed outside Capitalist structures for over fifteen years, is an experiment in rethinking the relationship between work and ecology. What if states were to recognise and channel the potential of autonomous zones instead of opposing them? What if we were to oppose the growing fascist ideation with a new, serious form of democracy? This is a book that encourages us to fight the bleak lethargy of our capitalist reality by affirming the possibility of a variety of other worlds beyond it.

Michael Hirsch is a philosopher, political scientist and art theorist. He works as a freelance writer as well as a teacher of political theory and history of ideas at the university.

Kilian Jörg is a theorist, artist and activist working on ecological catastrophe. He has written on club culture, the automobile, the political backlash and other religions of the toxic.



Elena Stepanova

CHILDREN OF THE SOVIET EMPIRE

January 2027 • ca. 160 pages

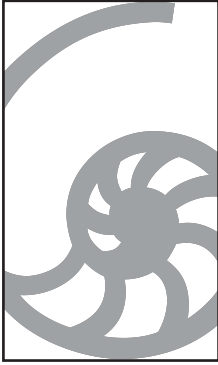
Russian author Elena Stepanova takes her family's story as an example to trace the history of violence from the Soviet Union to today's Russia.

Her father being a military judge, the family never questioned the USSR's logic. Even for Stepanova, who had realised during her studies in London that she never wanted to live in Russia again, a real interrogation of her origins only started after Russia's attack on Ukraine in February, 2022. Encounters with refugees, the daily news and family conflicts prompt Stepanova to confront internalised prejudice, feelings of shame and imperial arrogance.

Stepanova narrates her childhood in the Soviet garrison town of Wünsdorf in the GDR, describing her family as a microcosm of state structures characterised by hierarchies, a strong sense of duty, and violence. During her youth in 1990s Saint Petersburg she witnessed the chaotic transformation, the rise of oligarchy and corruption, the lack of infrastructure, and an insecure post-Soviet identity.

This book demonstrates that the war is not an exception but a result of a decades-long societal process.

Elena Stepanova studied political science in London. After the murder of the Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaja in 2006, she decided not to return to Russia after finishing her PhD. She has lived in Germany for 20 years and teaches history at a German highschool.



Barbara Eder

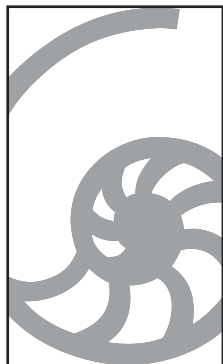
BLUEPRINTS FOR PARADISE **On Machine Decay**

January 2027 • ca. 256 pages

The relationship of humans to their technological appliances often resembles the dualism of foreign vs. familiar: What appears not to be of this world is either ostracised or elevated to an almost miracle-like status. Barbara Eder interrogates this relationship, always in search of an alternative use of technology in other possible worlds. This book is a historical-philosophical exploration of the contested origins of technological objects, their inability to ever fully replace human labour, and the relationship of the free time they create for us – which Marx called »surplus time« – to humanity itself.

Eder revisits the »running letters« of the Olivetti Lettera 22 portable typewriter, the sound matrices of the Soviet Theremin player Clara Rockmore, the hidden depths of IT-servers and bank branches. Daily email traffic reveals itself as a digital successor to pneumatic mail and carrier pigeons – and as an automaton with leaks. A fascinating philosophical journey through time.

Barbara Eder is a journalist, author, and social scientist. She has taught at various universities and conducted research in Hungary, Armenia, and Georgia. Her texts have appeared in numerous magazines. *Blueprints for Paradise* was supported by a working grant from the City of Vienna.



Hans-Christian Dany

MY LIFE AS A PARANOID MONKEY »A.I.« and Writing As A Key To A Schizophrenic Society

March 2027 · ca. 160 pages

This is neither a culturally pessimistic essay nor a celebration of technology, but a personal, theoretical exploration of what writing, thinking, and subjectivity mean when machines co-author our language.

What happens to someone whose life has been shaped by writing for decades when a machine suddenly appears that can write seemingly effortlessly?

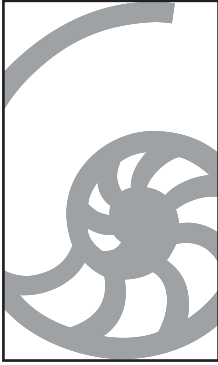
My Life as a Paranoid Monkey begins with this encounter. A narrator strikes up a conversation with a language model and discovers in it not so much a new technology as a mirror of his own perception.

Building on this personal experience, the book traces a media history of contemporary thought. It leads from Émile Borel's infinite monkeys through Oswald Wiener's *Die Verbesserung von Mitteleuropa*, Stanisław Lem's »phantomatics«, Kurd Laßwitz, Alan Turing, and the dot-com bubble all the way to ChatGPT, Sam Altman, and today's language models.

At its core is the thesis that language models represent not so much a revolution in intelligence as a new form of social modeling. They promise orientation, closeness, and efficiency, but at the same time reinforce those tendencies toward isolation, self-reflection, and pattern formation that can be described in psychiatric terms as paranoid or schizophrenic structures.

Hans-Christian Dany is an artist who lives in Hamburg. He has been on vacation from any real job for a long time. Like many who don't know what to do with themselves, he writes. Sometimes his writing turns into books.

Also by the author: DEBT WAS MY HOBBY. FAMILY ACCOUNTS (2024), FASTER THAN THE SUN (2015), TOMORROW I'LL BE AN IDIOT. CYBERNETICS AND CONTROL SOCIETY (2013), SPEED. A SOCIETY ON DRUGS (2012)



Karsten Krampitz

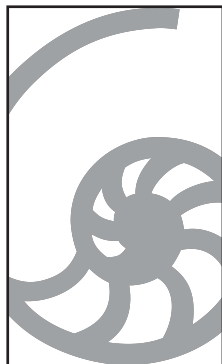
HANS HOLM or A Short History of Communism

September 2027 • ca. 256 pages

This biography of the communist resistance fighter Hans Holm is a tale of political struggles, of family ties torn apart and rebuilt, and of courage with a sound moral compass.

Karsten Krampitz recounts the life of the communist publisher and resistance fighter Johannes »Hans« Holm (1895–1981), who was expelled from the KPD on two separate occasions, yet he could not imagine living outside its ranks. Following the Nazi's rise to power in 1933, Holm travelled all over Europe, establishing communist exile networks. In 1939 he himself had to flee and made his way to Norway. With his experience operating underground, his Norwegian-sounding name and his language skills, Holm was ideally suited to anti-fascist resistance and saved many people's lives – sadly, he was unable to do so for his own partner, Jewish communist Edith Raphael, who was murdered in Auschwitz. At least their daughter, Inger, was saved and hidden in a Protestant children's home. Hans Holm was brought from Oslo to Sachsenhausen concentration camp in 1943, where he was able to pass himself off as Norwegian, thus being rescued to Sweden in March 1945. After the war he settled in East Berlin, where he became a – rebellious – member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and ran various publishing houses.

Karsten Krampitz is an author, historian and journalist. He has written for magazines, theatres and the radio, participated in squatting at luxury hotels together with homelessness activists and co-founded »Mondkalb«, a magazine on disability and exclusion. He holds a PhD on the role of the church in the GDR and has received several prizes. In 2025 he published the novel *Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Hoffnung* (»Hope Ltd.«) with Edition Nautilus.



Christof Parnreiter

MIGRATION AND RACISM Two Strategies in Global Distributive Conflicts

September 2027 • ca. 200 pages

Christoph Parnreiter, migration researcher at Hamburg University, shows how in a world characterised by inequality and distributive conflicts millions of people only have a chance of social mobility through international migration. International migration is in turn economically beneficial and therefore desired by the destination countries, for example to remedy their structural lack of workers in low-wage jobs. Racism and restrictive migration- and border-politics are strategies to integrate the workers »delivered« by migration while excluding them from having rights and thereby cheapening their labour. The so-called »racism of the masses« is actively fuelled and used by these countries in order to maintain existing hierarchies. A thought-provoking analysis of a very current issue.

Christof Parnreiter studied history of economics and society as well as Romance language and literature in Vienna, Florence and Chicago. He is a professor of economic geography in Hamburg.

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