Suhrkamp
Insel

Rights List
London Book Fair 2023

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Suhrkamp Verlag mourns the loss of
Hans Magnus Enzensberger, who died on
November 24, 2022, at age 93 in Munich.

As a poet, essayist, writer, biographer, publisher and translator, he was one of the world’s most influential and internationally renowned German intellectuals. Born in 1929 in the Bavarian Allgäu, Enzensberger studied literature, languages and philosophy in Freiburg and Paris, among other places. In 1955, he obtained his doctorate with a thesis on the poetics of Clemens Brentano. Two years later he published his first book, Verteidigung der Wölfe, a volume of poetry. In the 1950s, he became a member of the Gruppe 47. The members of this legendary writers’ group joined forces to revive German literature in the post-World War II years. The correspondence between Enzensberger and Ingeborg Bachmann, Schreib alles was wahr ist auf (2018), is a fascinating testament to the intellectual-literary debates of that time. From 1965 onwards, Enzensberger published Kursbuch, a journal he co-founded, with Suhrkamp Verlag, which added an important voice to the discourse on the self-image of the Federal Republic. Since then, many of his works have been published by Suhrkamp Verlag, including the volume Mausoleum (1978), which talks about the contradictions of progress in 37 ballads, or Ach Europa! (1989), in which Enzensberger looks at our continent from the margins. Going beyond just Germany, his many travels, including to the USA, Mexico, Norway and Italy, provided him with more diverse cultural insights and contributed to the internationality of his thought and writing. Tumult, in which Enzensberger deals with his own past, was met with great critical acclaim in 2014. Beyond that, Hans Magnus Enzensberger rendered outstanding services to Suhrkamp Verlag as a member of its supervisory board from 2013 to 2015. Hans Magnus Enzensberger has received numerous national and international awards for his various literary activities, including the Georg Büchner Prize in 1963, the Heinrich Böll Prize in 1985, the Premio d’Annunzio in 2006, the Sonningprisen in 2010 and most recently the Frank Schirrmacher Prize in 2015.

After the publication of his collected Poems 1950-2020 as well as the volume Fallobst – Nur ein Notizbuch on the occasion of his 90th birthday in 2019, the volume of poetry Wirrwarr was published most recently by Suhrkamp Verlag in February 2020.
Clemens J. Setz

Moons before the Landing

The new, electrifying novel about contrarianism and alternative facts by the Büchner-Preis laureate

Worms in the early twenties of the last century. Peter Bender, a former lieutenant pilot in the German Army, makes a name for himself as the founder of a new religious community and with the proclamation of the so-called Hollow World Theory: according to this theory, humanity does not live on, but inside a sphere, outside of which nothing exists. Bender’s flock stays small, but nevertheless he is sentenced to several months in prison for distributing inflammatory and blasphemous pamphlets. When word gets out that his wife was Jewish after the Nazis seize power, even his closest followers turn their backs on him. The Benders fall into poverty and the reprisals against his wife become unbearable until the family is arrested and deported in 1942. Only Bender’s son survives the concentration camp.

In his long-awaited new novel, Clemens J. Setz reconstructs the real story of a life and a family that is as moving as it is disturbing. But beyond that, Moons before the Landing is also an investigation of the destructive delusion of a manic egocentric and an illustration of contrarianism avant la lettre: startlingly topical, of unsurpassable linguistic and intellectual originality.

Delusion versus delusion

His aesthetics are so unique in German-language literature – and not just in that – that Clemens J. Setz wouldn’t be appropriately described with any and all superlatives one could think of.

Marie Schmitz, Süddeutsche Zeitung

Selected Backlist:

**Der Trost runder Dinge** (2019) International Sales: Russia (Symposium), France (Astres Sud), Italy (La Nave di Teseo), Denmark (Vandkunsten), Japan (Kokusai Kankokai), Poland (Filtir), Greece (Gutenberg), Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (Griot)

**Die Stunde zwischen Frau und Gitarre** (2015) International Sales: France (Jacqueline Chambron), Italy (La Nave di Teseo), Bulgaria (Paradis)

Indigo (2012) International Sales: USA (W. W. Norton / Liveright), UK (Serpent’s Tail), Chinese simplex rights (CTIC Press / Sight), France (Jacqueline Chambron), Italy (La Nave di Teseo), Netherlands (Lievemagazijn), Denmark (Vandkunsten), Japan (Kokusai Kankokai), Croatia (Hera Com), Greece (Gutenberg), previously published in the respective language / territory; rights available again: Chinese complex rights (China Times), Czech Republic (Frat), Hungary (Europa), Bulgaria (Fantasy), Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (Griot Music)
Essays
Kateryna Mishchenko/Katharina Raabe
From the Fog of War

Seventeen authors report how their life and way of thinking have changed since the beginning of the war.

In 2014, Russia shook the architecture of European security to its very foundations with the annexation of Crimea and the war in the Donbas. Ever since the large-scale attack on the whole of Ukraine, that security is history. The Russian military is bringing death, pain, fear, and terror to millions of people. The Ukrainian state and society are withstanding, supported by the international community in the West – but so far, they have not succeeded in breaking Moscow’s desire for destruction.

Since Russia’s attack on Ukraine, thousands of people have died, hundreds of thousands have suffered terror and destruction, millions of citizens have fled. And yet, the resistance continues. Out of the fog of war, a new, uncertain future is emerging. The authors of this volume – writers, scholars, activists, artists and journalists – capture the simultaneity: the ruin that is brought to life and its places; civil and military self-assertion; the will to create a new, peaceful homeland. They describe and analyse the situation of traumatised people in war – their profound transformation, their ability to nevertheless find themselves in very uncertain times.

Mina Hava

Für Seka

The debut novel of an exciting new Swiss author – as poetic as it is political

All that is left is an envelope with a handful of photographs – as well as the fear of her father, the worry for her mother and her brother, and the knots in her chest. In her early twenties, Seka is looking for the traces of her broken family and of her scattered life up to this point. She reconstructs her parents’ journey from Bosnia to Switzerland and asks about the connections, the threads leading to her. On her search, she finds the 1990's Omarska concentration camp and a letter that leads her to The Hague and Geneva, later to the Bernese Highlands. She notices that ore is mined in Omarska today, as if history, that of an almost-forgotten war in Europe, didn’t exist. Even though the wounds of the past continue to have an effect on the present.

Mina Hava combines historic material, research and reconstruction with personal experiences, losses and fears – and examines what history means to landscapes and bodies. Für Seka sensitively describes a young life in which the political and the private are inextricably linked, a story of leaving and being left and the question of what was.

Mina Hava

Für Seka

Novel

(approx. 278 pages
Clothbound
Release: April 2023)

Rights available

Selected for New Books in German – translation funding guaranteed for the English language

Mina Hava, born in 1998, studied Global History and Science Studies at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and Creative Writing at the German Institute for Literature in Leipzig. Für Seka is her debut novel.
Paul Brodowsky
Fathers
An internal map of fatherhood and a piece of German history, from the Weimar Republic to the 21st century

His father, born in 1933, only talks about the Nazi era when Paul asks him about it. About the National Political Institute of Education, the NPD, about the Jewish barrier at the market and about his uncle. Uncle Paul, after whom the son is named and who was a district manager for the NSDAP. The son, born in 1980 as the youngest of eight children, finds only a slim file in the Federal Archives. But the questions keep playing on his mind: How do National Socialist influences continue to survive in his family? Which inherited ideals, which patriarchal ideas have been inscribed in him and are perhaps even passed on by him? In which conflicts do they still come to light today? He realises how challenging it is to find his role as a progressive father in dealing with his own children, especially since he lacks clear role models for this.

In his novel Fathers, Paul Brodowsky talks about a century of German history. He condenses memories, research and reflections into a picture of West Germany after National Socialism – and deals with things that are kept secret in many families to this day, drawing an arc from the 1930s to the present. An unsparing self-examination and a search for traces of the 1930s to the present. An internal map of fatherhood and a piece of German history, from the Weimar Republic to the 21st century.

Anna Kim
Story of a Child
How the gaze of others can make lonely
The best Austrian novel of the year.

In a small town in the US state of Wisconsin, twenty-year-old telephone operator Carol Truttman gives birth to a child in July 1953. That same night, she gives the boy up for adoption. Daniel, as he is called, remains in the care of social services. Soon the nurses tending to him are confronted with what they see as a serious suspicion: Contrary to the mother’s statement, the baby does not appear to be white but, as the official language of the time put it, »Polnisch or negroid« – a scandal in a homogeneously white society subjected to the rigorous laws of racial segregation. The social worker Marlene Winckler, originally from Austria, is tasked with determining the true ethnicity of the child. To do so, however, she must first find the child’s father, whose identity the biological mother refuses to reveal. Neither society nor its institutions do anything to stop her on her obsessive and increasingly destructive search for truth. Readers are as unsurprisingly confronted with her report, the »file Daniel Truttman«, as the narrator, a writer with Austrian-Korean roots – whom Daniel’s wife asks to find Marlene Winckler sixty years after these events in order to maybe finally help Daniel, who is now critically ill. The further the narrator delves into Daniel’s story and into the search for Winckler, the more her view of her own past and her family background begins to unravel.

Anna Kim’s Story of a Child is about the powerful and fatal idea of »race«, which not only still shapes societies today, but also permeates the private sphere, divides families, prevents careers and determines life paths. Clever and touching, this novel, based on a true incident, talks about the way we look at one another and about what we believe we see in the other.

>Based on true events, this is a lucid, nuanced and touching exploration of how we look at one another, what we imagine we see when we do, and the continued impact of race on identity, self-image, family and opportunity. With echoes of Lemn Sissay’s My Name is Why, it should have a wide appeal.

New Books in German

© Werner Geiger

>Stylistically confident, eloquent, fast-paced.« Hans-Peter Kunisch, Die Zeit, on »Die blonde Fotografin«
Dževad Karahasan
Introduction to Floating
The new novel by the great European storyteller
A story of love and friendship in Sarajevo under siege

Peter Hurd, classical philologist and mythologist, comes to Sarajevo for a reading – just a few days before the war begins. When his translator and admirer Rajko takes him to the bus station to see him off, Peter decides to stay on the spur of the moment: he doesn’t want to miss the chance to witness how people behave in extreme situations. He shares everyday life with Rajko, accompanies him through the neighbourhood under shelling, meets his friends and relatives, including Sanja, with whom he falls in love. One day he sets off alone and when he returns, he is barely recognisable ...

Never before has Karahasan, the literary chronicler of Sarajevo, told such a vivid and multi-faceted story of what it means to survive days and nights in a city surrounded by smoke and stench and yet not lose hope and humour. Circling around an invisible axis, his story explores an ethical and existential borderline experience – an introduction to floating.

Selected Backlist:
Što pepeo priča (First published in 2015 by Simurg Media) (German: Der Trost des Nachthimmels, 2016) International Sales: Chinese simple rights (Shanghai Translation Publishing House), Bulgaria (Paradise), Slovenia (Boletrina), Turkey (Aktisim), Greece (Hestial), Part 1: Macedonia (Tempum)
Sara i Serafina (First published in 1999 by Durieux) (German: Sara und Serafina, 2000) International Sales: Arabic world rights (Galaxia Gutenberg), France (Laffont), Italy (Il Saggiatore), Sweden (Bosnisk-Hercegovinska Riksföreningen i Sverige), Slovenia (Cankarjeva Založba)
Dnevnik selidbe (First published in 1993 by Durieux) (German: Tagebuch der Übersiedlung, revised edition 2021) International Sales: Italy (ADV); previously published in the respective language / territory; rights available again: USA & Canada (Knopf Doubleday), Spanish world rights (Galaxia Gutenberg), France (Calmann-Lévy), Netherlands (Van Gennep), Czech Republic (Mlada Fronta), Slovenia (Wieser)

Awards (selection):
Goethe-Preis 2020 (Germany)
Jeanette Schocken Preis 2019 (Germany)
Franz-Nabl-Preis 2017 (Austria)
Honorary doctorate, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Basel 2014
Goethe Medal of the Goethe-Institut 2012 (Germany)
Ehrengabe of the Heinrich Heine Society 2012 (Germany)
Vilenica International Literary Prize of the Slovene Writers’ Association 2010 (Slovenia)
Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding 2004 and the Goethe Prize of the City of Frankfurt 2020. He lives in Graz and Sarajevo.

Dževad Karahasan... is the most important chronicler of this siege, in which around 14,000 people died, and one of the most important writers of the former Yugoslavia.« SR2

Reading Karahasan again is more topical than ever in this age of supposedly cemented identities.« Marko Martin, Die Welt

He is one of the great European scholars of our times. A book that one should have read to understand Europe’s most recent, painful history.« ORF

Readers let Dževad Karahasan take them by the hand with great pleasure. The Bosnian novelist and essayist, who grew up with the Quran, well-versed in Goethe and Georg Büchner, appears as a welcome pilot amidst the perils of West-East misunderstandings.« Ilm-Rokau, Neue Zürcher Zeitung

Dževad Karahasan
Introduction to Floating
Novel
(Original title: Uvod u lebdenje, published by Connectum, Sarajevo and Bulevar, Novi Sad in 2022)
(Title of the German edition by Suhrkamp: Einübung ins Schweben. Roman)
303 pages
Clothbound
Release: January 2023

International Sales:
Italy (Keller Editore)

Dževad Karahasan, born in Duvno, Yugoslavia, in 1953, is one of the most important contemporary authors. His extensive œuvre includes novels, essays, short stories and plays. He has received numerous awards, including the Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding 2004 and the Goethe Prize of the City of Frankfurt 2020.

Awards (selection):
Goethe-Preis 2020 (Germany)
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Honorary doctorate, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Basel 2014
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Vilenica International Literary Prize of the Slovene Writers’ Association 2010 (Slovenia)
Leipzig Book Award for European Understanding 2004 (Germany)
Herder-Preis 1999 (Germany)
Bruno-Kreisky-Preis for Political Writing 1995 (Austria)

Prix européen de l’essai Charles Veillon 1994 (Switzerland)
Yugoslavian Novel Prize 1990 (Yugoslavia)
Veselin Masleša Prize 1981 (Yugoslavia)
Maria Stepanova
Holy Winter 20/21

The new outstanding work by the internationally acclaimed author of In Memory of Memory, shortlisted for the International Booker Prize and winner of a Prix du Meilleur livre étranger

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic cut short Maria Stepanova’s stay in Cambridge, UK, in March 2020. Back in Russia, she spent the ensuing months in a state of torpor – the world had withdrawn from her, time had gone numb. When she awoke from this state, she began to read Ovid and the shock of the pandemic dissolved into the voices and metaphors of an epochal experience. Motifs that had waited within her for a long time found each other. As in The Body Returns, she transforms historic and current cataclysms into an incredibly delicate, flexible construct of rhythms and voices.

The poem, which was written in a frenzy of poetic inspiration, speaks of winter and war, of banishment and exile, of social isolation and existential abandonment. Stepanova finds sublime imagery for the process of falling silent: words that we call out to each other freezing in the air, for instance, and no longer reaching our interlocutor. The work intertwines love letters and travelogues, Chinese verse and Danish fairy tales into a polyphonic evocation of frozen and slowly thawing time.

Selected Backlist:
- Nach dem Gedächtnis (Original Russian title: Тени памяти, published by Novoe) (2018) International Sales: USA (New Directions), Canada (Book*hug Press), UK & Commonwealth (Fitzcarraldo Editions), Spanish world rights (Acantilado), Chinese simple rights (Chen CITIC Press), Brazilian Portuguese rights (RMF Martins Fontes), Portuguese rights (Relógio D’Água), Arabic world rights (Dar Athar), French (Bloch, Paperback Sublimes: Le Livre de Poche), Italian (Bompiani), Polish (Prószyński), Czech Republic (Akropolis), Hungary (Parki), Bulgaria (Janet S), Romania (Humanitas), Lithuania (Atma Littera), Croatian (Faktura), Serbian (Boksa), Slovenia (Boljevina), Turkey (CAN), Greece (Vakiten), North Macedonia (Bata Press)

Maria Stepanova
Winterpoem

Winterpoem

Esther Kinsky
Seeing Farther

Esther Kinsky’s powerfully eloquent and pictorial declaration of love to the cinema

On a journey through the south-east of Hungary, the narrator stops off in an almost completely deserted village on the border to Romania. Resignation and a glorification of the past are the most dominant threads in Stepanova’s conversations. Like many other things, the cinema, Mozis in Hungarian, has long since closed. Once the centre of the village, the only important role it plays now is in the stories and memories of those who remain. Her own passion for the cinema moves the narrator to bring the decaying Mozis back to life.

In her new book, Esther Kinsky talks about the irresistible magic of the cinema, a place where humour, horror and relief found communal expression without threat to the anonymity of the darkened rooms. Running underneath the fervent enthusiasm for the cinema and reflections on the »great temple of moving images« is the question: how are we to address the photographs and talking about it is possible when the site of a shared experience has been dismantled in favour of the privatization of life and experience?

Selected Backlist:
- Rombo (2022) International Sales: UK & Canada (NYRB), UK & Commonwealth (Fitzcarraldo), Spanish world rights (Penguin), Catalan rights (Angle), Portugal (Eleonora, France (Christian Bourgeois), Italy (Iperborea), Netherlands (Pluim), Poland (Ozias), Greece (Papamos)

- In Esther Kinsky, German literature has an author whose books are full of poetic intelligence. The understanding of the world seems to be intensified here because it also recognises the ambivalences and the irrational elements of this world as its sources. Paul Jandl, Neue Zürcher Zeitung on Rombo
Marianne Fritz
The Weight of Things
Finally to be rediscovered: Marianne Fritz’s forgotten 1978 debut novel

It’s 1945. A dull, heavy fog lies above the city of Donaublau, where a pregnant Berta awaits her fiancé’s return from the front. But instead of Rudolf, his friend Wilhelm enters the room and delivers the news of Rudolf’s death to Berta, whose reply is but a swell, wells. She marries the returning soldier instead, a »worthy representative of his nation«, driver and footboy, and has a second child with him, jealously eyed by her friend Wilhelmine. But increasingly, life seems like a bad dream to Berta, the weight of things pushes everyone down, especially the little and very little people, maimed and at a loss for words, until Berta sees no way out and suffocates her children in their sleep in a desperate attempt to remove them from the grasp of their environment. Only in a psychiatric institution does she find protection from the »wound that is life.«

»Marianne Fritz was a genius«, writes Marlene Streeruwitz after the death of the Austrian writer. In her prize-winning debut novel published in 1978, she looks with great compassion and brilliant humour at the silently smiling Wilhelm, the calculating Wilhelmine – and at Berta, a petit-bourgeois Medea, who rebels against the narrowness and the corrosive power of the post-war world order with a quiet, destructive force. A bold, masterful, shocking book.

Is it the ancestors that are making the air heavy, crowding around the island? In the form of people, clouds, winds, fish, birds of the mountains, birds of the coast, migratory birds and seabirds that come to Hawaii to flirt, lay eggs, rest and then retreat back to the open sea?

The Ancestors’ Instructions deals with one’s spiritual and material prehistory: with crimes of colonization, that is. In Hawaii and at home – and where is that? In books? The narrator, a guest on the island, receives gifts everywhere she goes: insights into the Polynesian language, glows to collect rubbish, a lopper to clear thorny bushes. In her head the old heroes: Graz School, Kyoto School, Vienna Circle. And the question: How do affection and understanding work when you don’t belong? Back in Europe, she looks at the world on her doorstep with new eyes.

Ann Cotten
The Ancestors’ Instructions
»There is hardly anything that can compare in the German-speaking area.« Dietmar Dath, FAZ

»Written in a brisk tone that disguises its destination, this slow-burning horror story steps quietly and methodically into a heart of familiar darkness. [...] The war haunts this novel, adding to the weight of everyday things and everyday evils that Fritz so ingeniously dissects.« The New York Times

»A harrowing book about the horrors of motherhood, jealousy, and war trauma.« Kirkus Reviews

»A tightly wrought masterwork of narrative, a little gem.« Los Angeles Review of Books

Ann Cotten, born in Iowa in 1962, grew up in Vienna. She has been living in Berlin since 2006.


Selected Backlist:
Lyophilia (2019)
Verbannt! (2016)
Der schauende Färber (2013): previously published, rights available again: Netherlands (Loesmagazijn)

Marianne Fritz
The Weight of Things
Novel
With an afterword by Daniela Strigl
(Original title: Die Schwerkraft der Verhältnisse. Roman)
First published in 1978
Release of the new edition by Suhrkamp: March 2023

International Sales:
USA & Canada (Dorothy Project), UK & Commonwealth (Verso), Spanish world rights (Alpha Decay), Portuguese rights (Cavalo de Ferro), France (Le Quartanier), Italy (Safara), Turkey (Olvido)

Marianne Fritz, born in Weiz, Styria, in 1948, died in Vienna in 2007, was a multi-award-winning Austrian author, who radically evaded any sort of publicity. Her major works include Dessen Sprache du nicht verstehst (2007) and Naturgesetze IV (2008), the third volume of which she was working at the time of her death.

Awards (selection):

In 2007, was a multi-award-winning Austrian author, who radically avoided any sort of publicity. Her major works include Dessen Sprache du nicht verstehst (2007) and Naturgesetze IV (2008), the third volume of which she was working at the time of her death.
Andreas Maier
The Homeland

»A radical decomposition of identity, an erasure of one’s own origins.« Jörg Magenau, Süddeutsche Zeitung

Germany in the early 1970s: a country full of fear of everything foreign. The only Italian at school seems like an alien being. In the 80s, it’s the Turkish people who are the first to put the tables outside the restaurants. As the people of Wetterau celebrate the first kebabs in the district as resistance foods, Hitler, who had long since disappeared, begins to conquer the public space on radio and television once again. In the nineties, the narrator dreams his big dream of the Homeland.

»If only I knew where I lost my mother tongues, the narrator asks herself in Emine Sevgi Özdamar’s 1990 prose debut. After many years in Berlin, Turkish, her first language, has become foreign to her. In search of her roots, she falls in love with the scribe Bni Abdullah, who introduces her to the »grandfather tongue« Arabic, the language of »holy« love and the Qur’an. And she tells the fairy tale of the poor Turkish peasant who arrives in faraway Germany and finds himself working as a street sweeper – like so many of his people who, in the sixties and seventies, are transformed into the servant class of West German cities. Ultimately, even Ophelia herself is demoted from the stage of her homeland and becomes a cleaner in a German theatre in this clever, confident book told with puckish irony.

Emine Sevgi Özdamar
Mother Tongue

The prose debut by the winner of the Georg-Büchner-Preis 2022

With an unerring sense for everything abysmal in lived normality, Andreas Maier tells of Germany between World War II, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the new millennium; of how people make themselves comfortable in forty years of history. His view of a homeland that has always been fiction is incorruptible.

Sevgi Özdamar’s 1990 prose debut. After many years in Berlin, Turkish, her first language, has become foreign to her. In search of her roots, she falls in love with the scribe Bni Abdullah, who introduces her to the »grandfather tongue« Arabic, the language of »holy« love and the Qur’an. And she tells the fairy tale of the poor Turkish peasant who arrives in faraway Germany and finds himself working as a street sweeper – like so many of his people who, in the sixties and seventies, are transformed into the servant class of West German cities. Ultimately, even Ophelia herself is demoted from the stage of her homeland and becomes a cleaner in a German theatre in this clever, confident book told with puckish irony.

Awards (selection):
Georg-Büchner-Preis 2022
Schillerpreis 2022
Düsseldorfer Literaturpreis 2022 for Ein von Schatten begrenzter Raum
Preis der Leipziger Buchmesse (shortlist) 2022 for Ein von Schatten begrenzter Raum
Bayerischer Buchpreis für Fiction 2021 for Ein von Schatten begrenzter Raum
D&AD Chair for Contemporary Poetics at New York University 2016
Alice Salomon Poetik Preis 2012
Carl-Zuckmayer-Medaille 2010
Fontaine-Preis 2009
Klaus-Preis 2004
Würter in Residence in Bergen-Einheim 2003
Adalbert-von-Chamisso-Preis 1999
Ingeborg-Bachmann-Preis 1991

Selected Backlist:
Ein von Schatten begrenzter Raum (2021)
Die Brücke vom goldenen Horn (1998) Published in the following languages: English (Serpent’s Tail), Spanish (Alfaguara), Catalan (Prens), Russian (Olga Morozova), French (CALMANN-LEVY / Pauvert), Italian (Ponte ale Grazie), Dutch (De Geus), Polish (Pogranicze), Turkish (İletişim), Greek (Armida)
Roger Van de Velde
Crackling Skulls

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 dependence and for the possession of forged prescription notes, he 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 from 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), he appears 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.

»The king of the short story«  
Dimitri Verhulst

»Penetrating and splendid, full of brilliant, somewhat harrowing images.«  
NRC Handelsblad

»Top-flight prose written in a smooth, sober style«  
Cutting Edge
Robert Menasse
Enlargement

60.000 copies sold
Bruno-Kreisky-Preis for Political Writing 2022

2019 – membership negotiations between the European Union and the Western Balkan countries have come to a standstill; France and the Netherlands have put in a veto. This has toppled many a political career, including the one of Albania’s charismatic and unconventional Prime Minister, who won his last election with the promise of leading Albania into the EU. But to what do when the political base is crumbling? Fate Vasa, poet laureate, has an idea: The Prime Minister must take on the role of the great national hero Skanderbeg, who defended his country against the Ottomans in the 15th century and who is a symbol for the unity of all Albanians. For the one who rallies the Albanians of the Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and even the Albanian communities in southern Italy, Germany and Turkey under one cause, will turn Albania into Greater Albania and into a major European power. In order to do so, he should wear Skanderbeg’s helmet with the bizarre goat’s head, that is currently displayed in a museum in Vienna. Unfortunately, it’s too small for the Prime Minister, which is why an ornamental blacksmith from Tirana is tasked with recreating it. But before he starts, involving members from Europol simultaneously and a furious international hunt begins, including the one of Albania’s charismatic Prime Minister.

Menasse aims once again at the great questions: how can people living in very different political systems, shaped by different cultural surroundings and histories, find a common ground and form a union or alliance? Do all so called Western societies in the 21st century really share the often-invoked common values? In a kaleidoscope made of more than a dozen voices, he interweaves fascinating individual stories with the history of Europe of the last century – placing it in a global perspective. The result is a unique narrative, a haunting novel.

Christoph Hein
Underneath the Dust of Time

Coming-of-age in a divided city

The late 1950s in the divided Germany: as the son of a pastor, 14-year-old Daniel is barred from taking the Abitur, the secondary school leaving examination, in his East German hometown and so he moves to West Berlin just before the Berlin Wall is built. Together with his roommates at the boarding house, all of whom are from the GDR like him, he explores the city: as newsboys, they discover the pubs and bars, experience Bill Haley, who whips the Sportpalest into a frenzy, as well as the revivalist Billy Graham. But what Daniel loves most of all is working on his plays and soon he forms his first connections in Berlin’s theatre scene ...

Christoph Hein tells the story of a youth in the shadow of the building of the Wall and makes the Berlin of those years come to life – rich in contemporary history, laconic and powerful.

At the time when East and West were more than just two cardinal points, bothersome students or the children of bothersome parents were sometimes barred from taking the Abitur in East Germany. An alternative at a secondary school in West Berlin was found for them with great trickery. The two ideologies now clashed at boarding school, in the classroom and in the cinemas. That, and the absurdity of this chapter of history, is what this novel talks about.«

Wenzel, Singer-Songwriter
Maxim Znak
Zecameron
100 scenes from the everyday life of a political prisoner

In a world shrunk down to the size of a prison cell, every detail becomes important: the cockroach doing its job, the moustrap that can be used to kill time, the strange rhythms of the collective snoring heard by the insomniac.

Maxim Znak, a brilliant lawyer and prominent member of the Belarusian opposition movement, was arrested in September 2021. In his opposition movement, he is a gifted writer – pointedly, ironically and with astonishing humour, he tells his first year in prison, he proves to be a gifted writer.

»The fact that this book exists could be called a miracle. Because the stories could be smuggled outside ... The true sensation, however, is the mental achievement the prisoner Maxim Znak was capable of. In his situation, which could really be called hopeless, he possesses the internal freedom to create literature.«
Cornelia Geissler, Berliner Zeitung

In November 2021, Daria Serenko published her debut work Girls and Institutions (Девочки и институты, No Kidding Press 2021), which caused a great stir and in which Serenko in a laconic, sometimes funny narrative gives voice to a collective experience that countless women in Russia’s libraries, museums, and other cultural institutions make on a daily basis: working below capacity, fulfilling nonsensical tasks, absurd structures and hierarchies, sexual harassment in the workplace, the virulent misogyny of macho superiors, the internalized misogyny of the girls themselves, but also solidarity and support.

After she was arrested in February 2022, Serenko began working on a new text in jail: I Wish Ashes for My House (И пепел своему дому) started as an examination of her own activism and has since developed into something much greater. In it, Serenko describes her experience of imprisonment in short, unexpectedly funny narrative gives voice to a collective experience that she shares with thousands of women in Russia who have protested against the war. She also examines the possibilities of activism radically and self-critically and keeps circling questions of failure, guilt, shame, and the responsibility that the Russian society and each of its members carries. This text focuses on the violence that hasinfixed itself in her country’s society for many years with increasing force. In short vignettes, in lists, sequences, poems, simulated interviews, Serenko runs through all possible forms and consequences of violence and puts the horror of war, the horror of the women who live through it, into poetic, often expressive, drastic, sometimes disturbing images that are, despite their acute topicality, characterised by a fundamental validity.

This volume consists of two parts, Girls and Institutions and I Wish Ashes for My House. Suhrkamp Verlag represents international rights only on the second part, I Wish Ashes for My House.

»Everybody in Russia who opposes the invasion is fighting at the cost of their lives and their freedom for a future without war and dictatorship.«
Daria Serenko in an interview with The New York Review on October 22, 2022

Daria Serenko
Girls and Institutions / I Wish Ashes for My House

A challenging read that tells of the terror the Russian regime exerts on Ukraine from within
Ralf Rothmann
Theory of Rain

On the reliable order of the unexpected

I have always loved the rain – as long as I didn’t get wet. The world is more peaceful when it rains, I sit by the window quietly and listen as the downpour makes the foliage of the lime tree, the letterboxes and the empty bottles behind the bistro sing. I’d like to write as fluidly as that. The entire rue Delambre is expressed brilliantly, up to the farthest streetlight, and I gaze at my life through the droplets on the windowpane as though through tiny, quickly scattering prisms.

Ralf Rothmann’s notes from fifty years: snapshots as personal as they are lyrical, as grim as they are humorous, from the memories of an author who has created many wonderful novels and stories. Here he shows us in just a few words what could reconcile us with the impositions of our environment and the time that is passing far too quickly: a poetic existence.

»With his powerful poetics, Ralf Rothmann is one of the most important German-language authors and he is possibly the most sensitive narrator of his generation.« Sandra Kegel, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

»Really, writing is nothing but erasing one’s traces, again and again, from version to version, until the story tells itself.«

»The haunting portrayal of conflict and carnage in the final weeks of the Second World War makes this German novel a modern classic.« The Guardian

»A Bosch-like vision of hell. The horror of war and the deep damage it does to people is not always handled as well, or as powerfully, as this. « The Sunday Times

»This last instalment is so great, so touching, so brutal, and shockingly so topical that its publication may be considered an event. Rothmann’s trilogy is, as if incidentally, also this: an absolutely horrific, an incredibly beautiful love story.« Adam Soboczynski, Die Zeit

International Sales: Italy (Neri Pozza), Turkey (Yapi Kredi); Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (Hörbuch Hamburg)

Rights available
Ralf Rothmann
Theory of Rain
Notes
(Original title: Theorie des Regens. Notizen)
approx. 280 pages
Clothbound
Release: April 2023

Awards (selection):
HWA Gold Crown for Historical Fiction for Im Frühling sterben 2018 (UK)
Uwe-Johnson-Preis for Der Gott jenes Sommers 2018 (Germany)
Premio San Clemente 2018 (Spain)
Klant-Preis 2017 (Germany)
Stefan-Andre-Presse 2016 (Germany)
Friedrich-Haiderling-Preis 2013 (Germany)
Hans-Fellada-Preis 2008 (Germany)
Literaturpreis der Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung 2008 (Germany)

International Sales: English world rights (Picador), Italy (Neri Pozza), Czech Republic (Argo), Croatia (Fraktura), Turkey (Yapi Kredi), Greece (Kastaniotis); Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (Hörbuch Hamburg), German Book Club rights (Büchergilde Gutenberg)

The best novel about the end of the Second World War in years, and a beautiful anti-war tale of universal importance.« El País

International Sales: English world rights (Picador UK; USA/Canada sublicense: FSG; English audio book sublicense: Torrance), Spanish world rights (Libros del Asteroide), Catalan rights (Cataluna Editorial), Chinese simplex rights (Archipel Press); Portuguese rights (Sextante Editora), France (Denoël), Italy (Neri Pozza), Netherlands (Arbeiderspers), Dänemark (Hanser), Sweden (Trend & Linssbro), Norwegian (Dybdal Nord), Poland (W.A.B.), Czech Republic (Argo), Slovakia (Premedia), Hungary (Magvető), Bulgaria (Atlantio), Romania (ART), Croatia (Fraktura), Serbia (Lamaj), Slovenia (K.ip.), Turkey (Yapi Kredi), Greece (Kastaniotis); previously published in the respective language / territory; rights available again: Finland (Atena), Estonia (Bsa Lgu), Kosovo / Albanian world rights (Bunikë), Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (Hörbuch Hamburg), German Entire Radio Reading (NDR)

»This new book’s power lies in its depiction of civilians trying to lead ordinary lives during the horror of war. A disturbing read. There are no heroes, no principled stands. Just one teenager learning how to be an adult from people compromising with evil or in denial that they are on the brink of defeat. It is shattering stuff, but Rothmann is tender towards his characters and this book is as memorable as his last.« Antonia Sowes, The Times

International Sales: English world rights (Picador), Italy (Neri Pozza), Czech Republic (Argo), Croatia (Fraktura), Turkey (Yapi Kredi), Greece (Kastaniotis); Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (Hörbuch Hamburg)

To Die in Spring
Novel
(Original title: Im Frühling sterben. Roman)
234 pages
Clothbound
Release: June 2015

The Night under the Snow
Novel
(Original title: Der Gott jenes Sommers. Roman)
251 pages
Clothbound
Release: May 2018

The God of that Summer
Novel
(Original title: Der Gott jenes Sommers. Roman)
251 pages
Clothbound
Release: July 2022
The dramatic, hitherto unpublished correspondence, expertly annotated by Bachmann and Frisch scholars, paints a new, surprising picture of the relationship and calls into question traditional assessments and assignments of blame.

**Awards (selection):**
- Grand Austrian State Prize for Literature 1968
- Georg-Büchner-Preis 1958
- Friedenspreis des Deutschen Buchhandels 1976
- Heinrich-Heine-Preis der Stadt Düsseldorf 1989

**International Sales:**
- English world rights (Seagull), Italy (Feltrinelli); Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (speak low)
- Dutch world rights (Meulenhoff), Germany (Südwestverlag)
- French world rights (Hachette), Japan (Kodansha), Turkey (Kemal Kadi), Georgia (bibi) previously published in the respective language/territory; rights available again: Spanish world rights (Fondo de Cultura), Russia (Ad marginem), Netherlands (Meulenhoff), Poland (Ars), Czech Republic (Putilova), Romania (Art), Croatia (OceanMore), Ukraine (Knyha XII)

**Selected Backlist:**
- International Sales: English world rights (Seagull), Chinese rights (China Renmin UP), Portuguese rights (Antígona), France (Seuil), Italy (Bertelsmann), Denmark (Vandkunsten), Sweden (Eliéström), Japan (Sekisho), Turkey (Kemal Kadi), Georgia (bibi)

**Correspondence**

Ingeborg Bachmann was born in 1926 in Klagenfurt. She began to write when she was at school. She studied philosophy in Innsbruck, Graz and eventually in Vienna, where she met, among others, Hans Weigel. Her friendship with Paul Celan majorly influenced her thought. Ingeborg Bachmann is considered one of the most important German-language poets and writers of the 20th century. She died in Rome on October 17, 1973.

Max Frisch, born in Zurich in 1911, first worked as a journalist, later as an architect, until his breakthrough as a writer with his novel Stiller (1954). This was followed by the novels Homo faber (1957) and Mein Name sei Gutenberg (1964) as well as short stories, diaries, plays, radio plays and essays. Frisch died in Zurich on April 4, 1991.

**Awards (selection):**
- Grand Austrian State Prize for Literature 1968
- Georg-Büchner-Preis 1958
- Friedenspreis des Deutschen Buchhandels 1976
- Heinrich-Heine-Preis der Stadt Düsseldorf 1989

Ingeborg Bachmann / Max Frisch
We Didn’t Do Well. The Correspondence
50,000 copies sold, in the top 20 of the SPIEGEL-bestseller list for 11 weeks
Kim Koplin
The Good and The Dead
A tender love story and a special kind of hardcore criminals’ ballet

Saad and his daughter Leila are living under the radar in Berlin. Saad earns his living as a security guard at a car park, working the night shift for good reason. This car park also houses the luxury car owned by State Secretary Brasch, who is involved in shady business deals. When Brasch, drunk and high on coke, has a traffic accident and a body is found in his boot – a surprise even to himself – the young detective Nihal Khigarian becomes involved.

Saad had met her by chance a few days earlier when she helped him and his daughter Leila in a fight with vile bullies. Leila is drawn to Nihal right away, and Nihal and Saad also suspect that this will be more than just a fleeting acquaintance. Yet Saad must remain invisible at all costs because he knows that merciless people from his former life are after him.

And indeed, the two soon have to face killers, arms dealers, irate Saudis, the drug mafia, a few dead bodies – and then a few more and with an epic showdown in the weed plantation on the roof of the multi-storey car park, at the end of which they get asked: »Do you do this kind of thing often?«

Political intrigue, shady but also cool characters as well as characters you will love

A story from everyday insanity, realistic and absurd, complex, moving and incredibly gripping

Johannes Groschupf
Hyaenas
The new sublime thriller by the three-time winner of the German Crime Fiction Prize

In the past few months, more and more luxury cars are set ablaze once night falls over the capital. Drivers in Berlin feel left alone and set out on communal citizen patrols in their neighbourhoods, while the police suspect left-wing scum. The young police officer Romina Winter has just been transferred to the arson squad as a disciplinary measure and is patrolling the city at night. Also trawling the streets is postman Maurice Jaenisch, who is convinced that the city is ruled by Satan. And because he wants to do everything right, he must face Him now. Jette Geppert is on the go as well. She is a journalist reporting on criminal trials in the borough of Moabit, and she is a super recognizer: She has the ability to recognize faces without fail. Three people are roaming the big city whose nightly face is mysterious, fascinating and highly dangerous...

A hot, hellish trip through a Berlin entirely unlike the one we know

Johannes Groschupf looks into the dark heart of our society

»As accurate as a freshly oiled rifle.«
Jan Drees, Deutschlandfunk

»A snappy, topical and fast-paced thriller. If you like a plot begging to be filmed, great characters, convincing dialogue and political digs, you’ll love this book. This is first-rate entertainment to the last page.«
Sven Trautwein, Frankfurter Rundschau

German Crime Fiction Prize 2022

Selected Backlist:
Berlin Heat (2021)
Berlin Prepper (2019)

Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (Argon)
Kim Koplin lives and works in Berlin, France and Italy and isn’t really called Kim Koplin but has already written a number of successful books.

Johannes Groschupf
Hyaenas
Thriller
(Original title: Die Stunde der Hyänen. Thriller)
262 pages
Paperback
Release: November 2022

Rights available

Johannes Groschupf, born in Braunschweig in 1963, grew up in Lüneburg. After studying German studies, American studies and journalism at the Free University of Berlin, he worked as an independent travel journalist for publications such as Die Zeit, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung and Frankfurter Rundschau for many years. In 1994, he survived a helicopter crash in the Sahara. Based on this experience, 1998 saw the creation of the radio feature Der Absturz (»The Crash«), which was awarded the Robert Geisendörfer Prize the following year. After that, he focused on literary works, first and foremost in the field of YA literature, and on articles for Der Tagesspiegel and Die Welt.

He was awarded the German Crime Fiction Prize in 2019 for his thriller Berlin Prepper and again in 2021 for the thriller Berlin Heat.

Selected Backlist:
Berlin Heat (2021)
Berlin Prepper (2019)
Elif Özmen
What is Liberalism?
A defence of liberalism

When talking about democracy, one cannot but also mention liberalism. Liberal principles such as the rule of law, the separation of powers, human rights and tolerance are part of the permanent fabric of modern democracies. Therefore, the currently much-cited crisis of democracy is also a crisis of liberalism. Many say that liberalism is no longer able to keep its promises. Elif Özmen’s book positions itself against the all-too-general commonplace and crisis discourses about liberalism with a systematic presentation of its philosophical foundations, normative architectures and current controversies. A defence of liberalism that positions it as the lesser evil among forms of government and life.

»My aim is to show what liberal theories have in common, by means of three concepts: freedom, equality, and individualism. The focus on these three concepts for the purpose of this book is practical, thematic as well as constructive.«

»To highlight the normative attractiveness of liberalism in comparison with its alternatives is to give liberalism the benefit of the doubt. All in all, liberal democracy is the worst form of government and life – apart from all the others.«

Elif Özmen,
born in 1974,
is Professor of Practical Philosophy at the Justus Liebig University in Gießen.
Özmen’s research interests lie in the field of normative ethics, political philosophy and philosophy of science; she is currently working mainly on normative constituents of democracy, theories of injustice, truth, law and politics, values in science and academic freedom.

Non-fiction
Axel Honneth
The Working Sovereign
Criticism of labour conditions, future of democracy

What role does the organisation of working conditions play in securing the existence of a democratic community? Axel Honneth explores this question in his new comprehensive monograph whose key terms are ‘social labour’ and the ‘social division of labour’. His central thesis is that a transparently and fairly organised division of labour is a prerequisite for participation in the democratic decision-making process.

Initially, Honneth explains why it is justified to examine working conditions in terms of their compatibility with democracy. He then details the development of working conditions since the beginning of capitalism in the 19th century. His historical foray is illustrated by impressive literary testimonies and leads into the world of agricultural workers, of – mostly female – servants and of the first industrial workers, among others. The jumping-off point is the assumption that today’s working conditions are increasingly undermining opportunities for an active participation in the process of a democratic formation of opinion and decision making. Therefore, the last part of the book outlines where a politics of labour would have to start today in order to counteract the emerging grievances and contribute to an urgently needed revival of democratic participation.

Selected Backlist:
- Die Armut unserer Freiheit (2020) International Sales: English world rights (Polity), Chinese simplex rights (Shanghai People’s Publishing House)
- Anerkennung (2018) International Sales: English world rights (Cambridge UP), Spanish world rights (Akal), Chinese simplex rights (Shanghai People’s Publishing House), France (Gallimard), Italy (Feltrinelli), Korea (April Books), Japan (Hosei UP), Bulgaria (Doktrina), Croatia (Mizantrop), Turkey (Nef)
- Die Idee des Sozialismus (2015) International Sales: English world rights (Polity), Spanish world rights (Katz), Chinese simplex rights (East China Normal UP / Vi Horas), Russia (Directmedia), Brazilian Portuguese rights (Marta Filanda), Portuguese rights (Edições 70), Arabic world rights (Librarie Orientale), France (Gallimard), Italy (Feltrinelli), Denmark (Rottefella), Finland (Gaudamus), Korea (April Books), Japan (Hosei UP), Serbia (Akademiska Knjiga), Greece (Polis), previously published in the respective language / territory, rights available again: Catalan rights (Diputacio de Valéncia), Slovenia (Vedma), Slovenia (Kritina), Turkey (Nef)
COVID deniers with flower necklaces, artists questioning scientific findings, journalists staging themselves as rebels against alleged gags: Libertarian authoritarians have found their way into political discourse. They do not long for a glorified past or the strong hand of the state but argue vehemently for individual freedoms such as being free from consideration for others, from social constraints – and free from social solidarity.

According to Carolin Amlinger and Oliver Nachtwey, libertarian authoritarianism is a consequence of the promise of freedom in late modernity: the individual is supposed to be mature, authentic and extremely self-reliant. At the same time, the individual experience is that of being increasingly powerless and without influence in the face of an increasingly complex world – which is perceived as a slight and manifests itself in resentment and a hostility towards democracy.

»We have to bear these images,« said Michael Kretschmer, Minister-President of Saxony, in November 2021 as a response to freezing refugees at the border between Poland and Belarus. His words brought forth something that is often forgotten: borders are not just obstacles for people who want to overcome them from the outside. They also change the societies that try to isolate themselves.

Volker M. Heins and Frank Wolff show the effect that walls and the defence against migration take within: the EU’s urging for secure external borders subverts the European promise of peace and constitutionality. Ultimately, secured borders endanger precisely those democratic values and structures they purport to protect.
Everything must change for everything to remain the same. The famous quote from the novel *The Leopard* is somewhat of an unofficial motto of moderate conservatism. Parties like the CDU came to terms with change and proved to be anchors of stability. Today, it is no longer certain that the centre-right will hold: Do its representatives continue to rely on balance and cautious modernisation? Or on a polarising culture war?

In the Federal Republic of Germany, the last year under Angela Merkel’s leadership were marked by internal disputes within the CDU/CSU. But not least of all the rise of Donald Trump has shown that the identity crisis of the centre-right is not an exclusively German phenomenon: In Italy, Berlusconi and radical right-wing parties like Giorgia Meloni’s Fratelli d’Italia filled the vacuum created by the implosion of the Democrazia Cristiana. In France, the Républicains between Macron and Le Pen are hardly relevant anymore. And in the wake of the Brexit chaos, the Tories are descending into frivolity and a denial of reality.

Thomas Biebricher focuses on this international dimension and describes the turbulent developments post-1990. His findings are explosive, since the future of liberal democracy will be decided by moderate conservatism.
Expressions like spoin-factuales and alternative facts are all the rage. They point to a battle about the reality of reality that seems to be fought in many societies.

However, sociologist Nils C. Kumkar looks at these phenomena from a different angle: based on case studies of the controversies surrounding Corona, climate change and the size of the audience at Donald Trump’s inauguration, he argues for understanding alternative facts not primarily as set pieces of a parallel world, but as discursive smoke-screens in the context of polarised debates.

According to Kumkar, they do not have a contributing effect on the destruction of reality that allows one to continue as before against one’s better judgement.

»Writing confidently, clearly and elegantly despite the complexity, Kumkar delves deep into the material and into a web of failed communication.« Caroline Fetscher, Der Tagesspiegel

»Social scientist Nils Kumkar has made a substantial contribution to an analytical pathology of political communication.« Patrick Bahners, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

»Kumkar uses vivid language and analogies from everyday life when juggling theoretical concepts. Which makes his book a stimulating read even for interested laymen.« Simon Schwarz, Der Tagesspiegel

»A brilliant analysis.« Jacobin
Reinhart Koselleck

Solidified Lava

On the benefits and disadvantages of memory for our lives

Commemorating those violently killed is a core part of political culture. With his groundbreaking work on the cult of the dead, Reinhart Koselleck has opened up a new field of research: European memorial landscapes in all their historical, aesthetic and political complexity. Whether they are sacrifices for the fatherland or victims of wars and tyranny, whether they were killed in civil wars and revolutions or by criminal acts of the state, political or religious terror - they all are killed dead. Without remembering them, according to the humanist Koselleck, it is not possible to go on living.

This volume gathers Koselleck's essays on the political cult of the dead, journalistic contributions to the debates on the Neue Wache and the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin, theoretical reflections on the concept of memory and unpublished autobiographical notes on his experiences of World War II and as a POW in Russian captivity. Distancing themselves from the popular culture of remembrance, these texts emphasise the inalienability of the difference between individual experience and collective constructions of memory. History should not create such collective identities, but critically analyse them. This, according to Koselleck, is the task of historical scholarship.

Koselleck's work on the cult of the dead for the first time in one volume

With numerous unpublished texts and autobiographical notes
Hans Blumenberg / Reinhart Koselleck Correspondence 1965–1994
A summit

For more than three decades, Hans Blumenberg and Reinhart Koselleck maintained a correspondence that was characterized by mutual affection but also by distance. It shows two academic protagonists discuss the founding of universities and interdisciplinarity in times of university reform – and two sensitive scholars trying to communicate central aspects of their research: conceptual history and metaphorology, the progress and feasibility of history, and the long debate on secularisation, in which their stances were initially opposed.

The philosopher and the historian met in 1963 at the inaugural colloquium of the research group »Poetics and Hermeneutics«, soon began working at the newly founded Ruhr University in Bochum for a few years and later became involved in the establishment of Bielefeld University. Then, however, they went their separate ways: while Blumenberg withdrew more and more from the public sphere so as to be able to write his major monographs undisturbed, Koselleck remained deeply involved in the academic world, and not just in his role of editor of Geschichtliche Grundbegriffe. This discrepancy is what creates the peculiar undertone of their discussion.

Stefan-Ludwig Hoffmann
The Tear in the Fabric of Time
Koselleck’s Unwritten History

History happens in time. But how? As progress in an upward trajectory? Or as a cycle in which the same things return in perpetuity? Historian Reinhart Koselleck has added a third to these two common ideas: It is not history that repeats itself but the conditions of potential histories. Only when we know what repeats itself do we realise the surprisingly new: the tear in the fabric of time.

Throughout his life, Koselleck outlined his theory of historical knowledge in ever new attempts. Based on unpublished material from his estate, Stefan-Ludwig Hoffmann reconstructs Koselleck’s intellectual biography and his unwritten work: his history.
Fritz Breithaupt
The Narrative Brain

A redefinition of humans as narrative beings
#1 Best Non-Fiction of the Month

Life is experienced more intensely when we are enmeshed in stories – I narrate, therefore I am. But it is not only our own lives that are heightened by narratives; through narratives we are also able to transform individual experience into shared experience. To achieve this, our brains and the ways in which we tell stories must be attuned to each other. But how exactly does this happen? Fritz Breithaupt’s brilliant book redefines humans as narrative beings who anchor themselves in the world through narratives.

Tapping into the essence of thinking in stories, Breithaupt draws on the latest scientific research including neuroscience and experiments where thousands of subjects play the telephone game, as well as on literary analysis of novels, Grimm’s fairy tales, and everyday office gossip. The reward of narrative thinking, it turns out, is emotional, and we live the way we live because we follow the specific reward patterns of narratives. Yet at the same time, things can always turn out differently in narratives; we allow ourselves to try out different versions of our narratives, and it is precisely this fact that allows us to try out different versions of our own lives.

A unique interdisciplinary exploration of emotional rewards of narrative thinking, Fritz Breithaupt is a distinguished literary scholar, cognitive scientist, and the Director of the Experimental Humanities Lab at the IU Bloomington. His witty, imaginative, genre-and media-crossing book changes everything we thought we knew about how stories satisfy their readers. « Lisa Zunshine, Bush-Holbrook Professor of English, University of Kentucky, and author of The Secret Life of Literature

Everyone is talking about narratives. Finally there is a book to explain what’s really behind this. « Wolfram Eilenberger, author of Time of the Magicians

A doctor in Hamburg sets out on a search for Turkish battle drugs; three travelers to East India concoct an unseen-of elixir in a pharmacy on Java; Leibniz, the philosopher, tries to find the earliest Chinese scripts; Spaniards in Potosí, Peru, are forced to witness devil worship in the mines; a Jesuit missionary encounters an eastern Hermeticism in Isfahan, a heterodox adventurer delivers a secret manuscript to the Moroccan ambassador and a collector of the Lord’s Prayer becomes exasperated with the vocabulary of the African Khosian peoples.

What distinguishes these pre-modern pioneers of 17th and 18th century globalization? How do they succeed or fail in referencing the foreign and distant objects they deal with? How did the ideas that reached them travel through space and time? In his new book, Martin Mulsow interprets the early modern period as a time of overreaches, an epoch in which sources and news from near and far overlap without anyone coming to terms with this duplication or sometimes even noticing it. It was an age of risky reference, which Mulsow brings to life before our eyes in a stirring and erudite way.

What is a global history of ideas?

The real challenge in global history is adding reference from another side to one’s own reference in order to prove interconnections.«

Martin Mulsow
Overreaches

Perspectives of a Global History of Ideas
With numerous illustrations
(Original title: Übereichweiten. Perspektiven einer globalen Ideengeschichte)
718 pages Clothbound Release: October 2022

An exceptionally stimulating book.« Jürgen Osterhammel, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Martin Mulsow, born in 1959, studied philosophy, German philology and History in Tübingen, Berlin and Munich. He is Professor of Knowledge Cultures of Modern Europe at the University of Erfurt and Director of the Gotha Research Centre. He was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and Professor of History at Rutgers University in the USA from 2005 until 2008. He has been awarded the Anna-Krüger-Preis and the Thüringer Forschungspreis for his work. Mulsow is a member of the Saxon and the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

Selected Backlist:

Overreaches
Perspectives of a Global History of Ideas
With numerous illustrations
(Original title: Übereichweiten. Perspektiven einer globalen Ideengeschichte)
718 pages Clothbound Release: October 2022

Anyone interested in a history of thought beyond that of the usual well-trodden paths will glean much from reading Mulsow’s vividly written attempt to shed light also on the plentiful alternative routes and byways. « Catherine Newmark, Deutschlandfunk on Prekäres Wissen

History of Ideas

Rights available

Martin Mulsow, born in 1959, studied philosophy, German philology and History in Tübingen, Berlin and Munich. He is Professor of Knowledge Cultures of Modern Europe at the University of Erfurt and Director of the Gotha Research Centre. He was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and Professor of History at Rutgers University in the USA from 2005 until 2008. He has been awarded the Anna-Krüger-Preis and the Thüringer Forschungspreis for his work. Mulsow is a member of the Saxon and the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

Selected Backlist:
Peter Sloterdijk
Prometheus’s Remorse

The stirring speech given by Peter Sloterdijk in Lucerne in October 2022

From time immemorial, man has had to organise his smetabolism with nature. For Marx, the most important factor in this process was labour. When Prometheus, according to the myth, brought fire to earth, another crucial input was added. Fire has been used to cook food and harden tools for hundreds of thousands of years. In this sense, it can be said that all history implies the history of the uses of fire.

But where trees could only be burnt once, the weights of the factors labour and fire shifted with the discovery of underground deposits of coal and oil. Modern humanity, according to Peter Sloterdijk, can be considered a collective of arsonists who set fires to the underground forests and moors. If Prometheus were to return to Earth today, he might regret his gift; after all, what looms is nothing less than Ekpyrosis, the demise of Prometheus’s Remorse

Prometheus’s Remorse

Peter Sloterdijk

From The Gift of Fire to Global Azte

(Original title: Die Reue des Prometheus. Von der Gabe des Feuers zur globalen Brandstiftung)

approx. 80 pages

Paperback

Release: March 2023

International Sales:

English world rights (Semiotexte), Spanish world rights (Siruela), Catalan rights (Arcadia), France (Payot), Italy (Marsilio), Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (CC Live)

Peter Sloterdijk was born in 1947 and is Professor emeritus of Aesthetics and Philosophy at the Institute of Design in Karlsruhe. The unmistakable characteristic of Peter Sloterdijk’s thought and writings is the way he embeds current issues in a long history. This way, he succeeds in redefining the current human condition, visualizes it from a hitherto unknown perspective, and finds evidence for unexpected or unsought connections. His book Kibib der zynischen Vernunft is one of the biggest-selling philosophical books of the 20th century.

Eva Illouz

The Emotional Life of Populism

#8 Influential Women in Sociology From the Last 10 Years

Academic Influence

Throughout the world, democracy is under assault by various populist movements and ideologies. And throughout the world, the same enigma: why is it that political figures or governments, who have no qualms about generating social inequalities, enjoy the support of those whom their ideas and policies affect and hurt the most?

To make sense of this enigma, the sociologist Eva Illouz argues that we must understand the crucial role that emotions play in our political life. Only emotions have the power to deny factual evidence and obscure one’s self-interest. Taking the question of the prime example, she shows that the authoritarianism and conservative nationalism that form the core of populist politics rest on four key emotions: authoritarianism is legitimated through fear, and conservative nationalism rests on disgust, resentment and a carefully cultivated love for one’s country. It is the combination of these four emotions and their relentless presence in the political arena that nourishes and underpins the rise and persistence of populism both in Israel and in many other countries around the world.

This highly original perspective on the rise of populism will be of interest to anyone who wishes to understand the key political developments of our time.

Eva Illouz

The Emotional Life of Populism

How Fear, Disgust, Resentment, and Love Undermine Democracy

(Translated German title: Undemokratische Emotionen. Das Beispiel Israel)

approx. 250 pages

Paperback

Release of the German edition by Suhrkamp: April 2023

International Sales:

English world rights (Polity), Spanish world rights (Katz), Arabic world rights (Page Seven), France (Premier Parallèle), Italy (Castelvecchi), Israel (Van Leer Institute)

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Peter Sloterdijk was born in 1947 and is Professor emeritus of Aesthetics and Philosophy at the Institute of Design in Karlsruhe. The unmistakable characteristic of Peter Sloterdijk’s thought and writings is the way he embeds current issues in a long history. This way, he succeeds in redefining the current human condition, visualizes it from a hitherto unknown perspective, and finds evidence for unexpected or unsought connections. His book Kibib der zynischen Vernunft is one of the biggest-selling philosophical books of the 20th century.

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Cancel Culture is an invitation to leap from a local trifle to a supposed matter of life and death – why are people the world over so ready to take it?

A spectre is haunting Europe, indeed the whole world – the spectre of Cancel Culture. According to various newspapers, particularly white men over forty are now practically forbidden from saying anything at all if they don’t want to risk their reputation or even their jobs. Is there any truth in this? Or is this more likely scaremongering that stylizes activists as a threat to the moral order so as to discredit their legitimate concerns?

Cancel culture is generally thought to have originated at US universities. Adrian Daub teaches literary studies at Stanford University. Daub shows how patterns of interpretation developed during the Reagan years were disseminated via campus novels and transferred to society at large. Journalists, essayists and conservative activists learned to pick out a few anecdotes and share them, creating a semi-fictional campus space they could populate with increasingly outlandish claims. But while those claims were largely aimed at a US audience, they found eager secondary audiences. They could reach the Twitter accounts of German and French audiences could be increasingly outlandish claims. But while those claims were largely aimed at a US audience, they found eager secondary audiences. They could reach the Twitter accounts of German and French audiences could be.

Using quantitative analyses, Daub traces stories took on a significantly different patterns of interpretation developed during the Reagan years were disseminated via campus novels and transferred to society at large. Journalists, essayists and conservative activists learned to pick out a few anecdotes and share them, creating a semi-fictional campus space they could populate with increasingly outlandish claims. But while those claims were largely aimed at a US audience, they found eager secondary audiences. They could reach the Twitter accounts of German and French audiences could be.

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After the fall of Kabul, Wolfgang Bauer returns one more time. He travels the Ring Road, visits places he has visited in the last 20 years – and investigates the question: Why has the West failed in Afghanistan? What does this failure have to do with billions in development aid? And where do things go from here? His reportage is a parable about hope and failure in the Hindu Kush.

The Afghan Ring Road. A road that exists in reality and is yet a mystery. The 3,200-kilometre circular highway connects the country’s most important cities. It promised unity and prosperity. It has been under construction for sixty years, but it is still not finished. Corruption and mismanagement have swallowed up huge sums of money. After the invasion of Western troops, the road became a bloody battlefield. Hardly any other German journalist knows Afghanistan as well as Wolfgang Bauer. The Zeit reporter was on the ground many times and has vividly described the fates of the people in award-winning reportages. He warned of a return of the Taliban early on. In August 2021, one of his closest colleagues was murdered.

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Barbara von Bechtolsheim
Hannah Arendt and Heinrich Blücher

Hannah Arendt, a highly acclaimed philosophical author, and Heinrich Blücher, a man with revolutionary ambitions, met in Paris in 1936 as political outcasts, she because of her Jewishness and he on the grounds of his previous involvement with socialism and communism. While Arendt had been raised in Königsberg in a Jewish family of high standards, in which political optimism and German literary culture were given, Blücher grew up in a working-class environment in Kreuzberg. They got married in 1940 and emigrated to the United States. Both Arendt and Blücher appreciated the political freedom they found in their new home country and became involved in America’s academia, determined to make a difference after the Holocaust. During the three decades of their marriage which ended with Blücher’s death in 1970, they contributed to their respective worlds - the highest ranks of academia and the liberated bohemian college life. Their political thinking was based on their own experiences as refugees and immigrants which they overcame in the most amazing ways: Arendt promoted the idea of individual freedom as a human right through her controversial writings and lectures, while Blücher supported young academics and taught them to become independent intellectuals in their academic style. Together they challenged cultural and intellectual structures in their academic milieus. This intellectual biography explores the shared life of two very different partners who inspired each other’s philosophical thinking and political and social involvement. Arendt’s central works would be inconceivable without Blücher’s influence and vice versa – Barbara von Bechtolsheim gives a deeper insight into their philosophical relationship by looking at Blücher’s letters and recently published essays, his previously unpublished lectures, which are only available as audio documents and transcripts, and interviews with former colleagues and students.

This work provides a better understanding of the energy and courage of scholars and artists in exile who enriched the cultural life in post-World War II New England. With their skills of self-reflection, relationship and friendship, social justice and social change, the creative couple Arendt-Blücher continues to inspire intellectuals on both sides of the Atlantic to this day.

Barbara von Bechtolsheim
Hannah Arendt and Heinrich Blücher
With photographs (Original title: Hannah Arendt und Heinrich Blücher)
approx. 180 pages
Clothbound
Release: May 2023

Rights available
Barbara von Bechtolsheim studied Literature, Philosophy and Psychology in Munich and Stanford. She teaches Literature and Cultural Studies at various universities and researches the creativity of couples. As a literary translator, she acts as intermediary between American and German culture in many different ways.

Selected Backlist:
Paare (2002)

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Gelassenheit (2014) International Sales: English world rights (Upper Westside Philosophers), Chinese complex rights (Emily Publishing Co.,), Russia (Directmedia), Portuguese rights (Penguin Random House/Objective), France (Payot, Gallimard), Netherlands (De Boijl Bij), Denmark (Informations Forlag), Danish audio books rights (Lindhardt & Ringhof), Sweden (Lind & Co.), Norway (Clydental Norski), Finland (Aiku & Co.), Korea (Cheok Se Sang), Japan (Mikaia Shobo), Poland (W.A.B.), Czech Republic (Euromedia), Serbia (Laguna), Latvia (Zvaigzne), Turkey (Bilansor), Ukraine (Kyhyl XXX), India (Malayalam), Saudi Arabia, the Middle East.

An inspiring, cheerful book full of profound insight
With numerous suggestions for your own life
By the author of the bestsellers Glück and Gelassenheit

Wilhelm Schmid
On the Swing Set
Achieving joie de vivre buoyantly in ten up- and downswings

Wilhelm Schmid, freelance philosopher, born in 1953, lives in Berlin and teaches Philosophy at the University of Erfurt. For many years, he taught as a visiting professor in Riga, Latvia, and in Tiflis, Georgia, and worked as a philosophical counsellor at a hospital near Zurich, Switzerland. He is a sought-after guest speaker and has been giving lectures in China and South Korea since 2010. He was awarded the Meekatzer Preis for Philosophy in 2012 and the Egner Prize in 2013. His works have been translated into 25 languages, his bestselling book Gelassenheit has sold over 650,000 copies.

Die kleine Kunst der Lebensfreude
Wilhelm Schmid
The Art of Enjoying Life
(Original title: Schaukeln. Die kleine Kunst der Lebensfreude)
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Schaukeln
Die kleine Kunst der Lebensfreude
Wilhelm Schmid

From the actual experience of swinging, Wilhelm Schmid draws a metaphor for life. Life is swinging: gaining momentum, feeling lightness, experiencing Rhythms of fancy, hoping for the support of others and learning to accept the sinking feeling on the downswing. The swing enables us to fly back and forth between the different sides of life, between everyday life and reflection, for example. And between taking pleasure in the beautiful, which invigorates us, and dealing with the less beautiful. Swinging is the solution to many problems in life and in love. Learning for life on the swing set does not have to be a solitary activity: people can take turns giving each other new drive. Altair joie de vivre in ten ups and downs – and take encouragement from this book.

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Joie de vivre is an art that can be learned. Talent is helpful, but practice is crucial. This also includes practising restraint. So that we can draw breath more easily for new upswings and to become fitter rather than fatter. A swing set helps with this. From the actual experience of swinging, Wilhelm Schmid draws a metaphor for life. Life is swinging: gaining momentum, feeling lightness, experiencing Rhythms of fancy, hoping for the support of others and learning to accept the sinking feeling on the downswing. The swing enables us to fly back and forth between the different sides of life, between everyday life and reflection, for example. And between taking pleasure in the beautiful, which invigorates us, and dealing with the less beautiful. Swinging is the solution to many problems in life and in love. Learning for life on the swing set does not have to be a solitary activity: people can take turns giving each other new drive. Altair joie de vivre in ten ups and downs – and take encouragement from this book.

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Nora Mercurio  
**Rights Director**  
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mercurio@suhrkamp.de

Elena Cascio  
Brazil, Bulgaria, Chinese complex, Hungary, Iran, Languages of Africa, Languages of India, Malta, Moldova, Romania, Turkey  
Phone +49 30 740744 235  
cascio@suhrkamp.de

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