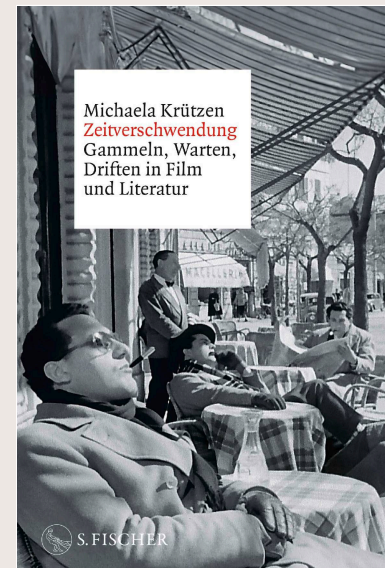




S. Fischer  
Academic

Michaela Krützen

# Wasting Time. Hanging around, Waiting, Drifting in Film and Literature



August 2024 · 960 pages

© Bettina Filtrier



Michaela Krützen, born in Aachen in 1964, has been Professor of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Television and Film in Munich since 2001. Her most recent books published by S. Fischer Verlag are "Klassik, Moderne, Nachmoderne. Eine Filmgeschichte" (2015), "Dramaturgies of Film. Das etwas andere Hollywood" (2010), "Väter, Engel, Kannibalen. Figures of Hollywood Cinema" (2007), "What is Pop?" (ed., 2004) and "Dramaturgies of Film. How Hollywood tells stories" (2004).

## What is a waste of time? Is it wasting your life to wait or to hang around, to stream or to drift?

Waiting, lying around, hanging around, being married, working, media consumption: These are all activities that can be seen as a waste of time. But is that the case? Michaela Krützen explores this question by analysing classic figures from literature and film: Is Marie Antoinette wasting her time in courtly ceremonial? Betty Draper in her marriage? Hans Castorp in his routine? Oblomov on his sofa and Jeff Lebowsky hanging out? By analysing these and other works and also looking at their theoretical context, Michaela Krützen enlightens us about one of life's central questions in an entertaining way and with an eye for detail: What is a waste of time?

"In recent years, Krützen, who was born in 1964, has become the most prominent young voice in German film studies." - *Rüdiger Suchsland, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

"Definitely not a waste!" - *Münchner Merkur*

Robert Pfaller

# The Laughter of the Undeceived: The Philosophical Dignity of Comedy



April 2025 · 304 pages



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.



Eva Horn

# Climate. A History of Perception



October 2024 · 616 pages

© Barbara Mair



Eva Horn is Professor of Literary Studies and Cultural History at the Department of German Studies at the University of Vienna. For many years, she has been concerned with questions of a cultural and literary history of nature and with the concept of the Anthropocene. She is the founder and director of the Vienna Anthropocene Network and has taught in the USA, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. She was awarded the Heinrich Mann Prize in 2020 for her books and essays. Her most recent book published by S. FISCHER is "Zukunft als Katastrophe" (2014).

## On the experience of climate – a history of knowledge

When we talk about climate these days, we do so primarily from a scientific perspective. We can measure and calculate climate, but we cannot experience it directly. However, before climate was defined as "average weather", things were very different.

The cultural and literary scientist Eva Horn takes up knowledge about the climate that seems to have been shelved and shows the close connection that once existed between cultures and their climate. From theories about the influence of air and temperature on body and soul to the image of the "sea of air" and the fantasies of "controlled" climates: drawing on the history of medicine, philosophy, art and literature, Eva Horn creates a great imaginative history of the climate that can provide a new basis for the debate about the climate crisis.



Andreas Bernard

# The Chain of Infections. On the Narrativity of Epidemics since the 18th Century

- A completely new approach for better understanding COVID-19 and other pandemics
- Andreas Bernard was nominated for the Bavarian Book Prize



November 2023 · 320 pages



Andreas Bernard, born in Munich in 1969, is Professor of Cultural Studies at the Center for Digital Cultures at Leuphana University in Lüneburg. From 1995 to 2014 he was the author and editor of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. He currently writes the column "Laufende Ermittlungen – Notizen aus dem Alltag" (Ongoing Investigations – Notes from Everyday Life) for *ZEIT Magazin* as well as the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*'s feuilleton. The following have been published by Fischer Verlag: *Die Geschichte des Fahrstuhls: Über einen beweglichen Ort der Moderne* (2006), *Kinder machen: Neue Reproduktionstechnologien und die Ordnung der Familie* (2014), *Komplizen des Erkennungsdienstes: Das Selbst in der digitalen Kultur* (2017), and, most recently, *Das Diktat des Hash-tags. Über ein Prinzip der aktuellen Debatte* (2018).

In his book *The Chain of Infections*, the science historian Andreas Bernard starts from the hypothesis that our ability to fight epidemics is linked to how we are able to construct the narratives surrounding them. In addition to the strong medical component of the fight against epidemics – developing vaccines, researching immunity – the questions of how epidemics and their outbreaks are mapped, and whether they can be mapped at all, appear to be central to successful containment. Andreas Bernard illustrates this connection in his studies on the history of smallpox, cholera, influenza, poliomyelitis and the early days of AIDS, a connection that, in the case of the COVID-19 pandemic, has become increasingly clear since Spring 2020. He examines to what extent the triumph of bacteriology in the late 19th century brought about a new way of depicting infection processes, one which today still utilizes the same narrative forms and verbal imagery. He also discusses the origin and end of epidemics as two neuralgic points in the epidemic narrative, elaborates on the accompanying narrative of "immunity" that has been around since the 18th century, and analyzes the importance of communication media such as the letter, the telegram and the current tracking apps – the news from all three of these being in a race against the diseases' progression.

Andreas Bernard's *The Chain of Infections* combines medical-historical and narrative-theoretical research and creates an approach to the history of epidemics that has so far received little attention, one which also enables a new look at the COVID pandemic of the past few years.

"The parallel between the modern crisis of storytelling and the futility of reconstructing chains of infection in large cities is one of the interdisciplinary highlights of the book." - *Tagesspiegel*, Ulrike Baureithel

Martin Seel

## Language Games

- A new and literary philosophy of language

"The philosopher Martin Seel can do what many philosophers cannot. He not only writes about difficult problems in a way that's understandable, he also writes with a lightness and elegance." *Wolfgang Schneider, Die WELT*



September 2023 · 368 pages



© Stefan Gelberg

Martin Seel, born in Ludwigshafen am Rhein in 1954, is a professor of philosophy at Frankfurt's Goethe University. So far, S. Fischer has published *Paradoxien der Erfüllung* (2006); *Theorien* (2009); *111 Tugenden, 111 Laster. Eine philosophische Revue* (2011); *Die Künste des Kinos* (2013) as well as *Aktive Passivität. Über den Spielraum des Denkens, Handelns und anderer Künste* (2014).

A book about language games can itself be a language game:

With *Language Games*, the Frankfurt philosopher Martin Seel delivers an impressive plea for understanding the role of language within the human world through the equal diversity of its uses. Following this maxim, he utilizes various approaches to playing the game of language on his journey through the landscape of the philosophy of language: argumentation, narration, and improvisation, all while allowing different thinkers and philosophical traditions to enter into a dialogue with one another – from Herder to Humboldt to Wittgenstein, from romantic to analytical, pragmatistic, and phenomenological to deconstructive views. In doing so, he corrects their respective blind spots.

A virtuoso essay about "language games" that brings to mind the driving forces behind the life of language and how everyone leads this life is driven by it.

Monika Dommann

# The Flow of Materials. A History of Logistics Based on Where it Breaks Down



May 2023 · 288 pages

© Anita Affentranger



Monika Dommann, born in 1966 in Walchwil, Switzerland, studied Spanish in Salamanca and history and economics in Zurich. After completing her PhD, she researched and taught at universities in Zurich, Lucerne, Basel, Washington, Montreal, Vienna, and Berlin. Since 2013 she has been a Professor of Contemporary History in the History Department at the University of Zurich.

Without logistics everyday life would be impossible, and there would be no globalisation either. But how did it become this engine for the flow of materials? In this pioneering study, Monika Dommann examines the flow of goods from a surprising perspective. Looking at situations where the flow is halted, she considers the conditions required for flow: from the connection of grain silos to the railway in the 19th century to the transport of art from colonial times to the present day, from standardised vessels such as palettes and containers to the construction of ramps and high-bay warehouses, from planning via flow-charts to the computer, she tells the peculiar, and always political, history of logistics - which shows its true colours when the flow stops.

Questions answered include the following: What actually flows in logistics, and why? How did logistics become an engine for the flow of materials, which is still trusted even when everything changes from how it was previously? What knowledge do these machines contain? And in what cultural technology are they anchored? Are logistics not also inherently political? How can goods continue to flow when people have to stand still? And what happens in those locations where everything comes to a halt?

"Dommann shows just how broad the field of logistics really is, and looks far beyond the economic horizon." - *Der Standard*, Johannes Lau

"Not an easy read, but an important, insightful one" - *SWR 2*  
"Lesenswert"

"Her accessible 'History of Logistics' does the best that historical research can do: it shows how our present came into being." - *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, Claudia Mäder

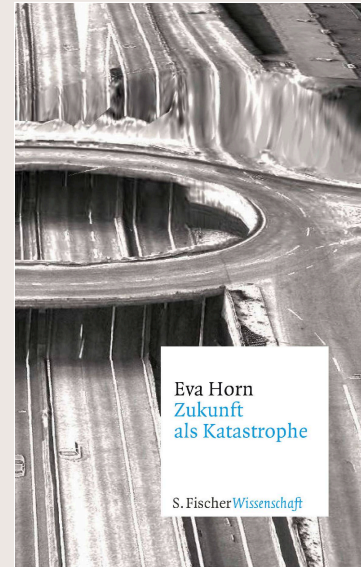
"A fabulously interesting infrastructure history of globalisation. Enlightening, eye-opening." - *Welt am Sonntag*, Marc Reichwein



Eva Horn

# The Future as Catastrophe

**Rights sold to:** HU (Kijárat Kiadó)



February 2020 · 476 pages

© Barbara Mair



Our present seems to enjoy envisioning the future as catastrophe. The cinema regularly imagines the end of the world while science proclaims the "end of the world as we knew it" and literature evokes the earth after the end of humanity. Eva Horn examines the history and motives behind this modern catastrophe consciousness. In so doing, she unearths the factual bio-political conflicts played out in disaster scenarios – from total darkness and nuclear winter to global climate change. But she also shows fictions are at work in the calls for prevention and security, and how we must understand and analyse these fictions. Because determining the future catastrophe always means telling the end of a story which has yet to actually unfold.

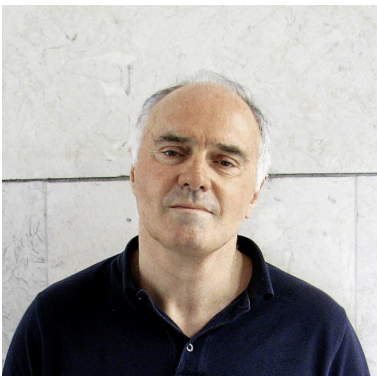
Klaus Zeyringer

# A Pinch of Brevity. A Short History of the Press Told Through Miscellaneous News



September 2022 · 368 pages

© S. Fischer Verlag



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). Klaus Zeyringer 'is a gifted storyteller. His historical non-fiction books read more like novels.' *NZZ am Sonntag* 'Like very few academics, Klaus Zeyringer understands how to captivate his readers literarily.' *Die Wochenzeitung*

## An unusual take on the history of the press

A history of newspapers told through 'Miscellaneous News' sections: Klaus Zeyringer shows how life and goings-on, anxieties and lust for sensationalism have been reflected in miscellaneous news since the 17th century.

Celestial phenomena, three-headed children, and railway disasters. From their beginnings, newspapers have featured sensational events on a large and small scale: Brief Chronicles, Miscellanies, Faits Divers. Through these often bizarre and frequently tragicomic genres, Klaus Zeyringer recounts the development of the press in Europe and America. His witty forays through four centuries make for enjoyable reading and offer cultural insights: of how the Pope blesses nappies, a monk tests purgatory, the French Revolution disturbs a dinner party, how the Wild West becomes frontpage news, and how brevity flourishes digitally today. The geniuses of storytelling in three lines are Kleist, Fénelon, and Karl Kraus; Diderot, Bettina von Arnim, and James Joyce also feature. And on the small stage of the press there are robbers and prophets, living dead and headless horsemen.

"A terrific essay on the entertaining role of the news!" - Welt am Sonntag, Marc Reichwein

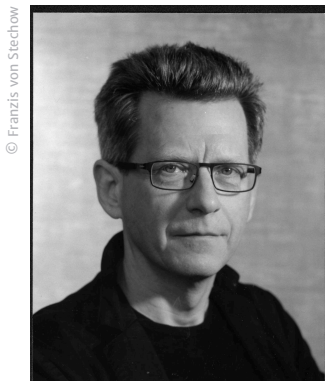
Albrecht Koschorke

# Truth and Invention: Outlines of a General Theory of Narrative

**Rights sold to:** English (De Gruyter)



October 2012 · 480 pages



© Franzis von Stechow

Albrecht Koschorke, born 1958, is a Professor of German Literature and General Literary Theory in Konstanz, and Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago. Since 2006 he has been a member of the Konstanz Excellence Cluster "Cultural Principles of Integration", and since 2010 has been the lecturer for the postgraduate programme "The real in modern culture". He used his 2003 Leibniz Prize to fund a research post on "Cultural Theory and the Theory of the Political Imaginary". His most recent publications with Fischer are "The Holy Family and its Legacy" (4th Edition, 2011) and "The Fictional State: Constructions of the Body Politic in European History" (2007).

Everywhere people are talking about the influential power of the story: in historical scholarship, in law, politics and the economy. People assess conflict zones through stories, found social institutions, imagine pasts and futures. In this respect, collective story-telling represents an important way for societies to monitor themselves. But there is still no narrative theory that systematically goes beyond its classic scope: literature. This book highlights what we can do to close these gaps. It not only contrasts literary fiction with the multiplicity of narrative methods directly bound up with social practice; it puts a more general question about the rules of cultural transformation, when reality becomes fiction. A significant book on one of the key themes of cultural studies.



Ralf Konersmann

# World without Measure

- This new book by Ralf Konersmann follows his highly regarded book *Die Unruhe der Welt*

'In the world of measure, everything is in its proper place.'  
*Ralf Konersmann*



August 2021 · 320 pages

© Paula Markert



**Ralf Konersmann**, born in 1955, is a professor of philosophy and a journalist. Until March 2021, he directed the philosophy department at the Christian Albrecht University in Kiel. He is on the editorial board of several philosophical journals, and was a founding member of the Hamburg Academy of Science as well as co-editor of the *Historisches Wörterbuch der Philosophie*. His most recent publications with S.Fischer include the successful *Die Unruhe der Welt* (2015) and the *Wörterbuch der Unruhe* (2017), for which he received the Tractatus Essay Prize from the Philosophicum Lech.

## The great history of measure and self-indulgence

Ralf Konersmann, a cultural philosopher, demonstrates that throughout European history, measure and measurement, ethics and technology, morality and knowledge have been two sides of one and the same coin. It was necessary to be measured not simply here and there – with regard to facts and morals.

Konersmann recounts the great intellectual history of measure: how the reciprocal relationship of measure and measuring was conceived and consolidated, the conditions under which it nevertheless fell apart, and the consequences of this separation of previously connected concepts. Konersmann puts the current omnipresent advance of measuring, counting and calculating into a genealogical perspective, enabling us to really understand it for the first time – and to better understand the current situation.

'Konersmann is able to make unexpected connections sensationally well and points up new ways of reading well-known stories.' *Spiegel Online*

Elmar Schenkel

# On the Way to Xanadu. East–West Encounters

- A vividly written cultural history
- Portraits of the central figures in the interchange between East and West



May 2021 · 368 pages



**Elmar Schenkel**, born near Soest/ Westphalia in 1953, is an emeritus professor of English literature at the University of Leipzig. He is a freelance contributor to the FAZ, and co-edited the literary magazine Nachtcafé. Alongside travel books on Japan and India, he has published books on the bicycle in literature and on eccentrics in science, alongside short stories and poems. His literary work has earned him the Hermann Hesse Sponsorship Prize and that of the Jürgen Ponto Foundation.

## Asia and Europe: A cultural history in portraits and encounters

Xanadu – Asia's place of longing for researchers, theosophists, and those seeking salvation. It represents a secret something that unites the gods with the self as well as a meeting place of the cultures of the world. Elmar Schenkel writes of the two-way perceptions of the other: from the first clashes of western and eastern culture in Japan and India, to the western discovery of Jaoanese Zen, Chinese thinkers, and Indian gurus. What is the role of Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore, or, conversely, of Madame Blavatsky, C. G. Jung and Hermann Hesse? How did Taoism come to the West, and what do Zen or Yoga have to do with politics? In short, sparkling pieces of prose, Elmar Schenkel familiarises us with the search of cultures for things that will offset their own deficits.

Hektor Haarkötter

# Notes: Thinking and Writing in the 21st Century

- The first cultural history and theory of notes
- Outlines the central significance of notes for thought

**Rights sold to:** ROK (Book 21)



April 2021 · 592 pages

© Werner Siess



Hektor Haarkötter, born in 1968, is a professor of communications studies at Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences. He studied philosophy, history and German philology in Rome, Düsseldorf and Göttingen, and works as a journalist and writer for television. He has received a number of awards for his work, including the Alternativen Medienpreis (Alternative Media Award) in 2015.

Notes include shopping lists, crib sheets, jottings, sketches, index cards, Post-its. They capture fleeting thoughts for the memory and yet are provisional, uncomplicated and temporary – they organise knowledge. For the first time, Hektor Haarkötter tells the cultural history of notes from their origins until today, and formulates a theory in the process. Whether a political medium for communicating among RAF prisoners, a structural framework of literature, a laboratory notebook in science, or a link on the internet, the note constitutes a recording system, hardware and software in one and, at the same time, is a forgotten medium. Its significance for the cultural history of thought, however, cannot be underestimated after reading this book.



# Annelie Ramsbrock

## Closed Society

- A history of prison as a social history of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Prison life close-up, based on numerous, partly personal, documents



June 2020 · 416 pages

© privat



Anneliese Ramsbrock is a historian and research associate at the Leibniz Centre for the Study of Contemporary History in Potsdam. She received a scholarship from the Gerda Henkel Foundation and was Visiting Fellow at St. Antony's College Oxford. In 2012, she received the GINT translation prize for her dissertation. For the resulting book, she evaluated many judicial documents, prisoners magazines and life stories.

### Prison as a Mirror of Society

Prison is an institution which challenges our society: Imprisonment cuts off personal freedom, the most valued commodity in a democracy. Annelie Ramsbrock writes of how the West German state after 1945 tried to address this dilemma: Prison was no longer to be only a punishment. It was supposed to re-socialise the offender. Punishment was liberalised through work and education, visiting rights, correspondence, arts activities and sports facilities. Life outside was replicated as far as possible.

But prison is quite a strange place, where people live together strongly regulated in the narrowest of spaces. Annelie Ramsbrock describes this world close-up and asks, in the end, if resocialisation is at all possible. Can people be taught how to behave in society while they are locked away and excluded?

Eva von Redecker

# Revolution for Life. Philosophy of new forms of protest

- A philosophical analysis of new protest movements like *Black Lives Matter* and *Fridays for Future* that shape modern life
- The most powerful new voice in German political philosophy
- Sample Translation available
- English proposal available
- NBG review available (Spring 2021)



March 2023 · 320 pages

**Rights sold to:** F (Payot-Rivages) | CZ (Karolinum Press) | GR (Editions Gutenberg) | HR (Mizantop) | KOR (Minumsa) | ARG (Ubu Ediciones) | NL (ISVW)

© Sophie Brand



**Eva von Redecker** was born in 1982 and studied Philosophy in Kiel, Tübingen, Cambridge and Potsdam. She worked from 2009 to 2019 as a research associate at the Humboldt University of Berlin, where as deputy director she set up the Center for Humanities and Social Change. She is currently working on her post-doctoral thesis and has published a number of books and articles. Eva von Redecker grew up on an organic farm where she learnt about strawberry-growing, direct marketing and horse-breeding, and now lives in the countryside again at an academics' and artists' colony in Brandenburg.

## A radical social critique — and a heartfelt endorsement of the power of human action.

The future of democratic societies is under intense pressure from the rise of authoritarianism and the imminent threat of climate change. However, resistance is forming in the gaps of the power matrix. In her philosophical analysis of these new forms of resistance, the philosopher Eva von Redecker sheds light on the potential for a revolution for life.

*Black Lives Matter*, *Fridays for Future* und *NiUnaMenos* are all examples of worldwide protests against the destruction of life. This destruction includes rising sea levels, climate change, border regimes and domestic violence. Eva von Redecker identifies in these movements a new form of activism, one focused on ensuring human survival and safeguarding our livelihoods. Her research is at the intersection of **critical theory** and **feminism**. In her book, she analyzes the beginnings of **a revolution that could bring down the disastrous capitalist order**. She highlights how we need to change our lifestyles if we wish to rescue life rather than continue to degrade it. We have to nurture where we used to destroy, regenerate where we used to exploit and share where we used to consume.

What we need is a revolution in all our activities and every area of our lives.

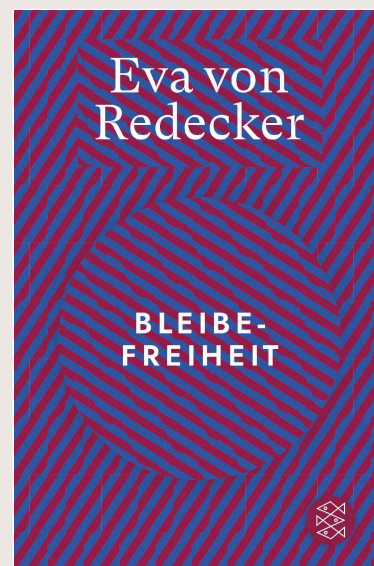
**“This book might turn into the bible of intellectual resistance against real existing capitalism”.** *Deutschlandfunk Kultur*

Eva von Redecker

# The Freedom to Stay

- No. 22 of the SPIEGEL Bestseller List
- Shortlisted for the NDR Non-Fiction Book Prize
- No. 2 of the Non-Fiction Bestenliste June
- Reviewed and recommended for translation by New Books in German
- "One of this country's most exciting young philosophers." — *Philosophie Magazin*
- Sample translation available here

**Rights sold to:** Netherlands (Alfabet); Croatia (Zagrebcki Holding); Russia (Individuum) **Rights sold for *Revolution for Life*:** F (Payot-Rivages) | CZ (Karolinum Press) | GR (Editions Gutenberg) | KOR (Minumsa) | ARG (Ubu Ediciones)



January 2025 · 160 pages



© Sophie Brand

**Eva von Redecker**, born in 1982, is a philosopher and freelance writer. Eva has taught at Humboldt-University and the New School, New York. In 2020/21, she held a Marie-Sklódowska-Curie fellowship at the University of Verona, where she investigated the history of ownership. Eva von Redecker's work focuses on critical theory, feminism, and critiques of capitalism. She contributes to several newspapers, including *Die Zeit* and *The Guardian*, and regularly gives interviews on radio and TV. Her most recent publication with S. Fischer is her book *Revolution für das Leben. Philosophie der neuen Protestformen* [Revolution for Life. The Philosophy of New Forms of Protest] (2020); she also provided the foreword to the German anniversary edition of *Dialektik der Aufklärung* (Dialectic of Enlightenment). She grew up on an organic farm, and now lives in rural

## A radical new concept of freedom from a passionate voice of contemporary philosophy

Rarely has freedom been discussed as intensively as during the pandemic: freedom to travel, to move around without restriction, to meet up with people wherever one would like. But just how future-proof is such a spatially defined concept of freedom when we are facing times in which habitable places are disappearing and the climate crisis or wars are rendering entire regions uninhabitable? For this reason, philosopher Eva von Redecker has reconceptualised freedom: as the freedom to live in a place where we can stay. The freedom to stay evolves over time. In considering liveable freedom in the future, she not only focuses on the preservation of our present living conditions, she also reduces the gap between the freedom of individuals and that of the community. The freedom to stay can only be achieved communally. And it expands when we share it.

"With 'Freedom to Stay', von Redecker has succeeded in bringing together a series of theoretical and practical philosophical questions at the centre of a well-founded contemporary critique" - *Philosophischer Literaturanzeiger*, Reinhard Margreiter



Svenja Goltermann

# Victims: Perceptions of Harm in Modern European War and Violence

**Rights sold to:** USA (Oxford University Press) | PRC (Shanghai Naquan Cultural Diffusion)



Svenja Goltermann  
**Opfer**  
Die Wahrnehmung  
von Krieg und Gewalt  
in der Moderne

November 2017 · 336 pages



Svenja Goltermann, born in 1965, is Professor of Modern History at the University of Zurich and Director of the 'Centre for History of Knowledge' there. Her book *Society of Survivors. German Soldiers and their Experience of Violence in the Second World War* was published in 2009 and received many accolades, amongst others, the renowned Historian Prize (2008) and Historical Book 2010 from the magazine *Damals*.

Who is when and why considered a victim – and what are the effects of these attributions?

Victims of war and violence are omnipresent in the media, whether as images of mutilated soldiers, of terrified children or suffering civilians. But the image of the victim as seen in present days is new. Historian Svenja Goltermann describes what has evolved since the 18th century: Losses were counted, the dead identified, the war supposed to be humanised, war-disabled provided for, survivors and dependents compensated. And so over time it was defined, who was considered a victim, right up to the discovery of the trauma as an emotional scar. However, victim recognition remains a question of hierarchy and power – and therefore an eminent political problem.

- An important contribution to the current debate on the victim within the context of terror and war

Ute Frevert

## Powerful Emotions

- In 2020, Ute Frevert received the Sigmund Freud Prize for Academic Prose
- Sample Translation available

*'Ute Frevert's prose is elegant, trenchant and gripping.'*  
Deutschlandfunk

**Rights sold to:** UK (Cambridge University Press)



September 2020 · 496 pages

© Bill McCormick



**Ute Frevert**, born in 1954, is considered one of Germany's most important historians. She teaches Modern History in Berlin, Konstanz and Bielefeld. She was a Professor at Yale University from 2003 to 2007, since 2008 she is head of the research department 'History of Emotions' at the Max-Planck-Institut für Bildungsforschung in Berlin. She was awarded the renowned Leibniz Prize in 1998 by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and in 2016 received the Federal Cross of Merit First Class. She was the 2020 recipient of the Sigmund Freud Prize for Academic Prose.

### The Emotional World of the Germans: A Totally Different History of the Twentieth Century

Emotions make history. They shape and direct not only individuals but entire societies. Politicians use them, but they can also trip over them. Ute Frevert explores powerful emotions and their impact: in the Kaiserreich, the Weimar Republic, the National Socialist state, the GDR (East Germany), and in the former and new German Federal Republic. She describes how meanings and expression of love and hatred, shame and pride, indignation and grief change in the course of history.

Hatred, for instance, powered National Socialism, but has no place in a democracy. At the start of the nineteenth century, people associated different kinds of longing with love than they do today. Frevert also explains why Germans enthused about war in 1914 and were proud of their national football team in 2006, and she delves into envy every bit as much as trust.

Frevert succeeds in giving a very special insight into the history of the German people, who, inhabiting six different states over the past 120 years, have experienced an extremely wide range of emotions.

Ute Frevert

# Politics of Humiliation

**Rights sold to:** PRC (Shanghai People's Press) | Arabic (Mamdouh Adwan)



September 2017 · 336 pages

© Bill McCormick



**Ute Frevert**, born in 1954, is considered one of Germany's most important historians. She teaches Modern History in Berlin, Konstanz and Bielefeld. She was a Professor at Yale University from 2003 to 2007, since 2008 she is heading up the research department 'History of Emotions' at the Max-Planck Institut für Bildungsforschung in Berlin. She was awarded the renowned Leibniz Prize in 1998 by the DFG and in 2016 received The Order of Merit First Class.

## The dark side of modernity – humiliation as an instrument of power

There is probably no society that abstains from humiliating people – whether in the raising of children, in criminal law or in diplomatic relations. For example, France 1944, women who had relations with German occupying forces had their hair shaven off. Recently, judges in the US punished citizens, forcing them to proclaim their offence by holding a sign on a busy road. Not least thanks to being pilloried by the media and the Internet, public shaming has become omnipresent. In a brilliant walk through 250 years of history, the well-known historian Ute Frevert demonstrates how humiliations were staged and still are today, and shows: Modernity has not got rid of the pillory, but simply reinvented it. It is not the state doing the humiliating, but society.

Gerd Schwerhoff

# Cursed Gods. The History of Blasphemy

- The first comprehensive history of blasphemy from antiquity to the present day
- From one of the most important experts in the field
- A book spanning over 3,000 years of history, which also sheds new light on the present day

**Rights sold to:** F (Maison des Sciences de l'homme) | RUS (Bombora)



February 2021 · 528 pages



© Robert Jentzsch

**Gerd Schwerhoff**, born in 1957, is a Professor of early modern history at the Technical University in Dresden. His books focus on marginal figures in the early modern period - criminals, witches, and heretics. He works on blasphemy in the context of the special research area "Invective. Constellations and Dynamics of Disparagement", for which he is the spokesman.

## The first comprehensive history of blasphemy from Moses to Charlie Hebdo

The worldwide outrage over the caricatures of Mohammed and the terror attack on Charlie Hebdo in 2015 have made it clear that blasphemy is not a relic of the Inquisition, but is more relevant today than a hundred years ago.

But why do people berate God, prophets, and saints? And why do such words and deeds call forth such heated reactions? The historian Gerd Schwerhoff writes of cursing, blaspheming peasants, and the Protestant Reformers, who insult madonna figures and are sentenced to death. He describes how the Enlightenment philosopher Voltaire argued against punishment for blaspheming, and why a woman of the radical feminist activist group Femen was accused of offending religious sentiment by the Cologne cathedral chapter.

This large sweep of history, recounted in a sovereign manner, opens a new perspective on contemporary conflicts: Certainly, "hate speech" is currently disseminated worldwide via digital media. However, such abuse of those who think and believe differently is not at all new.

Gerd Schwerhoff has been researching blasphemy for several years. He is one of the most renowned experts on the subject.

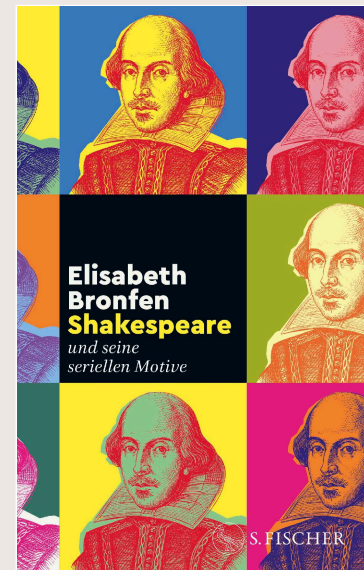
"Early modern historian Gerd Schwerhoff vividly and confidently describes the degradation of the sacred as a highly ambivalent history of collective vulnerability and self-exaltation." - Süddeutsche Zeitung, Barbara Stolberg-Rilinger



Elisabeth Bronfen

# Shakespeare – and His Serial Motifs

- Shakespeare the classic: newly interpreted for today's readers
- Renowned cultural studies scholar Elisabeth Bronfen presents the sum of her life-long study of Shakespeare.
- Looking at Shakespeare serially means seeing his work in a completely new and surprising way.



February 2025 · 400 pages



© Isolde Ohlbaum

Elisabeth Bronfen is Professor Emerita of English at the University of Zurich and Global Distinguished Professor at New York University. She has held numerous visiting professorships and fellowships in Europe and America and curated exhibitions in Germany and Switzerland, among other places. In 2017 she was awarded the Martin Warnke Medal by the Aby Warburg Foundation and in 2020 an honorary doctorate by the Friedrich Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. Elisabeth Bronfen's novel "Händler der Geheimnisse" was published in 2023. She lives in Zurich.

## A whole new way of reading Shakespeare

The well-known English scholar Elisabeth Bronfen presents the definitive book about Shakespeare. Her entire life-long study of one of the greatest authors in literary history leads to a new image that breaks down his work on the basis of recurring themes: dream worlds, cryptomania, love suspicions, love wars, objects of exchange, war as a continuation of politics, politics as a continuation of war, female rulers, speaking bodies, male and female corpses, and: the last scene.

These elements are sought in all plays and understood as a "series", i.e. as the continuous development of a theme through all works. This allows her to show shifts, different solutions, etc., which Shakespeare repeatedly "works through" in his entire work. What does Shakespeare think about war? What about being a daughter? What about being a mother? What about jealousy? By extracting these motifs and stringing together the various passages in the plays, relating them to each other and discussing them in context, you get a completely different view of Shakespeare.

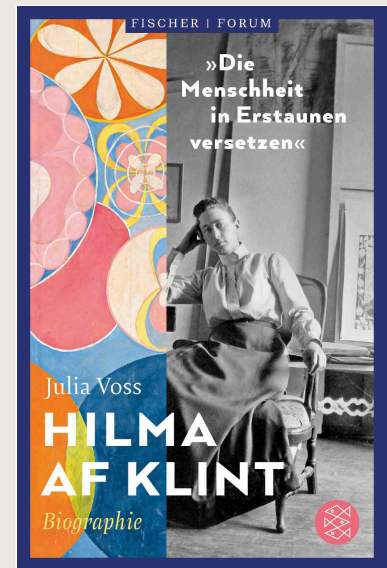
Elisabeth Bronfen is a star. She repeatedly manages to address literary and cultural topics for a larger audience beyond the confines of academia.

*"Whether she is writing about Shakespeare, divas, hysteria, the pandemic, Hollywood or cooking, Elisabeth Bronfen always has a unique perspective on her subject." - Jutta Czeguhn, Süddeutsche Zeitung*

Julia Voss

# "To astonish humanity" – Hilma af Klint

**Rights sold to:** ES (Ediciones AKAL) | PL (Wydawnictwo Smak Słowa) | S (Bonniersförlagen) | KOR (Pungwoldaong) | WEL (University of Chicago Press)



October 2024 · 600 pages



© Eray Aydın

**Julia Voss** was an editor in chief at the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. In 2005, she received a PhD in art history. She is the recipient of multiple writing awards, including the Sigmund Freud Prize for academic prose awarded by the Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung. She currently holds an honorary professorship at Leuphana Universität in Lüneburg and writes an art column titled "Ask Julia Voss" for the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung.

## A radical force, ahead of her time – Hilma af Klint, pioneer of abstract painting

She created more than 1,000 paintings, drawings, and water-colors, revolutionizing art. A forerunner to Kandinsky and Mondrian, the Swedish painter Hilma af Klint created abstract works with deeply striking forms and colors. She was a fiercely independent and determined woman who refused to bow to the rules of the male-dominated art world. Klint knew she was ahead of her time: at the age of seventy, she decreed that her works should only be exhibited 20 years after her death. The rediscovery of her work has caused a sensation in the art world over the past years. In this deeply researched account of Klint's life, Julia Voss recounts the unconventional life of this exceptional artist, destroying clichés and myths while painting a portrait of an era in which art, as well as politics, was set into turmoil.

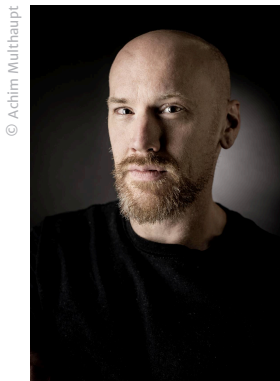
Philipp Kohlhöfer

# Pandemics. How Viruses Change the World

- Philipp Kohlhöfer reports directly from the heart of science
- Scientifically sound, competent and comprehensive: an overview that goes far beyond COVID-19
- With a preface by the leading German virologist Christian Drosten



October 2021 · 544 pages



© Achim Muthaupt

**Philipp Kohlhöfer** works, among other things, for the research network Zoonotic Contagious Diseases, sponsored by the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research). He is an author and columnist for GEO, among other publications. He got shot while covering a story in the Pacific, and for another story, he lived for months with street gangs. Already in 2003, he wrote a reportage on corona viruses. The protagonist then was Christian Drosten.

## The history and future of pandemics.

We live in a world of viruses. A single successful cross-species transmission anywhere in the world is enough to unleash a new epidemic. Against the backdrop of the new strain of corona virus, this book discusses how pandemics come about and why so-called zoonosis is occurring with greater frequency: new illnesses, which leap across from animals to people and can become extremely dangerous. Because even if we like to believe that Covid-19 is unique, we live in a world of viruses. Epidemics are not natural catastrophes like earthquakes. They don't just drop out of the sky. A single successful cross-species transmission anywhere in the world is enough to unleash a new pandemic.

Philipp Kohlhöfer, who works for the research network Zoonotic Contagious Diseases, presents here an unsettling, but, at the same time, optimistic book. He shadows leading scientists such as Christian Drosten as they search for the origin of pandemics, observes them at work on viruses, such as MERS and Ebola, and in their attempts to discover the next pandemic before it breaks out. His journey takes him through German-speaking countries as well as to West Africa and Asia. To laboratories, museums and the rain forest. In the process, the book tells of the greatest weapon that humanity has in the struggle against a new kind of pathogen: science.

Ralf Konersmann

# The Restlessness of the World



May 2015 · 464 pages



© Paula Markert

Ralf Konersmann, born in 1955, is a philosophy professor at the University of Kiel, where he chairs the philosophy department. In addition to his other work, he is co-editor of the cultural historical magazine *Zeitschrift für Kulturphilosophie* and the reference standard *Historisches Wörterbuch der Philosophie*. His most recent publications with S. Fischer include *Die Unruhe der Welt* (2015).

Once upon a time, lasting tranquility was seen as a prerequisite for happiness. Today, however, restlessness, constant travel, permanent change are prized above all. Ralf Konersmann reconstructs this revolutionary shift in Western cultural values from a preference for tranquility to a preference for restlessness. His genealogical approach does not take disquiet as a given, but instead determines how it could have attained the status it holds today – because this disquiet is neither end nor means, but always both at once. A stylistically brilliant and analytically clear exploration of an idea that keeps us always on our toes – an idea so apparently natural that no one dares to question it.

“How can it be that we have exchanged our longing for peace and calm – once synonymous with happiness – for the promise of disquiet?” Ralf Konersmann



Niels Werber

# Ant Society: History of a Fascination

**Rights sold to:** China (simplified chinese), Guangdong (worldwide)



June 2013 · 480 pages



© Wolfgang Borris

Ever since ancient Greece, ants and their form of cohabitation have served as a model and comparison for humankind and the way we organize our societies. The image, however, is extremely flexible and can be used to model republican, altruistic and totalitarian ideas of community alike. In this study on the history of knowledge, Niels Werber examines the fascination of this comparison and presents its past use, the shadow it casts and its key functions. What is observed among ants, he finds, provides answers to sociological and anthropological questions – and beyond these disciplines, definitions of human beings and the society we live in.

Niels Werber is a professor of modern German literature at the University of Siegen. He studied German literature and philosophy and has taught at numerous universities in Germany and elsewhere. His research areas include social insects, self-definition formulae in society, literature and its media and the geopolitics of literature.

Patrick Cramer

# Future Worlds – My Journey to the Science of Tomorrow

**Rights sold to:** ROK (Book 21) | PRC (Thinkingdom)



March 2024 · 336 pages



© Christoph Mukherjee / Max-Planck-Gesellschaft

Patrick Cramer, born in Stuttgart in 1969, studied chemistry in Stuttgart, Heidelberg, Bristol and Cambridge. After research stays at EMBL Grenoble and Stanford University, he researched and taught at LMU Munich. From 2014 to 2021, he was Director at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen, and from 2022 he headed the Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Natural Sciences. In June 2022, he was elected President of the Max Planck Society. Before taking office in June 2023, he visited all 84 institutes to gain an overview of their diverse research activities.

## Where tomorrow's science is made

Will we be able to develop alternative energy sources and thus avert the climate catastrophe? Will our democracies survive the challenges posed by new forms of communication and artificial intelligence? Will we be able to provide adequate medical care for an ageing society?

In search of answers to these and many other questions of the future, Patrick Cramer visited the 84 institutes of the Max Planck Society before taking over its presidency. In the process, he met passionately researching scientists and got to know the future worlds that are just beginning to emerge in their minds. From astronomy and climate research to biomedicine and artificial intelligence to energy research and social sciences - Cramer takes us into the engine rooms of research and provides exclusive insights into the science of tomorrow.

Jan-Pieter Barbian

# The Politics of Literature in Nazi Germany: Books in the Media Dictatorship

**Rights sold to:** USA, Continuum International Publishing Group (World English rights); Russia (Exem / Individuum)



April 2024 · 512 pages

© Friedhelm Krischer



Jan-Pieter Barbian, born in 1958, studied German language and literature, history and philosophy. He has been Director of the Duisburg City Library since 1999 and is the author of the standard work "Literaturpolitik im 'Dritten Reich'". Since then, he has written countless essays on book-related topics, some of which were published in "The consummate Powerlessness. Writers, Publishers and Booksellers in the Nazi State" in 2008. Barbian is considered one of the leading experts on the subject.

## The completely revised and updated new edition of the standard work on National Socialism as a media dictatorship

This is the most comprehensive account to date of literary politics in Nazi Germany and of the institutions, organizations and people who controlled German literature during the Third Reich. Barbian details a media dictatorship-involving the persecution and control of writers, publishers and libraries, but also voluntary assimilation and pre-emptive self-censorship-that began almost immediately under the National Socialists, leading to authors' forced declarations of loyalty, literary propaganda, censorship, and book burnings. Special attention is given to Nazi regulation of the publishing industry and command over all forms of publication and dissemination, from the most prestigious publishing houses to the smallest municipal and school libraries. Barbian also shows that, although the Nazis censored books not in line with Party aims, many publishers and writers took advantage of loopholes in their system of control. Supporting his work with exhaustive research of original sources, Barbian describes a society in which everybody who was not openly opposed to it, participated in the system, whether as a writer, an editor, or even as an ordinary visitor to a library.

"Barbian [...] shows in an unprecedented density of facts how German literature was brought under state control after 1933." - WAZ, Jens Dirksen

Josef M. Gaßner, Jörn Müller

# Cosmology. The Greatest Story of all Time

- Over 20,000 copies of *Können wir die Welt verstehen?* sold
- The authors' YouTube channel (Urknall, Weltall und das Leben) has 250,000 subscribers
- Printed in four-colour, with numerous vivid graphics



October 2022 · 512 pages

**Josef M. Gassner** conducts basic research, runs the YouTube channel 'Urknall, Weltall und das Leben', and teaches science, astronomy, and cosmology at the University of Applied Sciences in Landshut. In 2012, he and Harald Lesch wrote the bestseller "Urknall, Weltall und das Leben", which has an accompanying website and YouTube channel. And in 2019 S. Fischer published "Können wir die Welt verstehen?". This current book, like the previous one, is based on a lecture series which has received millions of views on 50 YouTube videos.

**Jörn Müller** is a physicist and received a doctorate at the German Electron-Synchrotron 'DESY'. He has worked in research and development in the field of optics and electrophotography and on the development of high-energy lasers.

## Josef M. Gassner leads us skilfully and comprehensibly through the greatest story of all time

In "Cosmology", the theoretical astrophysicist and cosmologist Josef M. Gassner and the experimental physicist Jörn Müller tell the greatest story of all time: modern cosmology.

It is about nothing less than everything: where we come from - where we're headed - and what happens in-between. In a clear and comprehensible way, which does not exclude mathematical digressions, the authors pave the way to deeper understanding. Even with necessary simplifications, they always remain scientifically accurate as they answer a series of questions that are otherwise excluded from works of popular science: What caused the big bang and what preceded it? How large is the universe and what lies beyond it? How does the cosmos expand? Do space, time, and we ourselves expand? Is our three-dimensional world simply a holographic projection? Why are the objects in the universe as they are and not otherwise? Is life an eternal model for success or will it come to an end?

Along the way, the authors address the informational paradox of black holes, Hawking radiation and Rindler spacetime. They report on infinitely hot objects, which are as large as a planet and yet obey the laws of the most minute objects, those of quantum mechanics. They write of dark matter, dark energy, negative pressure, entropic gravitation, and lead the reader with the aid of Friedmann equations to the beginning of all existence: the big bang. In the search for our own origins, primordial nucleosynthesis, cosmic background radiation, structure formation in the cosmos, galaxies, stars, and not least the metamorphosis of dead matter into living organisms provide the decisive answers.

Whoever engages with this book will view our world and their own existence with completely fresh eyes!



Josef M. Gaßner, Jörn Müller

# Can We Understand the World?. Milestones of Physics from Aristotle to String Theory



October 2019 · 672 pages

In this primer, astrophysicist Josef M. Gaßner and experimental physicist Jörn Müller cover all the highlights of physics. Their introduction to the major theories of the discipline is broadly accessible and vividly written, bridging the gap between popular science and specialist publications.

This book is like an enjoyable and challenging mountain hike. Readers stroll around the foothills of classical mechanics, ascend to the theory of special relativity, and then enjoy the scenic views of the general theory of relativity and quantum mechanics. From the main ridge of quantum fields theories and the Standard Model of particle physics, including the Higgs mechanism, the journey continues up to gauge theory, loop quantum gravity theory, supersymmetry and string theories.

Josef M. Gaßner and Jörn Müller's mission is to make their complex subject matter as comprehensive as possible, and they go about it with great passion. Their enthusiasm for the beauty and clarity of physics is infectious, smoothing any aversions readers may feel toward the great theories and models of physics.

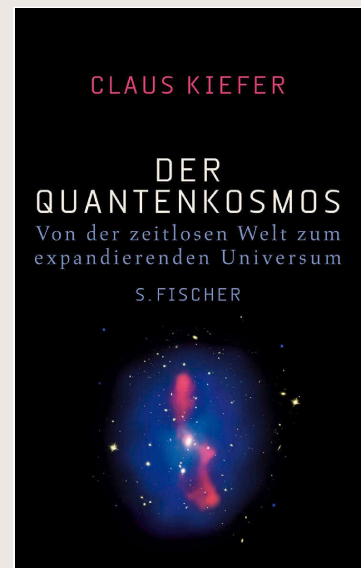
With a preface by Harald Lesch.

Finally, a book about physics for scientists and non-scientists alike!

Claus Kiefer

# The Quantum Cosmos: From the Timeless World to the Expanding Universe

**Rights sold to:** Poland, Copernicus Center Press



March 2019 · 344 pages



Claus Kiefer studied physics and astronomy in Heidelberg and Vienna. He gained his PhD in 1988 on the concept of inner time in the canonical quantum theory of gravitation, qualifying to teach at university level in 1995 and becoming a lecturer at the Universities of Zurich and Freiburg. He has been a professor of theoretical physics at the University of Cologne since 2001.

There are four fundamental forces of nature in our universe. Three of them affect the atomic level, and one applies to the planets. How can we unify all four forces in a single model? This is a very exciting question to which physics has not yet found an answer – or not quite. The theory of quantum gravitation is working on answering this great universal question.

Claus Kiefer takes his readers on an entertaining journey through the theory of relativity and quantum theory, time's arrow and cosmology, all the way to quantum gravity and quantum cosmology. He explains what is behind phenomena such as black holes, Schrödinger's cat, dark energy, strings and the wave function of the universe, sketching out the exciting new theory and its answer to the key question of modern physics.

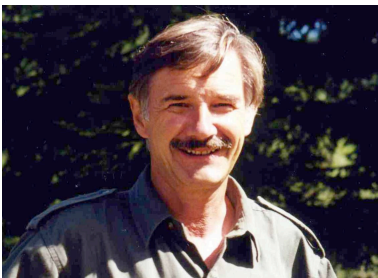
Josef H. Reichholf

# Unicorn, Phoenix, Dragon: Where Our Mythical Creatures Come From



August 2015 · 304 pages

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Josef H. Reichholf is an evolutionary biologist, natural historian, and best-selling author. Until 2010, he was head of the Vertebrata Section of the Bavarian State Collection of Zoology, as well as professor of ecology and environment at the Technische Universität München. In 2007, he was awarded the Sigmund-Freud-Prize for Academic Prose; according to Cicero magazine's 2009 ranking, he is among Germany's 40 most influential natural scientists. Also available from S. Fischer are his previous works *Einhorn, Phönix, Drache. Woher unsere Fabeltiere kommen*, *Eine kurze Naturgeschichte des letzten Jahrtausends* and *Warum die Menschen sesshaft wurden*.

## Living legends – on the reality of our fables and myths

How real are our mythical creatures? Where do they come from and which legends have been woven around them? On the basis of ancient folk tales and sagas from many different cultures and with a surprisingly large knowledge of zoology, Josef H. Reichholf investigates the three most mysterious mythical creatures. According to zoological diagnoses, the unicorn, the legendary ancient beast with miraculous power in its horn, is a real animal that was later attributed with mythical characteristics. The phoenix, risen in majesty from the ashes, has its origins in the flamingo. And the fire-breathing dragon in scaly armour, the most puzzling of these mysterious creatures, was never an animal but a man!

A fascinating journey through time, mythology and natural history.