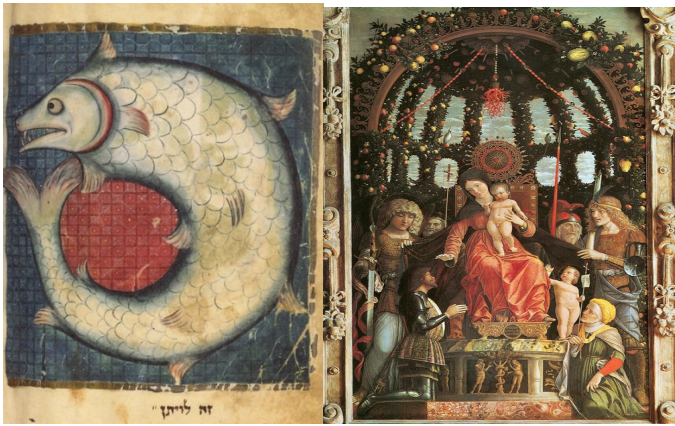


LBF 2024
Non-fiction

Nikolas Jaspert

The Sea and Mankind

A Marine History of the Middle Ages



Coral and pearls, herring, tuna and whales, amber, narwhal tusks and shells – in this first-ever marine history of the Middle Ages, the acclaimed historian Nikolas Jaspert writes about the close relationship between the sea and mankind across a period of 1,000 years.

His account brings together history with marine biology, geology and geography with archaeology, literary history and art history. It offers a double new perspective on the Middle Ages. The period is usually seen as a time that was predominantly marked by the land. Here, by contrast, the mediaeval millennium is seen from the point of view of the sea. But most of all this book is about the treasures of the sea, its marine creatures and substances, what people knew about the sea and what lived in it, and how they used what they found. This is not just about fishing and catching whales, trading elegant sea silk, fragrant ambergris and imperial purple, however, but also how, for example, religions incorporated the seas into their religious concepts of the world, and especially where and how these treasures of the sea lived.

In our time, the threats facing the sea have become a global problem affecting society as a whole. We are becoming increasingly aware that even our very survival depends on it. By turning our traditional, anthropocentric gaze towards the sea and its creatures, Jaspert shows that a consciousness of our fragile dependency on this unique ecosystem influenced the relationship between mankind and the sea back in the Middle Ages. Such a thorough study of the sea in the mediaeval era is surprisingly timely and to date unique.

- About 360pp with many illustrations
- Germany: Propyläen/Ullstein, publ. spring 2025
- Manuscript: September 2024.



Nikolas Jaspert (b. 1962 in Melbourne) is Professor of Mediaeval History at the University of Heidelberg. He studied History, Spanish, Art History and English in Berlin and Madrid. After academic posts at the FU Berlin and at the University of Erlangen–Nuremberg, in 2005 he obtained a chair as Professor of Mediaeval History at the Ruhr University Bochum. He has been a professor at the University of Heidelberg since 2013.

For many years Nikolas Jaspert was president of the ‘Société Internationale des Historiens de la Méditerranée’ and he is a co-editor of the *Zeitschrift für Historische Forschung*, *Mittelmeerstudien* and *Geschichte und Kultur der Iberischen Welt* as well as various other academic journals.

He is the author of numerous publications about the Reconquista, the history of the Crusades, chivalric orders and the history of the Mediterranean.

Daniel Etter

**Field Experiment
My Farm and the Search for the Future of Agriculture**

Our agriculture has a problem, be it conventional or organic. It emits enormous amounts of greenhouse gases, yet at the same time it is suffering from climate change. There are, however, solutions. Agriculture could be different—more sustainable and regenerative, instead of destructive.

Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer, author and farmer Daniel Etter embarks on a journey across Europe to discover how agriculture can continue to work in the future. He considers different ways of managing his farm in the foothills of the Pyrenees to farm both sustainably and profitably. He visits pioneers of alternative agriculture, including the forest gardening expert Martin Crawford in England, and Perrine and Charles Hervé-Gruyer's flagship permaculture farm in Normandy; he works with farmers in Spain who are battling constant drought. He visits the fields of Gut & Bösel in Brandenburg, Germany, where the owners are experimenting with regenerative agriculture, and talks with scientists about the future of our food supply.

Following the cycle of the gardening year, he presents these concepts and reports on his travels and describes what happens in his garden in the different seasons: what thrives and grows, which vegetables and fruits he harvests, and the changes he makes to help his farm defy climate change.

A forward-looking book that demonstrates how we can feed ourselves without devouring our planet.



- Approx. 260 pp. with illustrations/photographs
- Germany: DVA/PRH, ms: August 2023, publ. February 2024



Daniel Etter is an award-winning photographer, author and film maker. He has won the Pulitzer Prize and a World Press Photo Award for his photographic work, and the Hansel-Mieth Prize, among others, for his writing. He writes and/or photographs for the NYT, Spiegel, Geo, NZZ and many others. Together with Marco Maurer, he published “Meine italienische Reise” [My Italian Journey], which was on the German bestseller list for several weeks.

www.danieletter.com

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Loel Zwecker

The Power of the Powerless

How Common People changed Our World for the Better – A Short History

Who, in the past, were the instigators of great and positive social change? Not princes, presidents and philosophers — rather, it was anonymous people at the bottom of society. They were the ones who laid the foundations for major changes like the abolition of slavery and the end of the feudal system, and who protested against the oppression of women. In this book, Loel Zwecker gives them a voice, celebrating the power of the powerless.

The abolitionists Benjamin Lay and Olauda Equiano. The trade unionist Mary Harris (‘Mother’) Jones. The religious socialist Gerrard Winstanley. The Bolivian housewife Domitila Chungara, who toppled a dictator. None of them are household names, and yet they permanently altered the course of the world — for the better. Benjamin Lay, for example, was the first to introduce empathy as a factor in politics, relying on it to demonstrate to his fellow human beings the barbarity and unsustainability of slavery.

Loel Zwecker tells their stories and gives many other impressive examples in his ‘history from the bottom up’. He illustrates the sophistication and surprising contemporary relevance of their political strategies, and makes clear, in doing so, that individual powerlessness is just a tale the powerful want you to believe.

This inspirational examination of the past is one that gives us hope for the future.



- Germany: Tropen/Klett-Cotta Verlag
- Approx. 300 pp., publication March 24



Loel Zwecker (b. 1968) is an author and freelance editor. He completed his doctoral thesis on art and politics and lectured Art History at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Germany. He has written for newspapers (Süddeutsche Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Le Monde, among others) and authored several books that were translated into various languages. Most recently, he published *Vom Anfang bis heute: Eine kleine Geschichte der Welt* [From the Beginning to Now: A Brief History of the World] (2018).

Annette Kehnel The Green Ages – Medieval Innovations in Sustainability

“Bold and exciting – a must-read!”

--Lyndal Roper, Regius Professor of History, Oriel College, Oxford

“A wonderful and much needed book!”

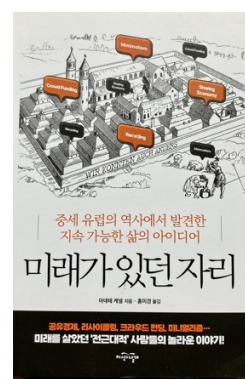
--Harald Welzer, author and editor futurezwei magazine

Communities that functioned on the basis of sharing on the Monte Subiaco in Italy, sustainable fishing at Lake Constance, common lands in the UK, the economy of transient grazing among Alpine shepherds in the south of France, banks providing microcredit in Bologna and other Italian cities (Monti di Pietà) and crowdfunding to finance bridges in Avignon; progressive thinkers who analysed capital five hundred years before Marx; systems to provide collectively for those in need like the Fuggerei (social housing) in Augsburg; second-hand markets in Paris and the Beguines who lived in female communities based on the idea that less is more and who planted exquisite self-sufficient gardens in the middle of medieval cities like Antwerp and Bruges ...

Pre-modern history is full of inspiring and amazing examples and concepts that are ripe for rediscovery. And we urgently need them as today's challenges – finite resources, the twilight of consumerism, growing inequality – are pressing, but we are having difficulty finding new ways forward, because we still think and act according to nineteenth-century concepts that have become completely dysfunctional in the twenty-first century.

Historian Annette Kehnel shows us that we have to go further back in history to find inspiration for our future and provides surprising and vivid examples from medieval and early modern history. Her work is full of fundamental and inspiring alternatives to the status quo and its leading doctrine. Growth and returns were not always the measure of all things; we acted and lived differently and we could do so again.

This amazing book takes a stimulating and revelatory look at a past that has the power to change our future.





- Germany: Blessing Verlag (5th print run), World English: Profile Books, Arabic: Kalima, Korea: Korea National Open University, NL: Atlas Contact, US: Brandeis University Press
- Approx. 340 pages with illustrations

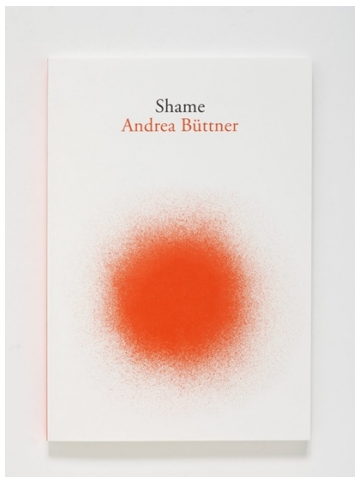


Annette Kehnel has held a chair in Medieval History at the University of Mannheim. She has published numerous works on her main focus of research: cultural and economic history and historical anthropology.

She received the prestigious NDR Non-Fiction Book Prize 2021 for her book "Wir konnten schon anders. Eine kurze Geschichte der Nachhaltigkeit".

Andrea Büttner SHAME

From shaming and shamefulness to shame-avoidance and shamelessness, the experience of shame influences our social behaviours, decisionmaking abilities, and desires. Shame determines what we show and what we hide. And yet, as an emotion that begs for its own concealment, what is the structure and appearance of shame? How does shame interact with the realm of the visible, and where does it surface in visual culture? In this extensive historical and contemporary analysis of shame and its power, artist Andrea Büttner probes the definitions and representations of shame. The book includes close readings of Sigmund Freud's writings on play and fantasy, challenges theoretical approaches to Andy Warhol's queer performativity on film, and frames Dieter Roth's representations of shame in his writing and moving image work.



- Walther König Verlag (English edition)
- 128 pp.

Andrea Büttner (b.1972) was shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 2017 and honoured with several international awards. She studied visual arts at the Universität der Künste in Berlin as well as philosophy and art history at the Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen and at Humboldt-Universität Berlin. In 2008 she was awarded her PhD from the Royal College of Art for her dissertation *Perspectives on Shame and Art*.

Since 2017 Büttner is professor for Art in Contemporary Context at the Kunsthochschule Kassel. Her work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions, recently for example at Kunstverein München, Bergen Kunsthall, Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, Hammer Museum Los Angeles, Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Museum Ludwig Cologne, MMK Frankfurt am Main, Walker Art Center Minneapolis. She participated at Documenta 13 in Kassel and Kabul, at the 33rd and 29th São Paulo Biennale and at the British Art Show 8.

Her work is represented in important collections including the Tate in London, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Lenbachhaus in Munich, the Hamburger Kunsthalle and the Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid.

Ingke Brodersen

Farewell, Martha The Story of the Jewish Inhabitants of My House

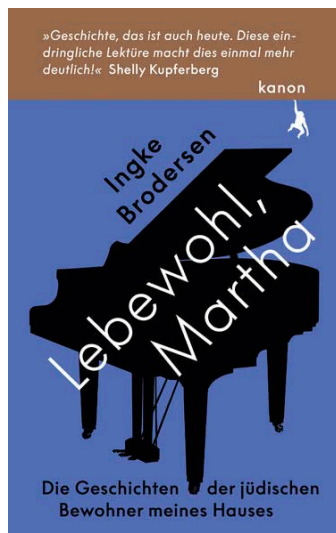
"This book tells of twenty-four people who disappeared. Deported in 1942, from the house in which I live. It also tells of others who escaped. I didn't get to know any of them until years after I had moved in. Here, I tell their stories — and the stories of people seeking refuge today."

In 1939, Hanns-Stephan is twelve years old. He stands on the platform of London's Liverpool Street station — saved by the Kindertransport. His mother dies in a hail of bombs. His father, Siegfried Jacob, a lawyer, goes into hiding in Berlin and survives. Siegfried's home becomes one of the so-called "Jew houses", a place where expropriated Jews are forced to live before they were deported.

When Ingke Brodersen in the 1990ies moves into an apartment on the fourth floor of this very house, she knows nothing about Siegfried or the pianist Martha, or any of the others. In an impressive piece of research, the author reconstructs the lives of these persecuted individuals. She also turns her attention to the displaced of today: Aziz and Rana from Kabul or Safed from Bosnia. The resulting book is a moving testimony to remembrance, empathy and humanity.

"Impressive research into a house's history, by which its Jewish inhabitants are given back their own histories as individuals." — Prof. Michael Wildt

"History is also the present. This haunting read reminds us of that once again!" — Shelly Kupferberg, Bestseller-Author of "Isidor"



- Germany: Kanon Verlag, publ. April 2023, Catalan: Comanegra
- Approx. 280 pages

The historian **Ingke Brodersen** was head of the publishing house Rowohlt Berlin, and edited a multilingual European magazine for the Goethe-Institut. She led democracy and communication training courses in Berlin schools, and has been mentoring refugees since the 1990s. Brodersen has written and edited numerous books, many of which deal with Judaism, Jewish history, and National Socialism. They include the catalogue for the opening of the Jewish Museum in Berlin, *Stories of an Exhibition: Two Millennia of German-Jewish History*.

Co-agents:

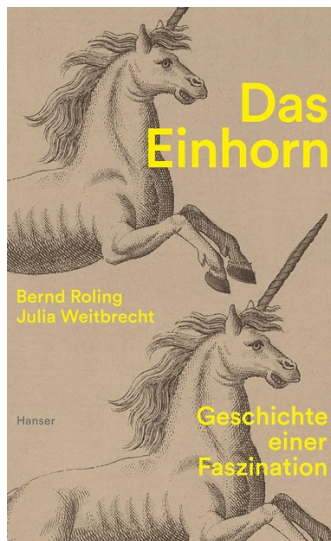
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Backlist

Julia Weitbrecht / Bernd Roling **The Unicorn** **A History of Longing**

Cropping up everywhere from Renaissance Cabinets of Curiosities to children's nurseries, emerging as both a Christian motif and an emblem of the queer movement, the unicorn has long fascinated. While today it is an imaginary animal better suited to T-Shirts than menageries, in antiquity and the Middle Ages, people firmly believed in the unicorn's existence. It was only in the 17th century that natural scientists consigned it to the realm of myth. Bernd Roling and Julia Weitbrecht unpack the turbulent history of the unicorn. They take us through its representation in natural history and medicine, literature and art, as well as the present-day media landscape. Entertainingly, they show how the unicorn is an integral part of our imaginations – one whose use extends far beyond the fluffy image it has resigned to in today's pop culture.

- From the medieval cabinet of curiosities to the child's nursery, the unicorn is an integral part of a long cultural history
- An exciting journey through literature and art, religion and politics, science and pop culture



- Germany: Carl Hanser Verlag, Russia: Mann, Ivanov & Ferber, Spain: Ediciones Siruela
- 160 pp. with 20 color illustrations
- Translation rights Hanser Verlag: Friederike.Barakat@hanser.de

Bernd Roling is professor of Medieval and New Latin at Freie Universität Berlin. His research interests include the history of science and the university. He has covered the topics of dragons and sirens in the Early Modern era, among others.

Julia Weitbrecht is a professor of Old German language and literature at the University of Cologne. She is currently researching animals in medieval culture, such as the religious symbolism of the unicorn and the importance of hunting in courtly narratives.

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Franziska Grillmeier **The Island** **A Report from the Edges of Europe**

What should have been three days became four years: in 2018, the journalist Franziska Grillmeier went to the island of Lesbos for a story and stayed. After years of traveling the world, a small flat in the port city of Mytilini became her home, the island her concern. More than any other place, Lesbos is a symbol of the failure of European migration policy. Through three winters and summers, Grillmeier has been reporting on the situation in Europe's largest refugee camp there.

But this book is also about the lives and fates of the people behind the news stories—about their doubts, feelings, questions, and about encounters where journalistic distance must fall away.

Grillmeier tells the story of the camps from close up: how a state of emergency became normality, how the Moria fire became a turning point, and how the new high-security camps elevate Europe's isolation over human dignity. First and foremost, she

tells the story of the people in the camps, of their hopes, courage, and strength as they try to survive and preserve their dignity in a place they can never call home. There is Mariam Janikhusk from Afghanistan, nicknamed “the lawyer” in the camp; there is Fenet Adiba from Ethiopia, the former athlete; there is Fabiola Velasquez from Chile, the physiotherapist trying to help survivors of torture; there is Nikos Kalandri, the Greek fisherman—all part of the island, all feeling abandoned by the world. Grillmeier has written a book as profound as it is personal, a testimony to the will to live.



- Germany: C.H. Beck Verlag, March 2023
- 220 pp.
- Translation rights C.H. Beck: Susanne.Simor@beck.de

"Who remembers the Moria refugee camp on the island of Lesbos that burned down in 2020? Who knows what became of those housed there? And what is the fate of those who today try to reach Europe across the strait between Turkey and Greece? The journalist Franziska Grillmeier knows about it, and she knows how to tell about it."

—FAS

"Grillmeier logs four years in which a profound change has taken place in Europe."

—ORF Kontext



Franziska Grillmeier was born in Munich in 1991. She studied International Developments and Islamic Studies in Vienna and Politics of Conflict, Rights and Justice in London. She works as a freelance journalist for several international newspapers (Guardian, BBC, Die Zeit, taz, ...) and lives on Lesbos in Greece.

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Ulrich Bahnsen
The Clockwork of Life
How Medical Science Decodes the Code of Aging

The science behind the great promises of the future – longlisted for the “Science Book of the Year” 2024

- What’s the truth about supposedly rejuvenating drugs and hormones?
- The latest findings from leading researchers on aging, including Steve Horvath, Wolf Reik, Juan Carlos Izpisua Belmonte, and David Sinclair
- Targets a broad audience: baby boomers and young readers with an interest in science

Never has been the dream of eternal life as relevant as it is today. We want to stay young, active, healthy, and attractive, even in old age. Scientists have now solved the great riddle of our mortality and developed the first techniques to control the aging process. Science journalist Ulrich Bahnsen takes us on an exciting journey to visit the world's leading researchers on aging and discover epigenetic therapies that can help rejuvenate our bodies by decades. Can we turn back the aging clock. Mankind is rehearsing a revolt against death.



- Germany: Lübbe Verlag, Nov. 2023
- 239 pp.
- Translation rights Lübbe Verlag: giuseppe.terrano@luebbe.de

Ulrich Bahnsen holds a doctorate in neurogenetics and has worked as an editor in the “Wissen” department of DIE ZEIT since 2001. His topics are genetics, aging research, evolution, and medicine. Ulrich Bahnsen has received multiple awards for his journalistic work.