

NON FICTION

Stefan Klein

New Beginnings

- Over 1 million books sold by Stefan Klein
- There's nothing we desire and fear more than transforming our own lives: Stefan Klein explains how this transformation becomes attainable.

Stefan Klein's work has been translated into Arabic (Atlas), Chinese (Citic), Dutch (Amsterdam University Press), English (The Experiment, Octopus), French (Dunod), Italian (Bollati), Korean (ACROSS, EWHA), Russian (Bombora/Eksmo), Spanish (Planeta), Turkish (Say Dagitim).



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English sample translation available

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© Andreas Labes

Stefan Klein is Germany's most successful science author. After studying physics and analytical philosophy in Munich, Grenoble and Freiburg, he turned to writing because he 'wanted to inspire people for a reality that is more exciting than any crime thriller'. His book *The Science of Happiness* (2002) was on all German bestseller lists for over a year and gained the author international recognition. This was followed by the much praised *Time*, *Leonardo's Legacy* and *We All Are Stardust*, Science Book of the Year 2011. His more recent works include *Dreams: A Journey into Our Inner Reality*, which was awarded the German Reading Prize 2016, *How to Love the Universe* and *How We Change the World: A Short History of the Human Mind*.

Stefan Klein's work has been translated into numerous languages.

The climate crisis, artificial intelligence, and international conflicts pose significant challenges that we can only overcome by embracing change. We must transform both ourselves and our world to succeed. Why, then, do we cling to old habits and false certainties, instead of addressing these changes now?

In a profound and captivating manner, Stefan Klein explores why we hesitate to embrace the new and presents a path to transform our lives and society. Drawing on research findings, he reveals the principles that underpin successful transformations. Understanding the seven illusions, the forces of inertia, and tipping points can empower us to break habits and adapt effectively to the future.

This is a guide to a culture that does not fear the new, but celebrates it.

"Stefan Klein has the wonderful gift of hovering between science and poetry throughout entire books, without betraying one to the other."

Deutschlandradio Kultur

Liao Yiwu

18 Prisoners: Stories of Escape from China, the World's Largest Prison

Award-winning author: Geschwister-Scholl-Preis 2011 and Peace Prize of the German Book Trade 2012

"Liao Yiwu is perhaps the most versatile chronicler of contemporary China." Der Tagesspiegel

English sample translation available



April 2025 · 528 pages

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Liao Yiwu, born in Sichuan province in 1958, grew up in great poverty. In 1989, he wrote the poem "Massacre", for which he was imprisoned for four years. In 2007, Liao Yiwu was awarded the Freedom to Write Prize from the Independent Chinese PEN Centre, the awarding of which was prevented at the last minute. Since then, he has published numerous books that have been translated into many languages, including *The Corpse Walker. Real Life Stories*, *China From the Bottom Up* (2009), *For a Song and a Hundred Songs: A Poet's Journey Through a Chinese Prison* (2011), *The Bullet and the Opium* (2012), *God is Red* (2014), *Mr Wang, the Man Who Stood in Front of the Tanks* (2019), *Wuhan* (2022). He lives in Berlin.

Prisons serve as mirrors reflecting societal truths by unveiling its darker counterpart. The stories shared by those incarcerated offer distinct, countervailing narratives. Liao Yiwu, in his incarceration, gathered these life stories, piecing together an alternative narrative of China's history. Echoing the endeavors of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, he uncovers the grim realities within what he terms "the world's largest prison." "18 Prisoners" delves into the lives of not just 18 individuals, often incarcerated for their political beliefs, but also narrates 18 tales of escape. Each instance of escape—whether across towering mountains or vast seas—underscores that the human yearning for freedom, inventive spirit, and the indomitable drive to survive transcend political subjugation.

"The power of this author is already present in his tone, who does not shy away from any pain or horror and at the same time develops a sense for situational comedy and a strikingly delicate sensibility." Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung on "Wuhan"

Alena Buyx

Life and Death

- Life-sustaining measures, prenatal diagnostics, euthanasia – a guide through the existential questions that concern us all
- Expertise and practical experience made understandable for a broad audience
- Medical ethics for everyone

English sample translation available



March 2025 · 304 pages



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The former chair of the German Ethics Council and medical ethicist on the big questions of life

Prof. Dr. Alena Buyx, born in 1977, is the former chair of the German Ethics Council. She became widely known to the general public for her committed educational work during the COVID-19 pandemic. She has been honored multiple times for her efforts to maintain societal cohesion during the crisis.

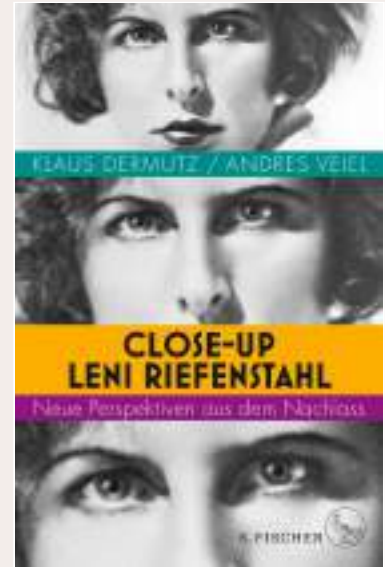
Alena Buyx studied medicine, philosophy, sociology, and health sciences. As a professor of medical ethics, she is the Director of the Institute for History and Ethics of Medicine at the Technical University of Munich. Since 2024, she has been a member of the German Federal Government's Expert Council on "Health and Resilience" and a curator of the Bertelsmann Foundation.

Navigating through health dilemmas, illness, or the intricate matters of life and death, we often find ourselves at the mercy of daunting decisions. Alena Buyx, a revered medical ethicist and former leader of the German Ethics Council, delves into the vast array of ethical conundrums that inevitably touch our lives. She equips us with the tools to craft our individual judgments and stances, leading us toward informed and thoughtful decisions. These challenges traverse our entire lives, encompassing issues like artificial insemination, prenatal diagnostics, and abortion, extending to euthanasia, assisted suicide, and the nuances of palliative care. Furthermore, the advent of novel research outcomes, such as Artificial Intelligence and robotics, introduces additional layers of consideration. Through a series of illustrative anecdotes, Buyx steers us with clarity and empathy through these significant queries, making them accessible and relatable.

Klaus Dermutz, Andres Veiel

Close-up Leni Riefenstahl. New Perspectives from the Estate

- New insights into the controversial film director
- Andres Veiel is planning a major documentary film at the same time
- Extensive visual material: previously unknown photos and documents
- Unboxing 700 crates of material: Leni Riefenstahl's estate shows a new picture



October 2025 · 544 pages

Andres Veiel, born in 1959, is one of the most renowned German directors. His films such as "Black Box BRD", "Der Kick" and "Ökozid" have been honoured with more than 50 awards.

Klaus Dermutz, born 1960, doctorate in theology, editor and author of "Edition Burgtheater" with Klaus Bachler from 2001-2009, 2010 volume of conversations with the painter Anselm Kiefer, numerous books and publications on theatre, art and literature.

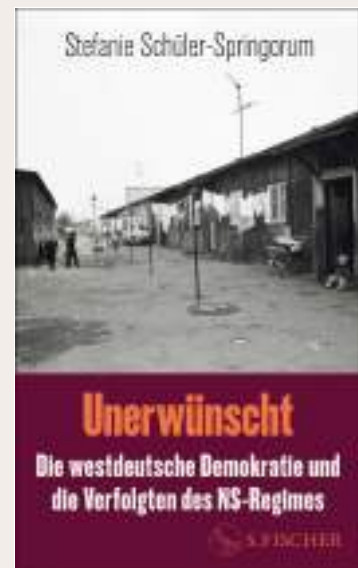
While working on Andres Veiel's film about Riefenstahl, the plan arose to turn the rich material into a book. This book is the document of their collaboration.

Leni Riefenstahl's estate comprises 700 boxes. Boxes of newspaper cuttings, film reels, tapes, cassettes, letters and notes. Author Klaus Dermutz and film director Andres Veiel have analysed them for the first time and gained new perspectives for understanding one of the most controversial artists. Her ambition, her unscrupulousness, her power of manipulation and her lies are uncovered in new findings and reflected upon aesthetically, ethically and politically. What is so fascinating about Riefenstahl? An exciting exploration and an original form: Analyses by Klaus Dermutz are supplemented by interviews with Andres Veiel, in which his personal view of the director and his assessment of her as a filmmaker are discussed.

Stefanie Schüler-Springorum

Unwanted: West German Democracy and the Persecuted Victims of the Nazi Regime

The first account of West German post-war society from the perspective of those persecuted under National Socialism.



April 2025 · 256 pages



© Monika Keller

Stefanie Schüler-Springorum is a historian and has been Director of the Centre for Research on Antisemitism at the TU Berlin since 2011 and Co-Director of the Selma Stern Centre for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg since 2012. She previously worked at the Topography of Terror Foundation and headed the Institute for the History of German Jews in Hamburg from 2001 to 2011. Her main topics are Jewish, German and Spanish history in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Persecuted under National Socialism, marginalized and unwelcome after 1945

For the first time, historian Stefanie Schüler-Springorum tells the story of how Jewish survivors, Sinti and Roma, former forced labourers and homosexuals experienced post-war West Germany. Racism and anti-Semitism, resentment and discrimination did not end after 1945. Jewish survivors were met with hostility in both the public and private spheres, former forced labourers were grudgingly tolerated, Sinti and Roma continued to be harassed by the police, and homosexuals were persecuted under the Nazi version of Paragraph 175 of the German Penal Code. Their suffering was only recognised and compensated for, if at all, under pressure from the Allies. The narrative of a 'flourishing democracy' in West Germany does not apply to everyone – this book presents a different, hitherto neglected history that continues to have an impact today. An important contribution to the debates we are currently having about democracy, our open society and the culture of remembrance.

Mimi Lawrence

Hot & Happy. Menopause Makeover: Fit, Cool and Full of Energy

One of the most popular experts on fitness and health during menopause



May 2025 · 256 pages



© Laurentius Emmelmann

Born in 1979, Mimi Lawrence is considered a renowned expert in the field of fitness and health specifically for menopause and is a certified yoga instructor. Her podcast "Fitness and Health with Mimi" enjoys great popularity and regularly ranks among the top 5 fitness podcasts in Germany, often even taking the top spot in the German fitness charts.

Through her social media presence and her online live coachings and personal training offers, she has already helped many women to positively master the challenges of menopause. She also writes for Women's Health and Men's Health.

"Menopause is not the finale, but rather the awakening to new freedom and self-determination." - Mimi Lawrence

Instead of viewing menopause as a bothersome evil, Mimi Lawrence encourages her readers to take a positive view of this phase of life. She combines the latest scientific findings with practical tips to master physical symptoms such as hot flashes, insomnia, and weight gain. Lawrence offers accessible approaches to nutrition, mental health, and physical fitness, tailored to the needs of working women and mothers. Rather than relying on often expensive, complicated, or contradictory fitness concepts, she focuses on establishing sustainable and healthy habits, showing how self-care and positive thinking contribute to experiencing menopause not just with endurance, but with joy and serenity.

Thorsten Havener

The Secret of Your Inner Strength. 12 Ways to Live a Harmonious Life in Stormy Times

- Leading expert for mental strategies and body language
- Multiple SPIEGEL No. 1 best-selling author
- Over 1 million books sold worldwide

Thorsten Havener is translated into 16 languages



March 2025 · 240 pages



© Helmut Henkenseifen

Thorsten Havener (born 1972) combines the mysteries of body language, behavioral psychology, and intuition into a unique mix of knowledge and entertainment. In his stage shows and lectures, he presents techniques and secrets from the field of communication and conveys concepts for personal development. As a best-selling author, he has reached a total circulation of over a million books.

"Thorsten Havener is a sensation" - Süddeutsche Zeitung

Thorsten Havener is THE expert on body language, mental strategies, and nonverbal communication. His entertaining blend of behavioral psychology and showmanship fills the largest halls in Germany. His books have reached a million audience and have been translated into 16 languages. In his latest book, Havener combines his knowledge from over 30 years, based on the idea that it's not external circumstances, but our inner attitude and our character, that influence our happiness. The book covers twelve key topics, from concentration to mindfulness, offering deep insights into developing mental strength and personal freedom. A spectacular book that not only provides many "aha moments" but also has the power to sustainably change the way we think, feel, and act.

Robert Pfaller

The Laughter of the Undeceived: The Philosophical Dignity of Comedy



April 2025 · 208 pages



© Peter Rigaud

Robert Pfaller, born in 1962, studied philosophy in Vienna and Berlin and, after guest professorships in Chicago, Berlin, Zurich and Strasbourg, is now a professor of philosophy at the University of Art and Design Linz. From 2009 to 2014, he was a professor of philosophy at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. His books published by Fischer include "Das schmutzige Heilige und die reine Vernunft. Symptome der Gegenwartskultur" (2008), the highly acclaimed study "Wofür es sich zu leben lohnt. Elemente materialistischer Philosophie" (2011), "Zweite Welten. Und andere Lebenselixire" (2012) as well as "Kurze Sätze über gutes Leben" (2015). After "Erwachsenensprache. Über ihr Verschwinden aus Politik und Kultur" (2017), "Die blitzenden Waffen. Über die Macht der Form" was published in 2020. He was awarded the Paul Watzlawick Ring of Honour in 2020.

Only humans could invent comedy

Laughter, humour, comedy: these seem to be uniquely human traits. So unique, in fact, that we have turned them into an art form – comedy. But what makes us laugh and why? What role do the political, the social, the decent and the indecent play in this? What do Freud and Lacan have to say about it? In the texts collected here, Robert Pfaller explores the dignity of comedy and questions the laughter of the undeceived. With the help of films by directors such as Ernst Lubitsch and series like Sex and the City, he examines the connection between comedy and the uncanny, materialism, sexuality and polygamy, explains what the id might have to do with it and where enjoyment can be found. A theory of comedy that is as surprising as it is entertaining.

Ralf Konersmann

Outside. An Essay

Winner of the Tractatus Essay Prize by the Philosophicum Lech 2017

"I may not be better than other people, but at least I am different."
– Jean-Jacques Rousseau



April 2025 · 144 pages

© Paula Markert



Ralf Konersmann, born in 1955, is a professor emeritus of philosophy and a publicist. He serves on the scientific advisory boards of several philosophical journals and was a founding member of the Hamburg Academy of Sciences and co-editor of the "Historical Dictionary of Philosophy". His most recent publications by S. Fischer Verlag include "World without Measure" (2021) and the "Dictionary of Unrest" (2017), for which he was awarded the Tractatus Essay Prize by the Philosophicum Lech, along with the great success "The Restlessness of the World" (2015).

A philosophical essay on the function, role, and history of the outsider from antiquity to the contrarians of today.

Originally, the term comes from the world of sports: "Outsiders" are those who enter the race without a chance of winning. In his philosophical essay, Ralf Konersmann explores this particular social phenomenon. From antiquity to the contrarians of today, he examines different types of outsiders: how they launch certain, professionally perpetuated patterns and integrate them into the sense of normality – as a result of which the outsider stands out as an exposed figure of modernity. From Diogenes to Cusanus, from Rousseau to David Bowie, it is on the basis of outsiders that decisions are made about what is moral, political, educational or in good taste.

"Konersmann can sensationally establish unforeseen connections and reveal new interpretations of familiar narratives." - Spiegel online about "The Restlessness of the World"

Klaus Zeyringer, Ursula Prutsch

Breaking News: Current Affairs in the Media from 1648 to 2001

A historical look at the press of yesteryear – and its significance for today's press

Klaus Zeyringer 'is a gifted storyteller; his historical non-fiction works are more like novels'. NZZ am Sonntag



April 2025 · 432 pages

Ursula Prutsch, born in Graz in 1965. Professor at the Amerika-Institut of the LMU Munich. Author of a biography of Eva Perón (2015), a monograph on populism in the USA and Latin America (2019). Recently published: "Wer war Fritz Mandl? Waffen, Nazis und Geheimdienste" and "Leopoldine von Habsburg. Kaiserin von Brasilien", both published by Molden-Verlag in 2022.

Klaus Zeyringer, born in Graz in 1953, where he qualified as a professor, was a professor of German at a French university. He now works as a literary critic for the Standard and is a jury member for the ORF Best List. He is a television presenter in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. S. Fischer Verlag has published: "Fußball. Eine Kulturgeschichte" (2014) as well as "Olympische Spiele. Eine Kulturgeschichte. Band 1: Sommer" (2016) and "Olympische Spiele. Eine Kulturgeschichte. Band 2: Winter" (2018).

What was worth a headline back then – from today's perspective

Newspaper headlines determine what is important – from a contemporary perspective. A historical view, however, shows a very different picture. Klaus Zeyringer brilliantly recounts how more than fifty historical events were perceived in the press at the time, and historian Ursula Prutsch clarifies their significance and impact from today's scholarly perspective: how propaganda, for example, legitimised the first global war; how a revolution boosted the market for devotional objects; which fatal role newspapers played in economic crises; how colonialism demonised uprisings; how headlines in 2001 called for retaliation...

A gripping journey through time into the relevance of the past, full of surprising stories and food for thought about today's headlines.

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