

Suhrkamp Insel

Rights List
Spring 2024 - Italy
Fiction & Nonfiction

Melanie Levensohn

The Morning after the Rain



© Jaroslav Monchak

Novel
400 pages · October 2024
(Original title: Der Morgen nach dem Regen)

A woman caught between her vocation and her family

Johanna loves her job. Working for the WHO, she often finds herself venturing deep into political hotspots to secure medical supplies and clean drinking water, working herself to the point of exhaustion. But whenever she finally returns to her family in New York after yearning to see them for months on end, she feels like a guest in her own house. Her husband Ralph and her daughter Elsa resent the fact that she spends more time looking after people on the other side of the world than she does her own family, and have learned to make do without her.

Decades later, when Elsa has long since grown up and become a successful lawyer at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Johanna inherits her Aunt Toni's house in Sankt Goar, a little town on the Rhine River in Germany where she spent her summers as a child, and which has exerted a special pull on her ever since. Shortly after Johanna moves into her new home, Elsa turns up. Burned out from her job in The Hague, she decides to spend some time at Aunt Toni's house to recover, despite her frosty relationship with her mother. Gradually, Elsa starts to realise that she has more in common with her mother than she always thought, and Johanna divulges a secret from the past that nearly destroyed both her and her family.

A moving novel about a woman torn between her passion for her career and her need to be there for her family, about deep-seated pain and long-awaited reconciliations – against the backdrop of sparkling international settings.

»A gripping family portrait that examines the unshakeable bonds of love and past secrets, subtly profound and emotionally powerful.« Katharina Fuchs, author

»Drama for the heart.« Maxi on A Jewish Girl in Paris

»A must-read.« Badische Neueste Nachrichten on A Jewish Girl in Paris

Melanie Levensohn was born in Darmstadt, Germany, studied political science and literature in France and Chile, and earned her master's degree from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po) in Paris. From 2001–2006 she worked as a spokesperson for the World Health Organization, which saw her travel to some of the world's most troubled political hotspots. She then worked for many years as a communications expert at the World Bank in Washington, DC. Since 2021, Melanie has been living with her family in Switzerland. Her debut novel, *A Jewish Girl in Paris*, was published in 2018.

Rights sold to: Domestic rights sales: German Audiobook (DAV)

Julia Jost

Hide and Seek



A big new voice from small-town Austria

The year is 1994. In a village in Carinthia, in the far-flung south of Austria at the foot of the Karawank Mountains, the narrator is holed up underneath a truck, looking out on the world and the people that inhabit it – from the knees down. She's 11 years old and in the middle of a game of hide and seek with her friend from Bosnia, Luca. For the very last time, because her family is about to move. Their house has grown too small for her upwardly mobile mother, who is desperate to join the ranks of the middle class.

One by one, neighbours from the village arrive to help with the move, and our pint-sized narrator begins to tell her story from her hiding place. She tells of her fear of being drowned in the Katzlteich because her hair is too short. Because she wears boy's jeans. Because she's secretly in love with Luca. But she's not the only one with something to hide. She knows plenty of stories about the visitors that are arriving, some that will make your blood curdle, and others that will melt your heart.



In her debut novel, Julia Jost depicts the experience of growing up in an archaic mountain world, nestled between the local pub and the confessional box – and explains how to survive there as an unconventional child by resisting the social constraints that are thrust upon her. Helped along by a tender friendship and a wild, exuberant gift for storytelling that makes reality seem better than it really is.

»If you want to have a bucket of ice-cold water dumped on your head and have to walk home sopping wet, then you're in the right place. This light-hearted malevolence might just lead to a better world, or maybe just to the next pub. You can try out both.« Elfriede Jelinek

»Julia Jost's novel is linguistically brilliant, unimpeachable in its truthfulness, and a literary sensation.« Annemarie Stoltenberg, NDR Kultur

»With her debut, Julia Jost has managed to find a language for the search for identity of a pubescent child and the critique of a dishonest society, all packed in a turbulent, burlesque, and sculptural story. The story of a difficult journey of self-discovery without a hint of moralism.« Pia Reinacher, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

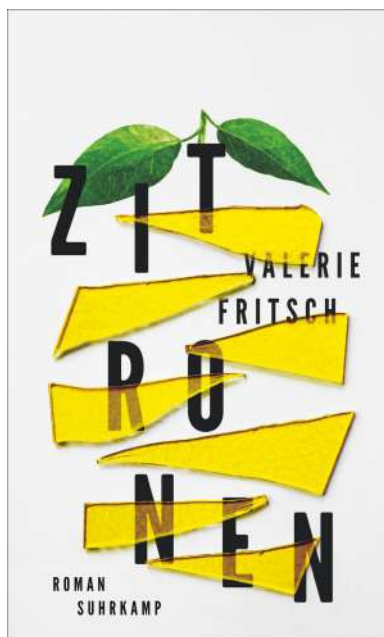
Julia Jost was born in 1982 in Carinthia, Austria, and studied philosophy, sculpture, and theatre directing. She has worked as a director and dramaturge in artist-run spaces and at the Thalia Theater in Hamburg. In 2019, she won the Kelag-Preis for an excerpt from her book *Hide and Seek*. Her play *ROM* will premiere at the Volkstheater Wien in April 2024. She divides her time between Vienna and Berlin.

© Rafaela Pröll

Novel
 Literal translation of German title:
 Where the Sharpest Tooth of the
 Karawanks Snarls Up Into the Sky
 231 pages · February 2024
 (Original title: Wo der spitzeste
 Zahn der Karawanken in den
 Himmel hinauf fletscht)

Valerie Fritsch

Lemon



© Jasmin Schuller

Novel
186 pages • February 2024
(Original title: Zitronen)

A gripping book about a case of Munchhausen syndrome by proxy

Little August Drach lives in a house on the edge of the village. His home is a mixture of heaven and hell. His father, disappointed in himself and in life more generally, takes out his frustration on his son. August finds solace with his mother, who lavishes him with love and attention. But when August's father walks out on the family, his mother's affection transforms into something different. Craving attention and admiration from the devotion she shows her son, she begins to secretly mix medications in with his food, leaving him chronically weak and sick.

It is not until years later that August manages to free himself from his mother's clutches, tentatively piecing together a life of his own, even managing to find his first love. But he's never quite able to solve the riddle of a childhood in which cruelty and love were tangled up in one another. He gets caught in a cycle of lies and betrayal. And when he finally returns to the site where all this pain emerged, it's not healing and reconciliation that await him, but a chilling realisation of what he was subjected to as a child. And that sometimes the scars of the past are too deep to ever heal cleanly.

Valerie Fritsch's new novel is written in striking, clipped language and filled with starkly delineated imagery that calls to mind the ornate illustrations of children's books. But not from the saccharine fairy tales of Disney but the menacing moods of the Brothers Grimm. With unflinching precision, *Lemon* tells the story of a twisted love that makes the beloved helpless and weak, keeping them physically and mentally dependent. A love that leaves no escape but through the dark door of revenge.

*»More than a novel on a specific theme, *Lemon* is a highly successful attempt to find an ice-cold language for the hatred that can be hidden in love – and to tell a disturbingly compelling story at the same time.«*
Carsten Otte, *Tagesspiegel*

»In her fourth novel ... Valerie Fritsch has put down on paper a dense, micro-distanced prose in the most darkly melodious cadences. The sentences are shot through with incisive turns of phrase.« Alexander Kluy, *Buchkultur*

Valerie Fritsch was born in 1989 and grew up in Austria. She studied at the Academy of Applied Photography and has worked as a photo artist since, while also being an award-winning author. She divides her time between Graz and Vienna.

Rights sold to: Sweden (Faethon)

Winters Garten / Winter's Garden (2015) • Spanish world rights (Alianza); France (Phébus); Netherlands (De Bezige Bij); Estonia (Eesti Raamat)

Deniz Ohde

Pretending to Sleep



Deniz Ohde follows up on her award-winning debut with an unsettling novel on the subject of violence against women, written in sparkling, lucid language

The building where Yasemin lived until recently is no longer standing. It had to be torn down after an explosion caused by Vito, Yasemin's ex-boyfriend. The only thing left of the apartment she had been sharing with him are memories. Their shared history stretches all the way back to their childhood. The two of them grew up in the same high-rise complex, and at 13, Yasemin fell in love with her 16-year-old neighbour. Having been fascinated by spirituality since she was a little girl, she tries to win Vito's heart with a love spell. But after a stay in a sanatorium to treat her scoliosis, she draws away from Vito. She's too alienated from her own body, too ashamed of the corset she has to wear clamped around her torso. It's not until 20 years later, when her laboriously straightened spine threatens to buckle again, that the two of them cross paths once more. Yasemin takes this belated flickering of young love for a stroke of fate. But then Vito reveals the gaping, menacing void inside of him.



***Pretending to Sleep* is a story about an attempted femicide – but also about a woman seeking to free herself from the clutches of a violent, controlling partner, and from the oppressive constraints placed on her by society.**

»In case anyone still wonders what a German social history with the firepower of a Didier Eribon or an Annie Ernaux looks like: Here it is!« Miriam Zeh on Sky Glow

»Deniz Ohde practises masterly linguistic mimicry on a world of things hostile to humans in which broken dishes fraternises with shreds of wallpaper and loud industrial bridges.« Hubert Winkels, Süddeutsche Zeitung on Sky Glow

»What really speaks to the reader is [...] mainly the narrator's trust in the fact that it comes down to precise storytelling. Those who wish to be seen, have to show themselves, with no poses.« Dirk Knipphals, taz. die tageszeitung on Sky Glow

Deniz Ohde, born in Frankfurt/Main in 1988, lives in Leipzig. Her first novel *Sky Glow* was awarded the Literary Prize of the Jürgen Ponto Foundation, the *aspekte* Prize for Literature, shortlisted for the German Book Prize 2020 and longlisted for the Angelus Award 2023. *Pretending to Sleep* is her second novel.

© Borge Meyn

Novel
248 pages • March 2024
(Original title: Ich stelle mich schlafend)

Urszula Honek

White Nights

155 pages • February 2025
(Original title: Weiße Nächte (AT))

A finely woven fabric of narratives by a major Polish poet

White Nights is the debut work of prose by acclaimed Polish poet Urszula Honek. At first glance, the volume is made up of standalone short stories about the tragedies and misfortunes that befall a group of people who all grew up in the same village in southern Poland. At closer inspection, though, the stories reveal themselves to be intricately intertwined, slotting together to form an overarching narrative.

In sumptuous and lyrical language, Honek tells stories of poverty, disappointment, tragedy, and despair, but manages to find sources of light in these typically dark themes. Packed with exquisite local detail, the stories are nevertheless clearly couched in a more universal context of meaning.

»A highly artistic study of death encapsulated in moving stories, [where] the setting seems to be a symbol of a larger (ultimately, cosmic) universe, signalled by a reality that is limited to a small number of characters...Honek reveals the bright side of something that is usually only known and seen through darkness.« Paulina Subocz-Białek

»Lyricism and brutality. The almost poetic beauty and trivial ugliness of everyday life. And everything is wrapped in a web of sadness and melancholy. The author knows how to create a mood and shows, to put it grandiosely, sensitivity to the human condition.« Anna Kozłowska, SwipeTo

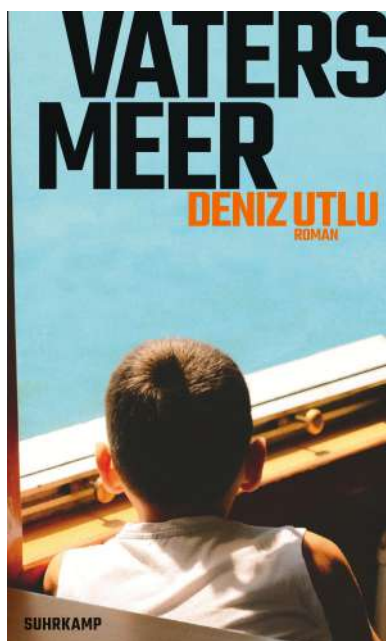
»With complete cruelty, but also mastery, Honek symbolically kills her influences. She stands firmly on her own two feet, moving readers with her own voice - immediately clear, set and full.« Paulina Małochleb, Empik Critics' Choice

Urszula Honek was born in Racławice, Poland, and writes poetry and prose. She has won numerous awards for her work. *White Nights* is her first volume of prose, and was awarded the Witold Gombrowicz Literary Prize and the Kościelski Award , in 2023.

Rights sold to: English world rights (MTO Press); Spanish offer pending

Deniz Utlu

Father's Sea



Shortlisted for the European Union Prize for Literature

Yunus is thirteen when his father suffers two strokes and is almost completely paralysed. He can only communicate through eye movements. Yunus's mother cares for him for ten years, first in a facility, then at home, until his death. And Yunus, who has moved out of his parents' house to study, keeps recalling images from his childhood: experiences and conversations with his father, some of which he didn't even know he was still holding onto. These images coalesce to form an affectionate portrait of a man who laughed in a loud voice or cursed in Arabic, who was often absent and easily irritable, and who once went from Mardin near the Turkish-Syrian border to Istanbul, where he witnessed the military coup, and eventually arrived in Germany on a cargo ship.

Father's Sea tells the story of a stroke of fate that affects an entire family, of a father-son relationship that ends abruptly, of moving and staying, of migration and belonging. Deniz Utlu traces the unexpected vicissitudes of life and memory. His novel is a testament to the power of storytelling—which becomes most evident when language is the last thing you have left.

»This book broke my heart and put it back together again. The characters and the language will stay with me forever.« Fatma Aydemir, author of Dschinns

»His quiet language kept me under its spell.« Mithu Sanyal, author of Identitti

»It is a book full of grief and respect for the things one can't know but must try to learn: as a child about one's parents, as a narrator about one's characters, as a society about the individuals that live in it.« Marie Schmidt, Süddeutsche Zeitung

»What makes memory possible, how it enriches our lives, how our imagination closes gaps and how all of this eventually transforms into a magnificent novel – this is what Deniz Utlu demonstrates with Father's Sea.« Joachim Dicks, NDR

Deniz Utlu was born in Hannover in 1983 and studied economics at the Free University of Berlin and at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. His debut novel *Die Ungehaltenen* was published in 2014 and was adapted for the stage at the Maxim Gorki Theatre in Berlin in 2015. His second novel, *Gegen Morgen*, was published by Suhrkamp Verlag in 2019. For his most recent novel, *Vaters Meer*, he won the Bavarian Book Prize 2023, the Literatur Nord Prize 2024 and is shortlisted for the European Union Prize for Literature 2024. Utlu lives in Berlin.



© Heike Steinweg

Novel
384 pages · August 2023
(Original title: Vaters Meer)

Rights sold to: Turkey (Ayrinti); Georgia (Ibis); Domestic Rights Sales: German Radio Reading (RBB)

Dana Vowinckel

The World in a Ziplock Bag



Shortlisted for the Prize of the Leipzig Book Fair 2024

A summer travelling between Berlin, Chicago and Jerusalem. Like every year, fifteen-year-old Margarita spends her school holidays with her grandparents in the USA. But she would much rather go back to Germany, to her friends and her father, who leads prayers in the synagogue. Her mother left them when Margarita was still in kindergarten. High time, the family council decides, that they get to know each other better. And so Margarita is put on a plane to Israel, where her father grew up and her mother has recently moved to. Immediately upon her arrival, everything starts to go wrong, the journey of mother and daughter through the Holy Land tears open old and inflicts new wounds, conflicts escalate, while Margarita's father in Berlin rethinks the role he plays and the decisions he has made in a life that seems to have fast tracked him. And then it's already time to pack their bags yet again and return to Chicago, where everyone gathers around the grandmother's sickbed and Margarita has to make a momentous decision.



© Heike Steinweg

Novel
362 pages · August 2023
(Original title: Gewässer im Ziplock)

***The World in a Ziplock Bag* is a story about the confusing fate of having a family whose members are drawn in opposite directions, about adolescent responsibility and adult irresponsibility, about how hysterically funny it is to be alive, how devastatingly complicated. It's a novel about being homesick and confused, about having to live inside a teenage body. A novel about faith in God and good food, about Jewish life across continents, about parental roles defying societal expectations, about being multilingual and still not being able to find the right words.**

»Reading Dana Vowinckel means: to suffer, to laugh, to learn, all at the same time. May she please keep on telling stories. I would like to read a hundred more of her books.« Daniela Dröscher

»A debut that is going to occupy our minds for many years to come.« Michèle Loetzner, VOGUE

»The World in a Ziplock Bag is a departure, also into a new phase of Shoah memory culture between ›Flying home‹ and ›Leaving home‹.« Jan Drees, Deutschlandfunk

Dana Vowinckel was born in Berlin in 1996 into an American-Jewish-German family. She grew up bilingually and bi-culturally between Chicago and Berlin, and studied linguistics and literature in Berlin, Toulouse and Cambridge. At the 2021 Ingeborg Bachmann Competition, she was awarded a prize for an excerpt from *The World in a Ziplock Bag*, her debut novel. Today, Dana Vowinckel lives in Berlin.

Rights sold to: English world rights (HarperVia); Denmark (Lindhardt & Ringhof); Norway (Pax);
Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (DAV)

Sasha Marianna Salzmann • Ofer Waldman

Real Time



© Heike Steinweg

Letters between Israel and Europe
140 pages • April 2024
(Original title: Gleichzeit)

The moving document of a friendship in the wake of October 7th

In the immediate aftermath of Hamas' attack on Israel, Sasha Marianna Salzmann and Ofer Waldman began a correspondence to make sense of a world left shaken by the unfolding events. Sending each other letters and text messages, poems and music, the two authors attempt to find a language for the things they are seeing and experiencing – beyond the political events of the day. Ofer Waldmann tells of his day-to-day in Israel: sitting shiva, speaking to his children, going to vigils, listening to the sounds of the war. While Sasha Marianna Salzmann conveys their experiences and observations in various cities around Europe in concise and delicate language. Salzmann sits by the memorial to murdered Jews on the banks of the Danube in Budapest, gets into arguments in Viennese coffeehouses, and watches as the flashing lights of police convoys head toward demonstrations in Berlin.

What is left of our old certainties after October 7th, what is still standing amid the whirlwind of opinions, assertions, and statements? And what appears to have been irrevocably lost as a result of the horrific war in the Middle East? In the attempt to approach these questions through literature, a dialogue emerges that crystallises into the document of a friendship: *I see you, these letters say, I can't do anything, but I'm here...*

»A cosmopolitan literature with a flickering sensitivity for the uncertainty of life, making it the most interesting literature of the present. Marie Schmidt, Süddeutsche Zeitung on Sasha Marianna Salzmann's Glorious People

»In his first volume of stories, [Ofer Waldmann] takes the reader with him into the orchestra pit, sits them right beside him on the stage and shows them what life looks like from here. And: how it sounds, how it feels, how it smells.« Johanna Adorján, Süddeutsche Zeitung on Ofer Waldmann's Singularkollektiv

Sasha Salzmann was born in Volgograd in 1985 and grew up in Moscow. In 1995, the family emigrated to Germany. In 2017, Salzmann published the novel *Außer sich*, which has been translated into 15 languages and received numerous prizes and accolades. Their latest novel, *Im Menschen muss alles herrlich sein*, was longlisted for the German Book Prize 2021. In 2022, Salzmann received the prestigious Hermann-Hesse-Literaturpreis.

Ofer Waldman was born in Jerusalem and moved to Berlin in 1999 as a member of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra. He has played in numerous German and Israeli orchestras, including the Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester Berlin and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Since 2015, he has worked as a freelance author and journalist, and in 2021, he won the ARD German Radio Play Prize together with Noam Brusilovsky. His literary debut, *Singularkollektiv*, was published in 2023 by Wallstein Verlag. Waldman is active in many NGOs. He divides his time between Israel and Germany.

Tanja Šljivar

National Theatre

Novel
250 pages · January 2025
(Original title: Nationaltheater)

A clever and caustic novel from an exciting new voice from Serbia

The dramaturg who has just taken up one of the most esteemed positions at the Serbian National Theatre in Belgrade, namely head of the acting department, is young. Just 30 years of age. The National Theatre, on the other hand, is anything but young. With 150 years of tradition behind it, it is a rather conservative emblem of a country that itself remains rather conservative.

This debut novel by up-and-coming Serbian playwright and author Tanja Šljivar weaves together the biography of a young woman with that of the institution she works for – as the two of them negotiate a year that for the protagonist begins as a triumph and ends as a failure. Both have also been heavily shaped by the events of history, the collapse of Yugoslavia, and war. And they are both witness to all the stories produced every day by the eccentric employees of the theatre.

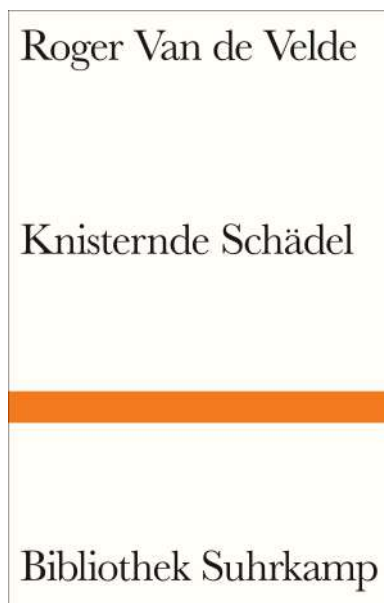
With a keen eye and a sharp tongue, Tanja Šljivar depicts a fast-paced and chaotic setting and plays with numerous genres, from dark comedy to autofiction and dramatic scenes that could be taken straight from the stage. Clear-eyed and with a good dose of caustic humour, she shines a spotlight on the cosmos of the Serbian National Theatre, and all the people trying their luck there.

A refreshing, original debut novel full of tempo and playfulness that examines, with analytical precision, the relevance of cultural institutions, the conditions under which art is produced, and the theatre as a microcosm. A novel about what it is to be devoted to art, and what art can take out of you if you let it.

Tanja Šljivar was born in Banjaluka, Yugoslavia, in 1988 and studied dramaturgy at the Faculty of drama arts in Belgrade and applied theater studies at JLU in Giessen. Her plays have been publicly read and produced in professional theaters in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Albania, Spain, Poland, Austria, Finland, Slovakia, USA, and Germany. In 2019 she worked as an artistic director of the drama department at the National Theater in Belgrade. *National Theatre* is her first novel.

Roger Van de Velde

Crackling Skulls



Original Dutch title: *De knetterende schedels*, first published in 1969, latest edition in 2020 by Uitgeverij Vrijdag
(Original title: *Knisternde Schädel*)

The rediscovery of the maverick of Flemish literature – haunting observations through the eyes of an internee

Roger van de Velde, born in Boom, Belgium, in 1925, was a journalist and author. At the age of twenty-one, he suffered a gastric perforation after which he was prescribed the highly addictive opioid Palfium. Due to his subsequent drug dependence, he was charged with the possession of forged medical prescriptions and spent six years of his short life in psychiatric institutions, where he wrote this volume of stories about his fellow inmates. In twenty laconic, funny and moving stories he describes his »compagnons de misère« with empathy and astuteness. The stories were smuggled from the institution by van de Velde's wife and published in secret. Van de Velde died from an accidental overdose in 1970.

Each story is dedicated to a patient: there is Jules Leroy, who kills his beloved cat because it stole his weekly steak – which he loved even more, or »Scraps-and-tatters«, who scampers through the institution naked, or the newcomer, who bears a tattoo of the ominous phrase »*Margaritas ante porcos*« on his lower arm and wants to cure van de Velde of his addiction to painkillers – one of the rare moments in which the author reveals insights into his own disorder. Van de Velde's language seems pleasantly anachronistic (which was also true at the time the book was written), and he comes off as an urbane and eloquent narrator who has as much interest in elegant turns of phrase as in the fate of his comrades in suffering.

Roger Van de Velde, born in 1925, was a journalist at *De Nieuwe Gazet*. Due to his addiction to Palfium, he was committed numerous times from 1961 onwards and wrote *De knetterende schedels*, among other works, while in psychiatric institutions. In 1970, he was discharged, received the *Arkprijs voor het Vrije Woord* and died from an overdose on the terrace of an Antwerp café.

Rights sold to: English world rights (Snuggly Books); Chinese simplex rights (Thinkingdom); Turkey (Siren); Ukraine (Tempora)

Wilhelm Schmid

Surviving Death



© Suhrkamp Verlag

Coming to Grips with the
Unfathomable
141 pages • March 2024
(Original title: Den Tod überleben)

Why we should talk about death

Surviving death, how do you do that? This is the immediate challenge for anybody who has to keep on living after having lost someone dear to them. It's helpful to acquaint yourself with some of the phases you are about to move through. A popular method of surviving death is not to talk about it. In his new book, Wilhelm Schmid tries to do the polar opposite.

Because there is no cure for it: for the time being, death continues to be the end point of life for every human being. The only variations are when and how we die. Usually, death comes too soon and leaves a great deal of suffering in its wake. Can this drama be mitigated by the belief that death is not the end of all life? In his new book, Wilhelm Schmid takes a fresh, in-depth look at questions that have plagued humankind for millennia. Such as: Where does a person go when they leave us? Do they begin a new life? Might there really be life after death? How might we imagine it? And can the mere possibility an afterlife offer us solace?

»... Wilhelm Schmid is eloquently and powerfully convincing, an artist at the art of living, so to speak.« Irmtraud Gutschke, literatursalon.online, about On the Swing Set

»Schmid's counsel is wise and he does not avoid the difficult topics, particularly admirable when conversations around aging and death often remain taboo.« Publishers Weekly about What We Gain as We Grow Older

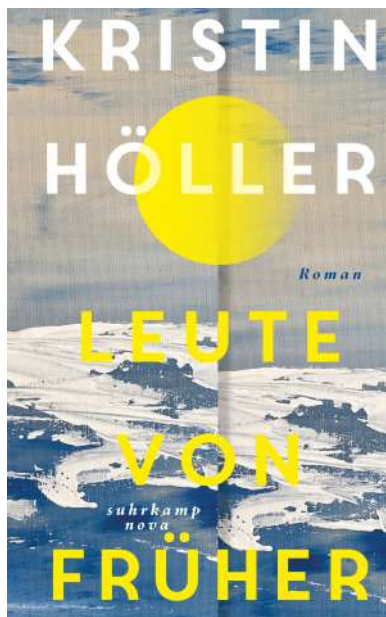
Wilhelm Schmid was born in 1953 and lives in Berlin. For many years, he taught philosophy at the University of Erfurt, was a visiting professor in Riga, Latvia, and Tbilisi, Georgia, and worked as a »philosophical counsellor« at a hospital near Zurich, Switzerland. He is a popular guest speaker and has been giving lectures in China and South Korea since 2010. He was awarded the Meckatzer Prize for Philosophy in 2012 and the Egnér Prize in 2013. His works have been translated into 25 languages, and his bestselling book *Gelassenheit* has sold over 600,000 copies.

Schaukeln / On the Swing Set (2023) • Korea (Fika Book); Turkey (Iletisim)

Gelassenheit / What We Gain as We Grow Older (2014) • English world rights (Upper Westside Philosophers); Russia (Directmedia); Portuguese rights (Penguin Random House/Objectiva); France (Piranha); Netherlands (De Bezige Bij); Denmark (Informations Forlag); Danish audio book rights (Lindhardt & Ringhof); Sweden (Lind & Co.); Norway (Gyldendal Norsk); Finland (Aula & Co.); Korea (Chaek Se Sang); Japan (Mikasa Shobo); Poland (W.A.B.); Czech Republic (Euromedia); Serbia (Laguna); Latvia (Zvaigzne); Turkey (Iletisim); Ukraine (Knihy XXI); India (Malayalam; Sahitya Pravarthaka); Israel (Modan); Previously published in the respective language / territory; rights available again: Spanish world rights (Kairos); Catalan rights (Angle); Chinese complex rights (Emily Publishing Co.); Italy (Fazi); Slovenia (Narava); Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (DAV); German Book Club (Club Bertelsmann)

Kristin Höller

The People Before Us



A story of young love on an old island

The island of Strand in the Wadden Sea off northernmost tip of Germany: Marlene has just finished university and started working in a shop in a historical village where everything is just the way it was at the turn of the twentieth century – the customs, the tradespeople, the clothing. One great big theatre set maintained by a cast of seasonal workers who live in simple barracks situated beyond the “costume border”. Soon enough, Marlene meets Janne, a local, and she feels unusually drawn to her. But it is not just her feelings for Janne that seem to change Marlene’s perception of the world, the island itself has shifted something within her. Out on the mudflats, the vestiges of the submerged town of Rungholt are a constant reminder of the calamity that rising sea levels threaten to usher in. But the closer she and Janne grow, the more strongly Marlene senses that Janne has a secret that stretches way back into the island’s past. And Janne’s not the only one. Time and again, Marlene notices strange occurrences, and eventually she begins to uncover a connection.



***The People Before Us* tells of preserving old customs and disappearing worlds, of saying goodbye and making new beginnings, of falling in love and trying to find your place in the world. Funny, clever, and with a lot of heart.**

»A tender and sinister novel about being young, about our fascination with things past, and about our helplessness when history finally catches up with us.« Antje Rávik Strubel

Kristin Höller was born in 1996 and grew up in Bonn. Until 2019, she studied literary and cultural studies in Dresden. She has written for numerous newspapers and magazines and was the artist in residence at the Prosanova Festival in 2017. She is the winner of the Audience Award and the Preis des Buchhandels at the 10. Poet|bewegt as well as the prize of the Swiss literature festival Literaare 2018. Her debut novel, *Schöner als überall*, was released by Suhrkamp in 2019. She is a co-organiser of the queer reading series and karaoke show SMASH, and lives in Leipzig.

© Anna Luisa Richter

Novel
316 pages • April 2024
(Original title: Leute von früher)

Schöner als überall / Better Than Anywhere Else (2019) •

Leif Lindholm

Between Two Seas



A heartwarming story about an unlikely friendship, about a puzzling mystery, and about overcoming the fears left behind by trauma

Theo travels to the place where the North Sea meets the Baltic: to Skagen, the northernmost tip of Denmark. The beauty and the force of the sea have always fascinated him. As a marine biologist, the sea and its inhabitants – which he researched on thrilling diving expeditions – were his life. Until a tragic accident during one of his research trips. Ever since, he has been unable to go in the water. On the beach in Skagen, he meets 10-year-old Ben, who is supposed to learn to swim there, but is crippled by a fear of water.

Ben shows Theo a nautilus shell that he found on the beach. The shell poses some puzzling questions: How did the nautilus, which lives in the seas of the south, get to the Danish coast? Theo and Ben want to get to the bottom of this mystery, but to do so, they'll have to overcome their fear of the water...

»Ben began to shiver, the way he always did when he looked out at the water for a long time. Then he remembered what Theo had said. He took the spiral-shaped shell in his hand and placed it against his right ear. The gentle sound of the sea washed through his head. The shivering let up, and Ben sucked a deep breath of the crisp sea breeze into his lungs.«

An inspiring story about an unusual friendship between two people whose paths cross on the Danish coast, and who then work together to overcome their fear of the sea.



© Benjamin Zibner

Novel
With watercolour illustrations by
Marieke Nelissen
176 pages · April 2024
(Original title: Zwischen zwei
Meeren)

Leif Lindholm studied art history in Bochum. Having worked as a tour guide, he has travelled widely around the world, especially to places where he can pursue his passion of scuba diving. Today, he lives in Berlin, where he works as a journalist. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, he wanted to teach his son to swim, but realised that his son was terrified of the water. They tried to get to the bottom of this fear together, and it was this experience that led to the idea for the book *Between Two Seas*. Leif Lindholm is a nom de plume.

Gabriela Jaskulla

Artemisia Gentileschi and a Woman's Fury



© Rabea Schmitz

Biographical novel
300 pages • June 2024
(Original title: Artemisia
Gentileschi und Der Zorn der
Frauen)

The story of one of the most remarkable women in the history of art

»I will show Your Illustrious Lordship what a woman can do.« Artemisia Gentileschi

She was a star – and she was notorious. Artemisia Gentileschi, born in 1593 in Rome, garnered attention in her early years for her talent as a painter. At 17, she suffered her first dramatic stroke of fate when she was raped by her teacher, forced to marry after a high-profile court case, and then had to leave Rome. But her trials and tribulations did not end there. She also survived volcanic eruptions, bankruptcy, and the plague. She made a name for herself as a painter and became the first woman ever to be admitted to the Academy of the Arts in Florence – before making a triumphant return to Rome. She received commissions from the Pope and the nobility, and maintained her own workshop until her death. Her works were no stiff still lifes or dutiful portraits – they brim with an inner force and a desire for revenge, a sense of pride and rebellion. And with an impressive belief in her abilities, she confidently demanded the same standing and prices for her art as her contemporary Velázquez.

In this biographical novel, Gabriela Jaskulla traces the path of this unique artist from Rome to London and Naples (via stops in Florence and Venice), sketching out the life of a courageous and powerful woman for whom giving up was never an option.

*»Gabriela Jaskulla's book makes you want to (re)discover the universe of a very special artist and woman. This book is ... also an entertainingly and informatively written declaration of love to the power of art.«
Manfred Hitzeroth, Oberhessische Presse on Niki de Saint Phalle and the Splendour of Women*

Gabriela Jaskulla was born in 1962. She grew up in Germany, has lived in Spain, loves Hamburg, small islands and currently lives in Berlin. She is an art historian and journalist, has worked for radio and TV for seventeen years and teaches cultural journalism and creative writing at the University of Hannover.

Niki de Saint Phalle und die Pracht der Frauen / Niki de Saint Phalle and the Splendour of Women (2022) •

Die Herbstköchin / The Autumn Cook (2018) •

Javier Cáceres

Picture-Perfect Goals



A must-have for every football fan

For years now, journalist Javier Cáceres has been interviewing the most famous football players in the world. One evening, he had the idea of giving the player he was interviewing a notebook and a pencil, and asking them to draw their best, most important, or most spectacular goal. The outcome is a unique collection of more than 100 drawings that not only give new meaning to the idea of a “picture-perfect” goal, but also write a kind of history of football.

From Pelé to Franz Beckenbauer, from Kai Havertz to Emerson – behind all of their goals is a moment of pride and endless glory, a memory that can never be erased. In brief, accompanying texts, they explain why they chose their goal. Each drawing offers readers a chance to recollect, to debate with friends, and maybe even to recreate some of the goals on the football pitch.

With classic goals by Pele, Pep Guardiola, Rudi Völler, Marco van Basten, Carlos Valderrama, Lilian Thuram, Davor Šuker, Zico, Xavi, Hristo Stoichkov, Roberto Carlos, Michel Platini, Gary Lineker, Michael Laudrup, Patrick Kluivert, Luis Figo, Alfredo Di Stéfano, Alessandro del Piero, Bobby Charlton, Franz Beckenbauer, Xabi Alonso, Kai Havertz, and many more.

Javier Cáceres was born in 1970 in Chile and has worked as a journalist for the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* since 2002, serving as a correspondent in Madrid and Brussels. In 2006, he published the book *Fútbol: Spaniens Leidenschaft*. He now lives in Berlin.



© Benedetta Mascalchi

317 pages • April 2024
(Original title: Tore wie gemalt)

Robert Menasse

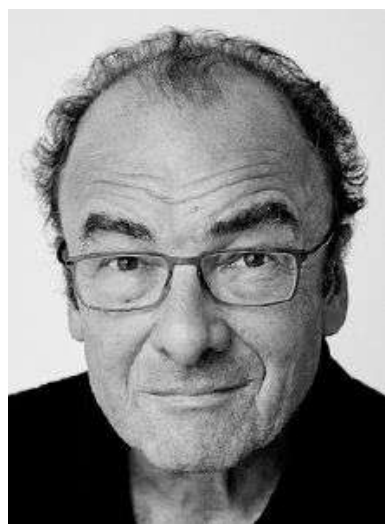
The World of Tomorrow



The manifesto of a passionate European

In *The World of Yesterday*, Stefan Zweig depicted the cosmopolitan Europe he had lived in prior to 1914. By the time he put his memories on paper, though, this world no longer existed, having been “washed away without a trace” by the barbarism of fascism. Zweig died in 1942. But after 1945, the notion of a supranational Europe was given a second chance. Visionaries initiated a historical peace project, borders were erased, and nationalism gave way to cooperation.

But this project might likewise soon be a thing of the past. Democratic deficits are provoking protest movements. Manifold crises have left the people worried about the future. And in many of the states of the EU, politicians – who have no interest in the experiences that influenced the founders of the Union – are looking to whip up new waves of nationalist fervour. Today, Europe stands at a crossroads. What will the world of tomorrow look like?



© Rafaela Proell

A Sovereign, Democratic Europe –
And Its Enemies
192 pages · April 2024
(Original title: *Die Welt von morgen*)

Robert Menasse explains and defends the idea of Europe, while also inviting readers to criticise and ultimately work to resolve the systematic contradictions of the EU. The alternative is not complicated: either we achieve something that has never before been achieved in history, namely the establishment of a post-national democracy, or we face the threat of regressing into a Europe of nation-states. That would represent yet another defeat for reason – with all the dangers and consequences that go along with that. Anybody familiar with history should be aware how devastating the effects could be.

Robert Menasse was born in Vienna in 1954. He studied German philology, philosophy and political science in Vienna, Salzburg and Messina and received his PhD in 1980 with a thesis on the character of the outsider in literature. Menasse then spent six years at the University of São Paulo, first as a lecturer for Austrian literature, then as a guest lecturer at the Institute for Literary Theory, where he gave lectures on philosophical and aesthetic theories, including on Hegel, Lukács, Benjamin and Adorno. Since his return from Brazil in 1988, Robert Menasse has been a writer and essayist based mainly in Vienna.

Rights sold to: France (Verdier)

Die Hauptstadt / The Capital (2017) • UK & Commonwealth (MacLehose Press); USA & Canada (W.W. Norton/Liveright); Spanish world rights (Seix Barral); Chinese simplex rights (People's Literature Publishing House); Chinese complex rights (Linking); Russia (Text); Portuguese rights (Dom Quixote); Arabic world rights (AFAQ); France (Verdier); Italy (Sellerio); Netherlands (Arbeiderspers); Denmark (Vandkunsten); Sweden (Weyler); Japan (Hosei UP); Poland (Noir sur Blanc); Czech Republic (Plus); Hungary (Geopen); Bulgaria (Lege Artis); Lithuania (Tyto Alba); Croatia (Fraktura); Serbia (Arhipelag); Slovenia (Cankarjeva založba); Turkey (Everest); Greece (Patakis); Albania (Dudaj); Georgia (Intelekti); Armenia (Antares); India/Hindi (Saar Sansaar); Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (Der Hörverlag); German Book Club (Büchergilde Gutenberg)

Stephan Thome

Narrow Waters, Dangerous Currents



A nonfiction primer on the “Taiwan question” from one of Germany’s most versatile writers.

In recent years, tensions between Taiwan and China have heightened. A visit to the island by then US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in August 2022 was condemned by Beijing as »extremely dangerous«. Earlier this year, China deployed warships and aircraft near Taiwan in response to President Tsai Ing-wen’s meeting with US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy. There are few analysts anywhere in the world who think this story has already seen its final chapter. But how did we get here? What is the historical and cultural background to this conflict?

Narrow Waters focuses on the stories behind the conflict, on aspects that are often neglected in media discussions, which tend to dwell on military scenarios and realpolitik. The aim of this book is not so much to produce new knowledge or analyses on the topic, but to present the existing discourse and debates to an educated audience in an understandable and engaging fashion – but without compromising on accuracy and nuanced description. The book will also address key events that will unfold over the coming year, including the results of the Taiwanese presidential elections in January 2024 and the ensuing reaction from Beijing.

While informed by numerous interviews with key figures in Taiwan, China, and Washington – from military generals to members of indigenous communities in Taiwan – and drawing on influential work from US pundits, *Narrow Waters* will also provide an additional, uniquely European perspective on this topic of such pressing global relevance.

*»[I] think this is one of the most important political books in recent times.
« Jürgen Osterhammel, author of Globalization: A Short History*



© Heike Steinweg

On the Conflict in the Taiwan Strait
360 pages • September 2024
(Original title: Schmales Gewässer,
gefährliche Strömung)

Stephan Thome, born in Biedenkopf in 1972, studied philosophy and sinology at the Free University of Berlin and at other universities in China, Taiwan and Japan. He worked in East Asia for ten years and has also lived in Lisbon. His novels *Grenzgang* (2009) and *Fliehkräfte* (2012) were both shortlisted for the German Book Prize. His work has won several prizes. Stephan Thome lives in Taipei.

Pflaumenregen / Plum Rain (2021) • Chinese complex rights (Linking); Finland (Lurra)

Gott der Barbaren / God of the Barbarians (2018) • Chinese simplex rights (Social Sciences Academic Press); Chinese complex rights (Linking); Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (Griot)

Jens Beckert

Selling the Future



© Jürgen Bauer

Why the Fight against Climate
Change Is in Danger of Failing
238 pages • March 2024
(Original title: Verkaufte Zukunft)

Shortlisted for the Prize of the Leipzig Book Fair 2024

A guide for creating realistic climate policies »Climate change is a question of power and culture. Making it a topic of study for the social sciences.«

We have known about global warming and its dangers for decades. Yet global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise. Clearly, we are failing in our quest to stop climate change. But how can we explain this failure? Why are societies so reluctant to respond to this threat? In his new book, Jens Beckert provides an answer. The fact that the necessary measures are not being taken is a result of the structures of political power and of the forces that motivate companies, politicians, voters, and consumers. The bitter truth is that we are selling our future to boost the next quarterly figures, to snare the upcoming elections, or for our own, shortsighted enjoyment.

Using numerous case studies and social-scientific tools, Beckert shows why climate change is an “insidious” problem that capitalist modernity – the product of 500 years of development – is almost doomed to fail at resolving due to its institutional and cultural structures. Meaning temperatures will continue to rise, and social and political conflicts will intensify. What we need is adaptability, resilience, and above all, solidarity. With these ideals in mind, we can begin to sketch out a horizon for realistic climate policies.

Jens Beckert was born in 1967 and has been Director at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies and Professor of Sociology in Cologne since 2005. He has previously taught in Göttingen, New York, Princeton, Paris, and at Harvard University. In 2005 he was awarded the Prize of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and in 2018 the German Research Foundation’s Leibniz Prize. He also received the Karl Polanyi Prize from the German Sociological Association for his book *Imagined Future*.

Rights sold to: English world rights (Polity); Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (Verlag Michael John)

Andreas Reckwitz

Loss



© Jürgen Bauer

A Modern Predicament
500 pages · October 2024
(Original title: Verlust)

Following up on the success of *The Society of Singularities*, Andreas Reckwitz continues his project of analysing the latent structures and contradictions within Western modernity.

Contemporary society is marked by forms of loss in manifold ways: from the effects of climate change to the protest movements of those who have lost out in the process of modernisation, from the regression of liberal democracy to ways of dealing with grief and death in self-help discourses, from compensation for victims of violence to the vulnerabilities of an aging society. But what is behind these diverse phenomena?

In his new book, Andreas Reckwitz demonstrates that the roots of this current explosion in the economy of loss can be traced all the way back to the dawn of modernity, and to a key predicament of Western modernity: namely the antagonism between the future-oriented promises of a society organised around progress and the painful, negative experiences of loss that accompanied these developments. In this landmark sociological study, Reckwitz demonstrates how modern society is at heart driven by a paradoxical relationship to loss: modernity seeks to contain losses while at the same time intensifying them. It makes losses systematically invisible while also actively cultivating and managing them: from nostalgia to risk calculations, from religion to psychotherapy and the politics of victimhood.

In the vulnerable era of late modernity, however, the fragile relationship between loss and progress has been thrown out of balance. The burning question for contemporary society is thus: How can Western modernity come to grips with loss if its promise of progress has been stripped of its credibility?

*»Anyone who wants to understand our time should definitely read Andreas Reckwitz.« Deutschlandfunk Kultur on *The Society of Singularities**

Andreas Reckwitz, born in 1970, is professor of Social Theory and Cultural Sociology at the Humboldt University of Berlin. His 2017 book *Die Gesellschaft der Singularitäten* was nominated for the Prize of the Leipzig Book Fair and awarded the Bayrischer Buchpreis. He was awarded the Leibniz Prize in 2019 and was a Fellow at the Thomas Mann House in Los Angeles in 2022.

Die Gesellschaft der Singularitäten / The Society of Singularities (2017) • English world rights (Polity); Spanish world rights (Katz); Chinese simplex rights (Social Sciences Academic Press); Chinese complex rights (Business Weekly Publications); Russia (Directmedia); Brazilian Portuguese rights (ContraCorrente); Arabic world rights (Sefsafa); France (MSH); Italy (Meltemi); Denmark (Reitzels); Korea (Saemulgyul); Japan (Iwanami Shoten); Czech Republic (Nakladatelství Filosofia Filosofického); Hungary (Gondolat); Bulgaria (KX – Critique and Humanism); Slovenia (Krtina)

Eva Illouz

Explosive Modernity



© Corinna Kern/laif

450 pages · October 2024
(Original title: Explosive Moderne)

Named as one of the 10 Most Influential Women in Sociology From the Last 10 Years by *Academic Influence*

In her new book, sociologist Eva Illouz takes a look at our highly charged present from the perspective of the emotions that forge it. Envy and rage, jealousy and shame, disappointment and love are not just deeply embedded in the social configurations of Western modernity, they are also actively cultivated by its economics, politics, and cultural formations. They are psychologically significant, morally meaningful, and politically powerful. And they are highly ambivalent. Which is what makes the present we live in so explosive. The smouldering crises of late-modern society cannot be untangled from the texture of its emotions.

In ten masterfully composed chapters, each of which are dedicated to a particular emotion, Illouz teases out these connections, shedding light on developments such as the demise of American democracy, the Sisyphean struggle of life under capitalism, and conflicts around notions of identity. But Illouz's sociological analyses, historical miniatures, and philosophical reflections always stick close to the forces at the heart of this book: captivating accounts of narratives from world literature, spanning from antiquity to the present day, from Sappho to Ernaux. Figures like Emma Bovary, Michael Kohlhaus, and William Stoner bring the central emotions of our explosive modernity to life, embodying its tragic contradictions. A sparkling intellectual mosaic.

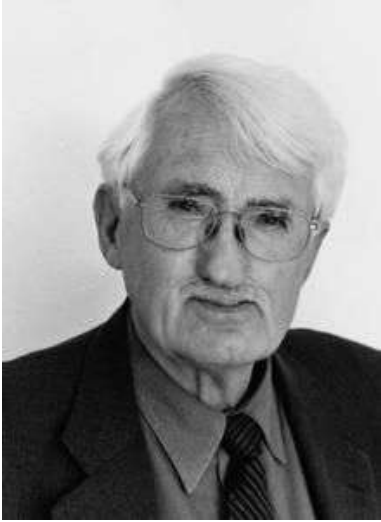
»Recently named one of the most important thinkers of the future by German newspaper DIE ZEIT, Illouz could very well be the twenty-first century's next great public intellectual.« *Guernica: A Magazine of Art & Politics*

»Eva Illouz's work combines theoretical sophistication with a sharp eye for what's essential in contemporary culture. This singular blend has made her an intellectual star of the European world.« *Professor Susan Neiman*

Eva Illouz, born in Morocco in 1961, is Directrice d'Etudes at the Centre européen de sociologie et de science politique, CESSP-EHESS in Paris. She has received numerous awards for her work, including the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Annaliese Meier International Award for Excellence in Research and the E.M.E.T Award for Social Sciences, the highest scientific distinction in Israel. In 2022, *Academic Influence* listed her among the Influential Women in Sociology From the Last 10 Years (#8).

Jürgen Habermas

Things Needed to Improve...



© Isolde Ohlbaum

Conversations with Stefan Müller-Doohm and Roman Yos
200 pages · September 2024
(Original title: »Es musste etwas besser werden ...«)

One of the great thinkers of our time looks back on the development of his thought

»I view the attempt to make the world even the tiniest bit better, or even just to be part of the effort to stave off the constant threats of regression that we face, as an utterly admirable motive.«

In this book, Jürgen Habermas provides information on some of the motives behind his thought, the circumstances under which it evolved, and the changes it has undergone over the course of his long career. He tells of the process that informed the emergence of his oeuvre, speaks about texts that were key to his development and about decisive encounters with colleagues. Gradually, the image of a richly intertwined network of relationships emerges, which covers large swathes of the intellectual map of the 20th century, reaching all the way to the present day.

Looking back at the various stages in the development of his thought, Habermas discusses topics such as the specific situation from which his generation set out, identifies key experiences with his academic mentors, explores recent historical tendencies and political beliefs, and talks about his own scholarly works and their reception. With reference to his most recent major work, *This Too a History of Philosophy*, central concepts and argumentative strategies from the Habermasian cosmos are invoked and critically interrogated.

And time and again we see what lies at the heart of the work of this philosopher: »justifying an iota of trust in reason, and in our duty to make use of our capacity for reason.«

Jürgen Habermas was born in Düsseldorf in 1929. He has taught at the universities of Heidelberg and Frankfurt as well as at the University of California, Berkeley, among others. He is the recipient of numerous honorary doctorates and awards. In 2001 he was awarded the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade.

Auch eine Geschichte der Philosophie / This Too a History of Philosophy (2019) • English world rights (Polity); Spanish world rights (Trotta); Chinese simplex rights (Social Sciences Academic Press); Brazilian Portuguese rights (UNESP); Portuguese rights (Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian); Arabic world rights (Al-Kamel); France (Gallimard); Italy (Feltrinelli); Korea (Nanam); Poland (Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego); Domestic Rights Sales: German Book Club (wbg)

Dagmar Herzog

The Question of Unworthy Life



Tracing the dark history of eugenics and euthanasia

»The disabled were not ›forgotten‹ victims, but rather aggressively repudiated ones.«

This book is an experiment. It attempts to write an intellectual history of intellectual disability by tracing debates about the value of disabled life as they have raged over the last 150 years. The great abyss of this era was an almost unimaginable mass murder project that has a complex prehistory and an astonishingly long aftermath. Unlearning eugenics has proven to be an extraordinarily difficult process that has not yet been completed to this day.

Dagmar Herzog describes the recurring conflicts over the interpretation of facts and the practical consequences to be drawn from them. In these politically and emotionally charged disputes, concepts from medicine and education were mixed with religious and theological ideas, but also with those about work and sexuality, human vulnerability and interdependence.

How should we think and feel about fellow citizens with a wide variety of cognitive impairments and psychiatric diagnoses? How should we deal with them as a society? In the arguments that were carried out about these questions, Germans also struggled to define their self-image as a nation.

*»Like an anthropologist engaged in fieldwork, Herzog moves from site to site to give us a textured understanding of complex historical matter.«
The Guardian on Cold War Freud*

Dagmar Herzog was born in 1961 and is Distinguished Professor of History at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and the author of numerous publications on the sexual history of modernity, on the Holocaust, and on the history of religion. In 2023, she was awarded the Sigmund-Freud-Kulturpreis.



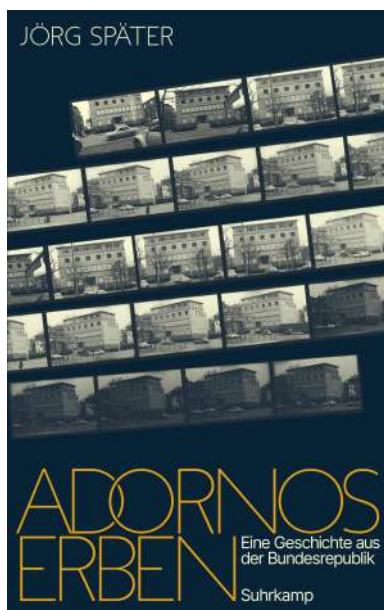
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Eugenics and Germany's Twentieth Century
 Literal translation of the German title: Eugenic Phantasms: A German Story
 300 pages · May 2024
 (Original title: Eugenische Phantasmen)

Rights sold to: English world rights (Princeton UP)

Jörg Später

Adorno's Heirs



© Jürgen Josef Meßmer

A West German History
672 pages • June 2024
(Original title: Adornos Erben)

A West German History, coinciding with the centenary of the Frankfurt School in 1924

In October of 1949, Theodor W. Adorno returned from his exile in America to the city of his birth to resume his work teaching at a Germany university. The city of Frankfurt had been reduced to rubble, the Nazis had done little more than change their clothes, but the students came in droves. Soon enough, the philosopher was making weekly appearances on the radio, shaping opinions in West German society as a key “educator”. By the time Adorno passed away in 1969, the Institute for Social Research and its director were known right across the country. The public profile of the Frankfurt School, founded in 1924, was at its zenith.

This book focuses on this intellectual realm and its metamorphoses in the postwar era and up to German reunification, and its protagonists are 12 of Adorno’s colleagues. After the death of the “master”, they ended up scattered around West Germany. Jörg Später, the author of the highly successful biography of Siegfried Kracauer, follows their paths and describes how they inherited and altered Adorno’s legacy in academia, politics, and in the new social movements that were beginning to emerge.

Adorno’s Heirs rewrites the history of critical theory: as a sprawling, multi-voiced narrative set in West Germany – a country that existed for 20 years with Adorno, and 20 years without him.

Adorno’s heirs are: Regina Becker-Schmidt, Gerhard Brandt, Ludwig von Friedeburg, Karl Heinz Haag, Jürgen Habermas, Elisabeth Lenk, Oskar Negt, Helge Pross, Alfred Schmidt, Herbert Schnädelbach, Hermann Schweppenhäuser, and Rolf Tiedemann

»Später’s intellectual-historical penetration of a turbulent cosmos of intelligence is immense.« Christian Thomas, Frankfurter Rundschau on Jörg Später’s biography of Siegfried Kracauer

Jörg Später, born in 1966, is a historian and research fellow at the department for Contemporary History at the University of Freiburg.

Siegfried Kracauer / Siegfried Kracauer (2016) • English world rights (Polity); France (Ithaque)

Peter E. Gordon

Precarious Happiness



© Jürgen Bauer

Adorno and the Sources of
Normativity
Frankfurt Adorno Lectures 2019
470 pages · November 2023
(Original title: Prekâres Glück)

»What would happiness be that was not measured by the immeasurable grief at what is?« **Theodor W. Adorno**

More than fifty years after his death, Theodor W. Adorno has not ceased to arouse great controversy. Many see him as a thinker of uncompromising negativity and gnostic darkness, whose critical perspective verges on totalising despair. In the public imagination, some of his more famous statements, such as »There is no right life in the wrong one« have hardened almost to the point of cliché.

Historian and philosopher Peter E. Gordon vehemently challenges this image. Adorno, he argues, must be understood not in purely negative terms but as a theorist whose practice of critique is oriented towards an unrealised norm of human flourishing – of precarious happiness in a radically imperfect world. Gordon identifies this norm as the unifying theme for all of Adorno's work, from his sociological writings to his moral philosophy, from his metaphysics to his aesthetics and musicological criticism. *Precarious Happiness* casts Adorno's legacy in a fascinating and unfamiliar light, revealing it as an indispensable resource for critical theory today.

»Peter Gordon's confidently gripping and at the same time persistently subtle interpretation brings a new tone to the debate about Adorno's negativism. Engaging with Adorno's lectures, Gordon shows how the negative dialectic, though eluding direct access to statements about the ›good life,‹ means to spell out the contours of a ›right‹ life. Within the enchanted bounds of a distorted whole, Adorno searches for traces of a failed happiness.« **Jürgen Habermas**

»Written in a captivating style, Gordon carefully analyzes the whole range of Adorno's writings to demonstrate that the philosopher grounds his critique of contemporary societies in an idea of human flourishing that he takes as being accessible only in small, easily overlooked fragments within our damaged form of life. By this, Gordon manages something at which almost everyone else has failed so far: to give a coherent picture of the scattered pieces of Adorno's idea of morality.« **Axel Honneth**

Peter E. Gordon, born in 1966, is the Amabel B. James Professor of History and faculty affiliate in the Department of Philosophy at Harvard University. He researches the intellectual history of the 20th century, especially philosophical thought in Germany and France, and is an internationally renowned expert on the Frankfurt School. His previous books, which feature figures such as Franz Rosenzweig, Martin Heidegger, Ernst Cassirer, Theodor W. Adorno and their time, have been awarded numerous prestigious prizes.

Rights sold to: English world rights (Chicago UP)

Simon Schaupp

Metabolic Politics



From the Atlantic slave trade to the crisis of care work

In order to understand the ecological crisis, we need to understand the world of work. Because it is through labour, according to Karl Marx, that societies' metabolic relationship with nature is carried out. As such, argues sociologist Simon Schaupp, labour politics is also climate politics – or as the title of this book suggests, »metabolic politics«. And nature itself plays an active role in these metabolic relationships: the more intensely human societies exploit nature, the more dramatic are the reciprocal effects of nature on the world of work.

Schaupp illustrates just how productive this perspective is by way of a series of historical case studies, demonstrating that, for example, we can understand neither the rise nor the fall of the plantation as an economic form without acknowledging the influence of the mosquito. Or that the establishment of trade unions was made possible in part by the power workers attained as a result of the material properties of coal. And that the assembly line was largely introduced because in early meatpacking factories, decaying animal carcasses were piling up because of strikes. If we want to at least slow down the process of global warming, Schaupp argues, we also need to transform the world of work: we need to move beyond the logic of an ever-expanding exploitation of nature, and instead take nature's autonomy seriously.

Simon Schaupp was born in 1988 and is a sociologist who currently works as senior researcher and lecturer at the University of Basel. His most recent book, *Technopolitik von unten* (Technopolitics From Below), won several awards. He has published on digitalization, ecological crisis and historical social conflicts. For Suhrkamp, he co-edited a reader on *Theories of Digital Capitalism* together with Tanja Carstensen und Sebastian Seignani. Schaupp is part of the editorial board of the journal *Work, Employment and Society*.

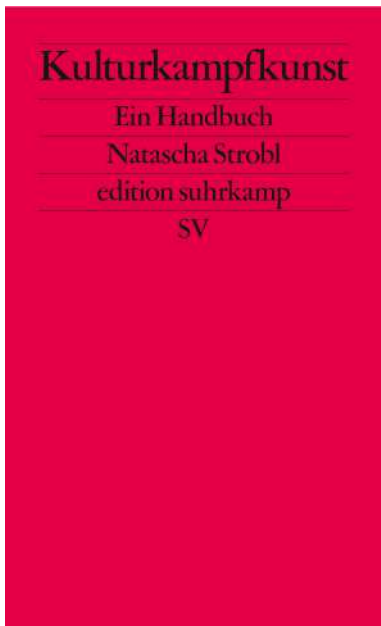


© Universität Basel

Work, Nature, and the Future of the Planet
422 pages • March 2024
(Original title: Stoffwechsepolitik)

Natascha Strobl

The Art of Culture War



© Christopher Glanzl

A Handbook
160 pages · July 2024
(Original title: Kulturkampf Kunst)

Why we should learn to pick our battles in the culture wars

A single gender-neutral term on the news and the internet explodes. A publisher takes a book off the shelves because the language is no longer considered appropriate, and a seemingly trifling matter almost spirals into a matter of state. A transgender influencer does an ad for a beer company, conservatives launch a boycott, and the share prices of the biggest brewery in the world crash. In the culture wars, it seems that one skirmish follows the other. And even conflicts about material things like gas heating are increasingly being made into emotionally charged issues and viewed through the lens of identity politics. Of course, there are always two sides to these kinds of clashes. But radical conservatives fuel them with a great deal of energy, and in highly dangerous ways.

Natascha Strobl looks into the great era of culture warmongering. She analyses why this strategy is so attractive to conservative and right-wing groups, and also offers some tips on how to deal with them. When does it make sense to refuse to engage? And when is it important to intervene, to prevent hateful views from becoming the norm?

»Precise, entertaining, convincing. Natascha Strobl's book is both a scientific analysis and a political essay: insightful and rousing.«
Sebastian Friedrich, NDR Kultur about Radicalised Conservatism

Natascha Strobl, born in Vienna in 1985, is a political scientist and journalist. She writes for publications such as *Der Standard*, *ZEIT Online* and *taz. die tageszeitung*. On Twitter, she publishes assessments of right-wing language and strategies under the hashtag #NatsAnalyse.

Radikalisierter Konservatismus / Radicalised Conservatism (2021) • Spanish world rights (Katz); Italy (LEG); Sweden (Atlas); Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (CC Live);

Daniel Loick

The Superiority of the Subjugated



A Theory of Counter-Communities
297 pages • April 2024
(Original title: Die Überlegenheit
der Unterlegenen)

The struggle for liberation as the struggle for abolition

From the perspective of oppressed groups, the lives of the rich and powerful are not necessarily desirable – indeed, they often appear ignorant, corrupt, ugly, or sad. People whose realities are shaped by experiences of violence and suffering, on the other hand, often have access to epistemic insights, ethical attitudes, and aesthetic expressions that more privileged subjects lack. Whether they can tap into these resources, however, depends on certain practices of collectivization: on whether they are part of a counter-community. Liberation, therefore, can never come about through inclusion or integration into dominant institutions. The struggle for liberation is a struggle for the abolition of domination.

In this groundbreaking new work, Daniel Loick draws on classical figures such as Hegel and Marx, as well as recent proponents of critical theory in Germany such as Rahel Jaeggi and Axel Honneth. However his study is also informed by work in Anglophone academia and beyond, from different strands of Black studies, feminist, queer, and Marxist theory, including writers such as Fred Moten and Stefano Harvey, Silvia Federici, and Antonio Negri.

Daniel Loick is Associate Professor of Political and Social Philosophy at the University of Amsterdam. He has taught at various institutes in Germany, Switzerland, and the US. He has written four books in the fields of legal and social philosophy and political theory. In 2017, he published *Juridismus: Konturen einer kritischen Theorie des Rechts* with Suhrkamp, and co-edited a reader on abolitionism in 2023.

Dana Schmalz

The Population Argument



At the turn of the 19th century, the Earth was home to around one billion people. Today, it is more than eight billion. Time and again, this growth has triggered warnings that can ultimately be traced back to the theories of economist Thomas Malthus: too many people leads to hunger and ecological and social crises.

Dana Schmalz illustrates how politicians employ the “population argument” for their own personal gain: only ever finding excess growth *somewhere else*, in the Global South or in marginalised communities. Governments use the argument to restrict reproductive rights, and development policy continues to be guided by racist ideas around reproduction and population growth. And more recently, we’ve seen anti-feminist groups citing falling birth rates as a way to prop up their conspiracy theories, in an effort to gain traction among a broader audience.



Dana Schmalz was born in 1987 and is a senior research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg/Berlin. She is part of the editorial team for the journal *Kritische Justiz*.

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The Political Misuse of the Spectre
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Table of Contents

Melanie Levensohn • The Morning after the Rain

Julia Jost • Hide and Seek

Valerie Fritsch • Lemon

Deniz Ohde • Pretending to Sleep

Urszula Honek • White Nights

Deniz Utlu • Father's Sea

Dana Vowinckel • The World in a Ziplock Bag

Sasha Marianna Salzmann • Ofer Waldman • Real Time

Tanja Šljivar • National Theatre

Roger Van de Velde • Crackling Skulls

Wilhelm Schmid • Surviving Death

Kristin Höller • The People Before Us

Leif Lindholm • Between Two Seas

Gabriela Jaskulla • Artemisia Gentileschi and a Woman's Fury

Javier Cáceres • Picture-Perfect Goals

Robert Menasse • The World of Tomorrow

Stephan Thome • Narrow Waters, Dangerous Currents

Jens Beckert • Selling the Future

Andreas Reckwitz • Loss

Eva Illouz • Explosive Modernity

Jürgen Habermas • Things Needed to Improve...

Dagmar Herzog • The Question of Unworthy Life

Jörg Später • Adorno's Heirs

Peter E. Gordon • Precarious Happiness

Simon Schaupp • Metabolic Politics

Natascha Strobl • The Art of Culture War

Daniel Loick • The Superiority of the Subjugated

Dana Schmalz • The Population Argument

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