

Suhrkamp Insel

Rights List
London 2025
Nonfiction

Yannic Han Biao Federer

I See You Everywhere, Forever



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

In precise and piercing language, Yannic Biao Federer tells of the loss of his son, of saying goodbye and care work, of parenthood and love. *I See You Everywhere, Forever* is a document of grief and mourning – and of the healing power of storytelling.

Charlotte and Yannic are expecting a child. Between prenatal screenings, wrapping up projects, and entering their income into parental allowance calculators, they are getting ready to start a new life as a family. Then comes catastrophe. Their son, Gustav Tian Ming, dies. While a moment ago they were googling changing tables and ordering nursing pillows, suddenly they find themselves picking out a baby coffin and deciding what kind of plot to buy at the cemetery. Everything feels wrong. Like some cruel joke. But it's all really happening. Devastated relatives and friends travel to be with them or pay their respects from afar, taking sacrifices to the temple. And while the couple are battling against a bureaucracy that seems to have no idea how to deal with stillborn babies, Yannic begins to write down what is happening around him. It's an attempt to make sense of what they are going through, to find a language for the grief and the pain, but also for the warmth and love that is concealed within them.



© Heike Steinweg

185 pages • April 2025
(Original title: Für immer seh ich dich wieder)

»Bright light spills through the window, warming up the room, and I take off my sweater, walk around in a T-shirt. I know it's just weather, but I can't help but believe it's my son.

Look, I say, Gusti is sending us some morning sunshine.
Yeah, says Charlotte, looking up, smiling. Yeah, he's consoling us.
Exactly, I say, he's keeping an eye on us.«

»*The most beautiful and tragic and life-affirming text that I've read in a long time. How wonderful that Gustav has parents who are telling us his story.*« Daniela Dröscher

»*Probably the biggest strength of this impressive book is that it shows how, in the face of the ineffable, we retain the ability to feel and to find words for these feelings. An important, heartbreaking book.*« Daniel Schreiber

Yannic Han Biao Federer lives and works in Cologne. He writes novels, stories, essays, and reviews, which have been published by outlets such as *Deutschlandfunk*, *WDR*, und *SWR*. He is a member of PEN Berlin and the Junges Kolleg at the Nordrhein-Westfälischen Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Künste. He has received numerous prizes and grants for this work, including the Bayern 2-Wortspiele-Literaturpreis and the Förderpreis des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen in 2022.

Heike Geißler

Despair



An essay on resisting political despair

A young girl stands in front of her swimming teacher and begs to finally be put in the advanced group. Yet she can hardly swim at all without help. Her teacher is merciless, the girl descends into despair.

Thirty years later, Heike Geißler is grown up but still despairing – but she's determined to face up to this feeling. What is wrong – with gender roles, heroism, militarisation? What's missing? What are all the different sources of inhumanity? In speech, in political action. In state parliaments, and not just in East Germany. She fights against right-wing extremism, hostile structures and intolerable circumstances. And tries a new approach, a different perspective. So as to draw consolation and courage from it all.

»This book is at once a mirror and a source of consolation. I'll carry it around in the pocket of my jacket as a kind of emergency package. Because whenever I'm overcome by despair, nothing helps more than finding words for this state in my pocket.« Peggy Mädler



»I've been waiting for this book for some time, and now that it's finally here I just want to go around telling everyone: just read it, you'll see why. Let the despair take you, listen to me.« Sandra Hüller

Heike Geißler, born in Riesa in 1977, is an author, translator, and co-editor of the series *Lücken kann man lesen*. Most recently, she published the reportage novel *Seasonal Associate* (English edition published by Semiotext(e) in 2018). Heike Geißler has been awarded numerous fellowships and prizes. She currently lives in Leipzig.

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An Essay
221 pages • February 2025
(Original title: *Verzweiflungen*)

The Week / Die Woche (2022) • Netherlands (Het Balanseer)

Alexander Kluge • Anselm Kiefer

»Wisdom is the art of remaining faithful under shifting circumstances«

Alexander Kluge
Anselm Kiefer»Klugheit ist die Kunst,
unter verschiedenen
Umständen getreu
zu bleiben«

Bibliothek Suhrkamp



© Markus Kirchgessner

240 pages • October 2024
(Original title: »Klugheit ist die
Kunst, unter verschiedenen
Umständen getreu zu bleiben«)

Anselm Kiefer and Alexander Kluge have been friends for many years – and they share an aesthetic and analytical interest in the deeply human possibility of reliability. But what is reliability? And how does it relate to the four currencies – power, love, truth, and money – that govern our lifetimes? But what is time, actually? And how are our present, past and future intertwined?

»**To remain faithful under shifting circumstances**« – according to Hölderlin, this can be considered a guiding principle of our actions. For Kluge and Kiefer, however, this phrase also harbours an artistic mission, namely that of keeping all that has become existentially and historically calcified fluid, to not allow the dead to remain dead, and to welcome the unborn into our midst.

Alexander Kluge and Anselm Kiefer make pictures and texts oscillate sympathetically – they probe deep into the strata of history and offer diagnoses of the most contemporary social phenomena. In doing so, they sharpen our poetic perception of what keeps our polyform times together.

»... Kluge and Kiefer give thought a good old shake. Which is productive, because they demonstrate what it means to ›not go mad‹ in complex and confusing situations (and is there any other kind?), and that though the mind ›knows precision‹, it also ›knows how to find its bearing in the approximate‹.« Jörg Magenau, taz.de

Alexander Kluge, born in 1932, is the director of numerous films and countless TV broadcasts as well as an author, but: »My books are my most important work.« He has received numerous awards for his oeuvre.

Anselm Kiefer, born in 1945, studied law, Romance studies and art. He was a student of Horst Antes and Joseph Beuys.

World-Changing Rage / Weltverändernder Zorn (2017) • English world rights (Seagull)

Dispatches from Moments of Calm / Nachricht von ruhigen Momenten (2013) • English world rights (Seagull); Chinese simplex rights (Beijing Imaginist Time Culture)

December / Dezember (2010) • English world rights (Seagull); Chinese simplex rights (Beijing Imaginist Time Culture); France (Diaphanes); Italy (La Grande Illusion); Turkey (Everest)

Anselm Kiefer in Conversation with Klaus Dermutz / Die Kunst geht knapp nicht unter (2010) • English world rights (Seagull); Chinese simplex rights (The Commercial Press)

Katja Petrowskaja

As if It Were Over



A war chronicle in columns - the follow-up to her prose minatures *The Photo Looked Back at Me*

»A book I never wanted to write.«

How does war change pictures? How does it change how we see? How does it change the people who live through it or those who observe it? With her photo columns – published in the newspaper between February 2022 and autumn 2024 – Katja Petrowskaja has unintentionally written a chronicle of the war in Ukraine.

It begins on the eve of the invasion, with a landscape in Georgia, somewhere along the great Military Road. Animals. The air is heavy with the threat of war. On the next page, the cry; My Kyiv! The inconceivable reality of the war, as monstrosity intrudes on the life of the writer.

The war destabilises our gaze. We see pictures of smiling people and instinctively wonder if they are still alive. A man stands in a hole in the middle of the street, »as if he were trying on a possible death, as if death were his new clothes«. A pale, laughing girl, clinging to an older woman. From the story behind this picture, we are surprised by the sudden realisation that the improbable is possible after all – that even miracles are possible in these times.

»Reading [*The Photograph Looked Back on Me*] transforms the way we remember, as if these dialogues between words and photographs restored a perspective we had forgotten.« Michele Neri, *Il Foglio* (Italy)

»What Petrowskaja is really doing is meditating upon what it means to see. What it means to live with and in history. To be a viewer, to be sure, but also a participant. The images stick with you.« Bodil Skovgaard Nielsen, *Information* (Denmark) on *The Photograph Looked Back on Me*

»With [*On The Photograph Looked Back on Me*], [*Petrowskaja*] enters the realm of great photographic literature, represented by authors like Walter Benjamin, Roland Barthes, Susan Sontag and W.G. Sebald. In the future, we will have to consider the author of this book a member of this circle as well.« Anton Holzer, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* (Switzerland)

Katja Petrowskaja was born in Kyiv in 1970. She studied at the University of Tartu, Estonia, and was also awarded research fellowships at Columbia University in New York, and Stanford in California. Katja Petrowskaja received her PhD in Moscow. Since 1999, she has lived and worked in Berlin. Her literary debut *Vielleicht Esther* was translated into more than 20 languages and received numerous awards.



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Texts From the War
217 pages • February 2025
(Original title: *Als wäre es vorbei*)

Hannes Bajohr

Post-Artificial Literature



How large language models are changing the way we read – and write

With programs such as ChatGPT, artificial intelligence has reached a level at which it is now scarcely possible to distinguish a text written by a computer from one written by a human being. For example, can you be certain that the text you are reading right now was not written by an algorithm?

This represents a real turning point in the way we read the written word. If we are constantly susceptible to the suspicion that a text has been generated using AI, the distinction between natural and artificial ceases to make sense – ushering in a post-artificial era. Hannes Bajohr discusses how this shift is affecting newspaper articles and academic publications, and how it is changing the way we read and write literary texts.

»Synaesthetic adventures that make you want to try Bajohr's techniques on other objects.« Hans Hütt, taz. die tageszeitung on Blanks

»Fascinating experiments on the digital possibilities of creating literature.« Jonas Engelmann, neues deutschland on Blanks



Hannes Bajohr, born in Berlin in 1984, studied Philosophy, German Literature und History in Berlin and New York and earned his PhD with a thesis on Hans Blumenberg's philosophy of language. Apart from his academic work, he has translated Kenneth Goldsmith and Judith Shklar, among others, from the English and is the author of prose, essays and digital poetry.

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Reading in the Age of Artificial
Intelligence
160 pages • May 2024
(Original title: Postartifizielle
Literatur)

Blanks / Halbzeug (2018) • English world rights (Counterpath Press)

Felix Bohr

Before the Downfall



The first focussed study on Hitler's years in the »Wolf's Lair«, one of the central sites of the Second World War

Not far from the East Prussian town of Rastenburg – Kętrzyn in today's Poland – one of the central locations of the Second World War was hidden deep among the forest: the »Wolf's Lair«. After launching his invasion of the Soviet Union, this was where Adolf Hitler spent the vast majority of his time. It was here that the systematic murder of European Jewry was decided upon. It was also the site of Claus von Stauffenberg's failed assassination attempt on 20 July 1944, which the dictator survived with just minor injuries. But while many people are familiar with the name, not so many have a clear idea of the compound itself, and of the events that occurred there over almost three and a half years.

Drawing on eye-witness accounts and previously unpublished documents, in *Before the Downfall*, Felix Bohr reconstructs what everyday life was like in the »Wolf's Lair«. And he uses these depictions to pose a number of key questions, such as: What can we learn about Hitler's personality from the first-hand accounts of officers, cooks, and servants? And how did the increasingly chaotic environment and the paranoid atmosphere in this isolated complex influence the decisions that were made there? Bohr's dense descriptions inform a precise analysis of the upper echelons of the Nazi regime, which between strolls through the forest and regular teatimes, plotted Germany's gruesome crimes against humanity.

»Bohr has managed to write a glittering book about how right-wing extremists have managed to at once use politics for their own ends and claim authority over the interpretation of history. In light of current attempts to downplay the historical importance of the Nazi era [by right-wing politicians in Germany], his book is more current than we might like to think.« Klaus Hillenbrand, taz. die tageszeitung on The War Criminals' Lobby

»Bohr's important analysis, which impresses with its well-researched wealth of facts, leaves the reader reeling at the extent of the tentacles of the fascist kraken.« Knud von Harbou, Süddeutsche Zeitung on The War Criminals' Lobby

Felix Bohr, born in 1982, is a historian and journalist. His first book, *Die Kriegsverbrecherlobby*, was published by Suhrkamp in 2018.



© Max Zerrahn

Hitler's Years in the »Wolf's Lair«
With numerous photographs
300 pages • April 2025
(Original title: Vor dem Untergang)

The War Criminals' Lobby / Die Kriegsverbrecherlobby (2018) •

Emanuel Deutschmann

The Society of Exponentiality



A book about how to flatten the curve(s)

At first glance, progress in artificial intelligence, waves of infection, and the climate crisis may seem to have little to do with each other, but they are often interrelated. And they follow a similar, exponential pattern: one variable – computing power, people infected with COVID19, or CO2 molecules in the atmosphere – increases by a constant factor over a set unit of time. At first, these developments can seem harmless, but then the curve suddenly starts to move almost vertically, with potentially uncontrollable consequences.

Emanuel Deutschmann has analysed a huge amount of data for this highly topical book. He demonstrates that developments have reached this rapid dynamic in an astonishing range of areas. We live in a society of exponentiality, which is why crises and social conflicts are becoming more frequent. We really ought to be flattening the curve and stabilising growth at sustainable levels. But while the stabilisation camp is campaigning for appropriate measures, the expansionists are pushing for more speed, more cars, more profit. And the outcome of this tussle could decide the future of humanity.



Emanuel Deutschmann was born in 1986 and is a junior professor in sociological theory at Europa-Universität Flensburg. He was awarded the OLB Foundation Research Prize in 2019 for his dissertation *Mapping the Transnational World*. In 2023, he received the Hans L. Zetterberg Prize from Uppsala University.

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From the End of Growth to
Stabilising the World
500 pages · May 2025
(Original title: Die
Exponentialgesellschaft)

Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht

Lives of the Voice



© The University of Sheffield

An Essay on Closeness
268 pages • May 2025
(Original title: *Leben der Stimme*)

What does the voice mean for our lives?

When it comes to understanding the ontology of individual existence—that is, the everyday behaviors that we all perform and hardly ever think about—the voice has a particularly complicated status. Together with writing, voice is the medium expressing ideas that, broadly speaking, we have previously formed in our minds. At the same time, voices trigger vague images and associations that do not have determinate forms. Writing in both a personal and philosophical register, Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht explores the complexity of the voice as an understudied philosophical, social, and existential phenomenon. He starts out with a focus on its core intellectual problem as "the knot of the voice" —referring to the inseparable proximity between meanings, images, and the physical perceptions on which they depend. In conversation with Nietzsche, Husserl, Heidegger, Derrida, Lyotard, Luhmann, and above all Roland Barthes, Gumbrecht addresses topics that range from the social functions of the voice to its status in different historical contexts, and to the ways in which the perception of voices animates imagination. Throughout, incisive analyses of moments such as Julius Caesar's purportedly high-pitched voice, the surprisingly fragile authority of God's voice in the Torah and in the Gospel, and Gumbrecht's own personal attachment to the voices of popular singers such as Edith Piaf, Elvis Presley, and Adele, create a portrait of the voice that is both philosophically challenging and entertaining to read.

»A highly personal, even truly intimate book. Longtime fans and admirers of Gumbrecht's work will appreciate the personal nature of his approach in this book, and new readers will discover the voice of an elder statesman in academia.« Niklaus Largier, University of California, Berkeley

»This inspiring book shows how voice creates a common space, a mood, an atmosphere. It defines our place in the world, makes history possible, expresses the power of imagination, and opens a way to transcendence.« Thomas Pavel, The University of Chicago

Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht was born in 1948. He has been teaching at Stanford University since 1989, where he is the Albert Guérard Professor in Literature. In addition to numerous visiting professorships, he has received eight honorary doctorates.

Rights sold to: English world rights (Stanford UP); Russia (NLO); Brazilian Portuguese rights (UNESP)

»Prose of the World« / »Prosa der Welt« (2020) • English world rights (Stanford UP); Spanish world rights (Universidad Iberoamericana); Russia (NLO); Brazilian Portuguese rights (UNESP)

After 1945 / Nach 1945 (2012) • English world rights (Stanford UP); Spanish world rights (Universidad Iberoamericana); Russia (NLO); Brazilian Portuguese rights (UNESP); Poland (Krytyka Polityczna)

Hans Joas

Universalism



A global history of universalism

Considering the well-being of all people when making moral and political decisions – for many people today, this is at least seen as an ideal. But such a humanist ethics was not always a given, and is still not universally valued. So when and where did it emerge – and why? Is it a peculiarity of the Judeo-Christian or Western Enlightenment tradition? And how is its emergence linked to the history of imperialist world domination? In this fascinating book, Hans Joas looks into this humanist ethics from a global perspective.

Starting in the so-called »Axial Age«, he traces the emergence of these values in Greek antiquity, in Judaism and Christianity, and in India and China, and examines them within the context of imperialist pursuits, following their developments all the way through to the histories of colonialism, fascism, and communism. In light of this, Joas asks if it is possible to have universalism without imperialism? And what is Islam's relationship to the nascent humanist ethics of the Axial Age? Joas's answers to these fundamental questions form a magnum opus that crowns his highly acclaimed work on the history of religion and political power.



Hans Joas was born in 1948 and is the Ernst Troeltsch Honorary Professor at the Faculty of Theology at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and teaches as a member of the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. He has received multiple accolades for his work, including the Hans Kilian Prize, the Max Planck Research Award, the Prix Ricœur, and most recently, the Prize of the German Society of Sociology in recognition of his life's work as a scholar.

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World Domination and Humanist
Ethics
992 pages · May 2025
(Original title: Universalismus)

Under the Spell of Freedom / Im Bannkreis der Freiheit (2020) • English world rights (Oxford UP); Spanish world rights (Loyola);

The Power of the Sacred / Die Macht des Heiligen (2017) • English world rights (Oxford UP); Spanish world rights (Herder); France (Seuil); Netherlands (Lemniscaat); Hungary (Gondolat);

The Sacredness of the Person / Die Sakralität der Person (2011) • English world rights (Georgetown UP); Spanish world rights (Sal Terrae); Chinese simplex rights (Shanghai People's Publishing House); France (Labor et Fides); Italy (Franco Angeli); Croatia (Breza); Previously published in the respective language / territory; rights available again: Brazilian Portuguese rights (UNESP)

Silke Kipper

The Joy of Birdsong



Lavish and loving portraits of some of the most popular songbirds

Whether in the city or in the countryside, in the forest or by the lake: we are surrounded by birds. We usually only pay attention to them when they become particularly loud, clamouring, calling out to each other – or singing. In the morning, the blackbird outside our window wakes us up, on the way to work we hear the starlings and sparrows, and late in the evening the queen of all songbirds, the nightingale, belts out her song. In a light-hearted and informative way, Silke Kipper tells us what makes each of these ten beloved songbird species so special, and why they have become an integral part of art and cultural history.

Ornithological expert Silke Kipper takes a fresh look at the best-known songbirds native to Central Europe – as detailed as it is entertaining.

»A book about science? Not many people can write something like that in a way that the average citizen is able to enjoy it too. Silke Kipper has obviously succeeded in doing just that with her book.« Bernd Atzenroth, Märkische Allgemeine Zeitung on The Nightingale

»An all-round successful book that makes you want to go to the park at night, to listen and whistle yourself.« Volkart Wildermuth, Deutschlandfunk Kultur on The Nightingale



Silke Kipper studied Biology and obtained her PhD at the Free University of Berlin. Since then, her research at home and abroad has focused on the question of how and what information animals exchange through songs, calls and other vocalisations. She has devoted many a waking spring night to her special research passion, the nightingale and its beguiling song. Kipper lives with her family in the Prignitz region of Brandenburg.

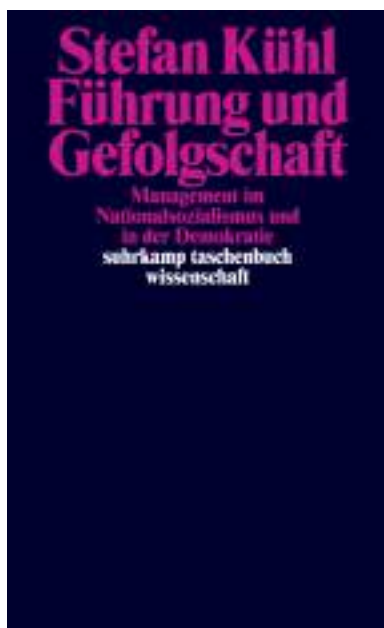
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Ten Portraits of Beloved Songbirds
With colour illustrations by
Marieke Nelissen
143 pages · March 2025
(Original title: Vom Glück des
Vogelgesangs)

The Nightingale / Die Nachtigall (2022) •

Stefan Kühl

Leadership and Loyalty



Management in National Socialism
and in Democracy
265 pages · March 2025
(Original title: Führung und
Gefolgschaft)

An incisive analysis of the dark, illiberal roots of modern conceptions of management and leadership

Modern management models exhibit surprising parallels with the ideals of national socialism. In his new book, sociologist Stefan Kühl argues that these similarities are not a result of the fact that many of the key figures from the Nazi regime went on to shape the development of West German society. Indeed, many of the prominent national socialists who had a major influence on the leadership discourse of the postwar era in Germany went to great pains to avoid connections with Nazi ideology. To be sure, today's proponents of the innate value of having a clear purpose and function, of fostering a strong sense of community, and of transformational leadership have no sympathy for the notion of the nation as a racially homogeneous community. However, they ignore the roots of some of the central principles of management, and fail to recognise how emphatically they are promoting concepts that were previously propagated by national socialists.

»A work that is important and enlightening not just for researchers of the Holocaust.« Norbert Copray, *Publik-Forum on Ordinary Organizations*

»The most convincing aspect of this study is its at once systematic and carefully considered argument, which eschews headmasterly dogmatism and polemics.« Susanne Heim, *Beiträge zur Geschichte des Nationalsozialismus on Ordinary Organizations*

Stefan Kühl studied sociology and history at the University of Bielefeld in Germany, Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, the Université Paris X Nanterre and Oxford University. He has held positions at the University of Magdeburg, the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and the Helmut Schmidt University – University of the Federal Armed Forces in Hamburg. He is currently a professor of Sociology at the University of Bielefeld.

Ordinary Organizations / Ganz normale Organisationen (2014) • English world rights (Polity); Japan (Jimbun Shoin)

Ilka Quindeau

Psychoanalysis and Anti-Semitism



Frankfurt Adorno Lectures 2023

A psychoanalytical perspective on anti-Semitism

The Frankfurt School concepts of the authoritarian personality and of *Schuldabwehr* (whereby postwar Germans developed resentment towards Jews precisely because of the crimes that were committed against them, which foisted a feeling of guilt upon them) have dominated the discourse on anti-Semitism in Germany for decades. But are they still helpful and, above all, are they still accurate? In her sensational Adorno lectures, Ilka Quindeau explains why, from a psychoanalytical perspective, this is not the case. Both of these explanatory models originating in the intellectual context of early critical theory serve to provide psychological relief, distracting us from our own involvement. To put it succinctly: anti-Semites are always the others.

Using focussed case studies from her clinical practice, Quindeau shows that this latent form of anti-Semitism – which is at odds with the conscious beliefs of the individual – is a culturally and transgenerationally transmitted expression of the unconscious. This is by no means tied to a specific personality type and is not, tellingly, fended off psychologically, but strategically. However, levelling the accusation of anti-Semitism is not an effective means of countering these patterns of thought, as Quindeau demonstrates using the example of the heated debates surrounding documenta fifteen and the Berlinale 2024. The goal of a productive critique of anti-Semitism can only be achieved through self-reflection. Only in this way, illustrates Quindeau, is solidarity and empathy with the suffering of others possible.

»The much-needed critique of antisemitism loses its effect when it takes the form of an accusation.«



© Jürgen Bauer

284 pages • March 2025
(Original title: Psychoanalyse und Antisemitismus)

Ilka Quindeau was born in 1962 and is Professor of Clinical Psychology and Psychoanalysis at the Frankfurt University of Applied Science. She is also a practicing psychoanalyst. From 2018 to 2020, Quindeau was president of the International Psychoanalytic University (IPU) in Berlin. In addition to psychoanalytic theory, her research focuses include topics related to gender, biography, and trauma.

Sandra Richter

Rainer Maria Rilke; Or, an Open Life



© David Ausserhofer

A biography
With numerous illustrations
478 pages · January 2025
(Original title: Rainer Maria Rilke
oder Das offene Leben)

Coinciding with the double Rilke anniversary in 2025 and 2026

Rainer Maria Rilke was born in 1875 in Prague and passed away in 1926 in Montreux, Switzerland, making 2025 the 150th anniversary of this remarkable author's birth, and 2026 the 100th anniversary of his death. This biography draws on previously unseen materials to paint a portrait of Rilke as we have never seen him before.

To be open and to write, that's all Rilke ever wanted. A wish at once modest and ambitious. As an author, he experienced »all of life [...] as if it went straight through him with all its force.« But also with all its contradictions: Rilke fled from his muses but couldn't live without them, he lamented the effects of human progress but was enthusiastic about technology, he loved the simple life yet had a strong preference for beautiful objects and locations. He produced one of the first modern novels in *The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge* and published collections of poems that defined an entire epoch, and whose expressive force remains alive to this day.

Sandra Richter, a literary scholar and the director of the German Literature Archive, has worked with previously unknown sources that were made accessible when the Archive acquired Rilke's literary remains in 2022. In her new biography, Rilke is shown in a new light: not as the reclusive hermit that he liked to portray himself as, but robust, assertive, an active and engaging conversationalist, cheerful and self-deprecating, and more financially savvy than most would assume. This biography makes it clear why it's more worthwhile than ever to read Rilke now: he lived in difficult times, and he processed them with a ruthlessness that perhaps can only seem convincing in the face of existential threats.

»Richter's biography, the product of years of intense engagement, leads the reader deep into Rilke's emotional labyrinth.« Der Tagesspiegel

»Anybody who wants to work on Rilke in the future will not be able to avoid this book.« Stefan Kister, Eßliner Zeitung

Sandra Richter was born in 1973 in Kassel and has been Professor of Modern German Literature in Stuttgart since 2008 and in 2019 became the director of the German Literature Archive Marbach, which is planning a major exhibition on Rilke and his work for 2025/26. The show will be accompanied by a series of events. She is also the author of *Eine Weltgeschichte der deutschsprachigen Literatur* (2017).

Wilhelm Schmid

The Search for Cohesion



© Suhrkamp Verlag

The Self and the Collective: The Beauty and Difficulty of Social Life
469 pages · March 2025
(Original title: Die Suche nach Zusammenhalt)

What holds our society together?

Everyone in our society wants to be seen and understood, but very few want to see and understand – a glaring imbalance. Everyone claims to be »unique«, but society is not founded on self-realisation but on the creation of relationships.

In his new book, Wilhelm Schmid explores the question of what values society needs. What holds it (delicately) together? Does it need an »identity«, or is »integrity« more important? Or a »unifying culture«? How important is truth for social cohesion and how is it established? And why do autocracies have no future, even though they are currently on the rise?

Society thrives when its citizens care about it and look after it. It is high time to rehabilitate the once discredited word »bourgeois«, rediscovering its etymological commonalities with the citizenry. And how to deal with disaffected, reactionary movements? In his encounters with these groups, the author discovers what unites them despite all their differences: the small and big questions of life.

»The new Schmid – a book for contemplative individuals and for people who want to look beyond the next talk show.« Stefan Lüddemann, Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung

»The author is intelligent and avoids falling into the typical traps of self-help.« Franz Schuh, DIE ZEIT

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

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

Philipp Ther

The Sound of Habsburg

A Musical History of the Austro-Hungarian Empire
450 pages · October 2025
(Original title: Der Klang der Monarchie)

A fascinating history of the Austro-Hungarian Empire told through the prism of the music it created and was shaped by

Though the Habsburg Empire fell apart as a state in 1918, it lives on through its music. This book explores why the Habsburg Monarchy was so productive in all spheres of culture. It was above all an empire of music, producing much of the canon of what we now call “classical” music. At the time though, this music was not old and staid but a radically new and exciting phenomenon. *The Sound of Habsburg* narrates the history of the Habsburg Empire from the Enlightenment to its collapse in the wake of the First World War through the prism of 100 pieces of music.

Written in engaging language that will appeal to a broader audience, this accessibility is augmented by an innovative new approach to music writing. Each chapter contains five to ten musical examples that can be downloaded via QR codes as an accompaniment to the reading experience. The book is broken up into ten chapters that each focus on a particular composer and their relationship to a key transformation in the history of the Habsburg Empire. For example, how Mozart helped create the figure of the freelance (and financially precarious) artist, and what Beethoven can tell us about the revolutionary potential of music.

Philipp Ther is an award-winning historian and an elegant stylist whose books have been translated into 15 different languages. An expert on Central European history, he is also a passionate musician and has published widely on music, with his book *Center Stage: Operatic Culture and Nation Building in Nineteenth-Century Central Europe* enjoying an international readership. *The Sound of Habsburg* will appeal to specialists and laypeople alike, providing a new perspective on the canon of classical music, and revealing the ways in which the legacy of this musical moment in history lives on around the world, and not just in opera houses and concert halls.

»Ther depicts these complicated events meticulously, precise, and with great style and coherence.« *ZEIT on Europe After 1989*

»A fearless, astute analysis of the turmoil we are shaken by.« *Elisabeth von Thadden, Die Zeit on How the West Lost the Peace*

»Eye-opening.« *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung on Europe After 1989*

»An urgently important book with wide appeal that should appear as soon as possible in other languages.« *Der Ackermann on The Outsiders*



Philipp Ther, born in 1967, teaches Modern European and East European History at the University of Vienna. He has already published five books in English, and his publications have been translated into various other languages. He has received several prizes and awards, including the John-F.-Kennedy Fellowship at the Center for European Studies, Harvard University (in 1997/98), the 2012 Translation Award of the German Book Trade Association for *Die dunkle Seite der Nationalstaaten: »ethnische Säuberungen« im modernen Europa*, which was also nominated as Academic Non-Fiction Book of the Year (2018, category Humanities, Social and Cultural Science) by the Austrian Ministry for Science, Research and Economy. He received the 2015 Prize of the Leipzig Book Fair for *Die neue Ordnung auf dem alten Kontinent*, which was also shortlisted for the Prix du livre européen. Furthermore, his work has earned him the Richard G. Plaschka Prize (2006) and the Wittgenstein Prize (2019).

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Sören Urbansky • Martin Wagner

Distant Neighbors



A panoramic yet concise history of Sino-Russian relations

There is a great deal of speculation about the relationship between China and Russia. While many observers fear the formation of an authoritarian alliance between these two great powers, the geopolitical interests of Beijing and Moscow are often at odds with each other. And while Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping call themselves “good friends”, the balance of power between the two countries remains a subject of conjecture.

In order to gain a clear understanding of Sino–Russian relations in the twenty-first century, we need to first understand the long history behind them. In this book, historians Sören Urbansky and Martin Wagner offer an introduction to the 400-year history of these two neighbours: from their first official contact in 1618 and the falling-out of the two communist regimes under Khrushchev and Mao all the way through to China’s response to Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.



Urbansky and Wagner are both internationally renowned experts in the field, and narrate the eventful history of the complex web of connections that bind these two countries. As expansionist empires, socialist superpowers, and authoritarian regimes, they have much in common, and have both competed and cooperated with one another. China and Russia are unable to avoid each other, but they by no means always march to the same beat.

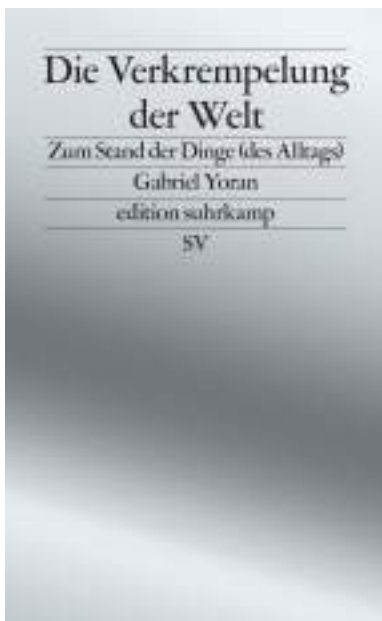
Sören Urbansky is a historian of Russia and China in the modern era, specializing in imperial and racial entanglements, migration, infrastructure, and the history of borders. Urbansky has taught Chinese and Russian history at the Universities of Munich and Freiburg, and currently works at the Ruhr University Bochum. Martin Wagner is a research associate at the Institute for East European Studies at the Free University of Berlin. He completed his PhD on the transformation of totalitarian rule after Stalin and Mao in 2023. He has published widely on topics related to Chinese and Russian history and politics

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A Concise History of Sino-Russian
Relations
329 pages • February 2025
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Gabriel Yoran

The Junkification of the World



A contemporary study of consumer commodities beyond false nostalgia

The rotating elements on kitchen hobs that allow you to conveniently regulate the temperature are called »knobs«. Of course, anyone who buys an induction hob nowadays will find themselves fumbling around with fickle touch controls. Gabriel Yoran calls such things – which in certain respects are worse than what preceded them – »junk«. Why do these things even exist? Shouldn't the evolution of products be a linear progression?

Criticising consumer goods is typically seen as either an outmoded form of anti-capitalism or an expression of reactionary nostalgia. At the same time, with our purchasing power, we are expected to save the climate or contribute to better working conditions in the Global South. In this context, Yoran looks at objects such as shower hoses and fully automatic coffee machines to seek out the causes for this process of junkification. And he dares to confront the taboo of proposing criteria for what lends legitimacy to certain needs. Yoran does this in a way that is as entertaining as it is informed – and while acknowledging the fact that we, as consumers, are also entangled in these processes of junkification.



Gabriel Yoran was born in 1978 in Frankfurt am Main and is an entrepreneur and author. He completed his PhD in speculative realism under Graham Harman at the European Graduate School. Before that, he completed a degree in communication in social and economic contexts at the Berlin University of the Arts. He has cofounded several companies and written several non-fiction books, and also writes for publications such as *Merkur*, *Zeit Online*, *Krautreporter* and *taz*.

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The State of (Everyday) Things
180 pages • April 2025
(Original title: Die Verkrepelung
der Welt)

Classical Music through the Side Door / Schleichwege zur Klassik (2024) •

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