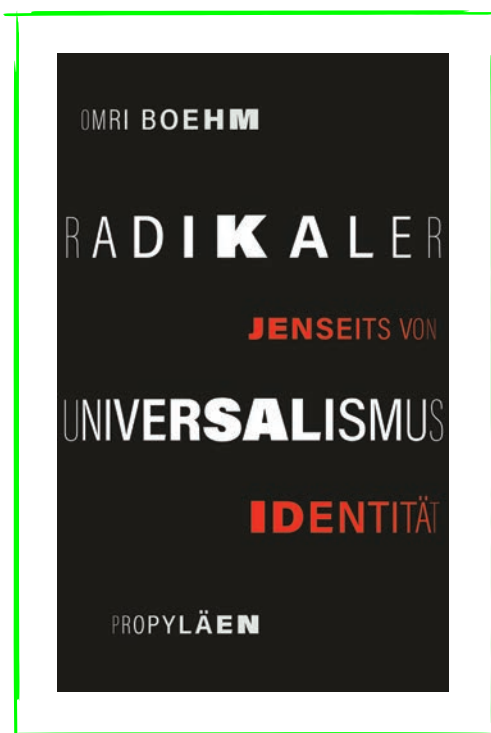




Deutscher
Sachbuch
Preis 2023

The nominees

Omri Boehm · Teresa Bücker · Ewald Frie
Judith Kohlenberger · Meron Mendel · Hanno Sauer
Martin Schulze Wessel · Elisabeth Wellershaus



Omri Boehm Radikaler Universalismus. Jenseits von Identität

(Radical Universalism. Beyond Identity)

Propyläen

Jury comment:

The idea of universally applicable foundations for human co-existence seems to have deteriorated. Hostile discourse camps accuse each other of exaggerating specific interests and their conceptions of identity. With his invitation to rethink basic universalist concepts, Omri Boehm disrupts these debates. His book makes demands; it does not cosy up. It takes us back to figures like Job, Kant and Martin Luther King, drawing connections between biblical stories and contemporary controversies. It invites us to distance ourselves from contemporary debates by questioning the differences between interests and feelings, means and ends, and even value and dignity. Here, political philosophy encounters the present – with the stimulating presumption that divisible basic principles can be understood as being more than just an expression of conformity and consensus.

Biography

Omri Boehm, born in 1979, is Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophy at the New School for Social Research in New York. An Israeli and German citizen, he has conducted research in Munich and Berlin, among other places. His book "Kant's Critique of Spinoza" was published by Oxford University Press in 2014. He writes about Israel, politics and philosophy in *Haaretz*, *Die ZEIT* and *The New York Times*, among other outlets.

The manuscript for "Radikaler Universalismus" ("Radical Universalism") was written in English by Omri Boehm and translated by Michael Adrian for the original German edition.

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Teresa Bucker

Alle_Zeit.

Eine Frage von Macht und Freiheit

(All_Time. A Question of Power and Freedom)

Ullstein

Jury comment:

The journalist Teresa Bucker is in search of a path to a fairer society for all. Devoting less time to gainful employment is one way this could be achieved: a maximum of 20 hours of work per week with full pay, fairer distribution of care work and more time for social relationships. And not as an aim for the individual but for society as a whole in a "caring democracy", which would have to begin in the family, where the root of the problem still lies, due to the incompatibility of paid and domestic work. Bucker develops a comprehensible model for a new time culture and time policy. Consequently, her book is dedicated to a topic that does not concern a phenomenon of time but a fundamental sociological question – while also taking on many social, political and economic issues of our time.

Biography

Teresa Bucker is a journalist in the field of feminism, work and society. As an expert, she is regularly invited to conferences and political talk shows.

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Ewald Frie

Ein Hof und elf Geschwister. Der stille Abschied vom bäuerlichen Leben in Deutschland

(A Farm and Eleven Children. The Quiet Farewell to Farming Life in Germany)

C.H.Beck

Jury comment:

The peasant world of hard work in the fields, milking cows and castrating piglets, of religiosity and self-sufficiency – this way of life has disappeared so quietly that one can only wonder in retrospect. Sixty-year-old history professor Ewald Frie himself comes from a farming family. In this book, he talks to his siblings about their common origins and home, lovingly and unpretentiously evoking a way of life that is no longer familiar to many. And he takes stock: What has been lost with urbanisation and the expansion of education? What have we gained with social change? The fact that Frie does not always have simple answers to simple questions is one of the strengths of this book, which is as entertaining as it is insightful.

Biography

Ewald Frie is a professor of modern history at the University of Tübingen.

Press contact and interview requests:

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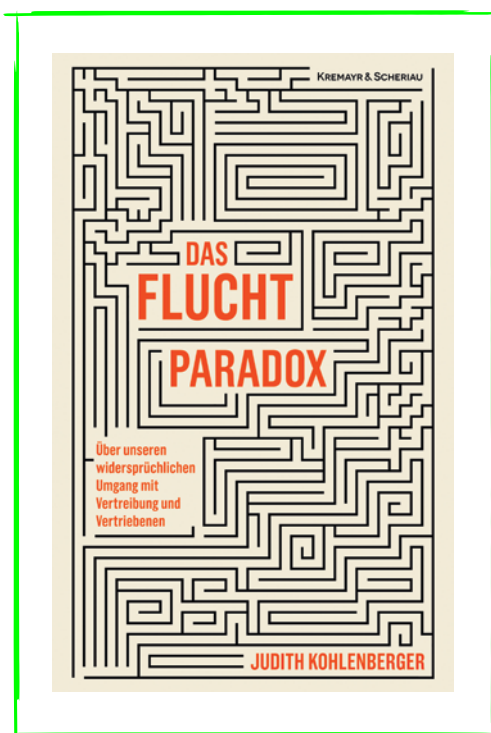
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Judith Kohlenberger

Das Fluchtparadox. Über unseren widersprüchlichen Umgang mit Vertreibung und Vertriebenen

(The Paradox of Fleeing. On Our Contradictory Approach to Displacement and Displaced Persons)

Kremayr & Scheriau

Jury comment:

European asylum and migration policy is riddled with contradictions. Refugees are compelled to put their lives in danger in order to find protection. When crossing borders, they are forced to break the law in order to claim their right to asylum. They are expected to be at once in need of protection and willing to work, to integrate into their host countries, but to remain forever cap in hand.

With great nuance, Judith Kohlenberger details the legal, social and political developments in our approach to fleeing and expulsion in the 20th and 21st centuries and exposes the paradoxes in current discourse. She provides intelligent and convincing answers to the question of what a humane asylum and integration policy could look like, and how Europe can live up to its responsibilities in this regard.

Biography

Judith Kohlenberger is a cultural scientist and migration researcher at the Institute for Social Policy at the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU), where she teaches and conducts research on refugee migration, integration and belonging. In autumn 2015, she was involved in one of the first studies in Europe on large-scale refugee movement. Her work has been published in international journals and received the Kurt-Rothschild-Preis (Kurt Rothschild Prize) 2019 and the Förderpreis der Stadt Wien (City of Vienna Sponsorship Prize). In addition to her academic work, she is active in the Vienna Integration Council and is a founding member of the initiative COURAGE – Mut zur Menschlichkeit, which campaigns for legal escape routes for refugees.

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Judith Kohlenberger · **Meron Mendel** · Hanno Sauer
Martin Schulze Wessel · Elisabeth Wellershaus



Meron Mendel **Über Israel reden. Eine deutsche Debatte**

(Talking About Israel. A German Debate)

Kiepenheuer & Witsch

Jury comment:

For weeks, hundreds of thousands of people have been demonstrating in the streets of Israel to preserve their democracy. The country is in the midst of its greatest crisis since its founding 75 years ago. In his partly autobiographical essay "Über Israel reden. Eine deutsche Debatte" ("Talking About Israel. A German Debate"), Meron Mendel addresses the major controversies of recent years, exploring Israel and the German *raison d'état*, anti-Semitism and the culture of remembrance, the so-called 'Historikerstreit' (historians' dispute) and Documenta. As an educator, Mendel aims for a mediating position, seeking to build bridges between opponents. At the same time, he also ventures into the Middle East conflict itself, calling into question the entrenched ideas Israelis and Palestinians have of each other. A level-headed book that strives for balance in heated debates.

Biography

Meron Mendel, PhD, was born in Israel in 1976 and moved to Germany in 2001. A historian and educator, he is professor of transnational social work at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and director of the Anne Frank Educational Centre in Frankfurt am Main.

Press contact and interview requests:

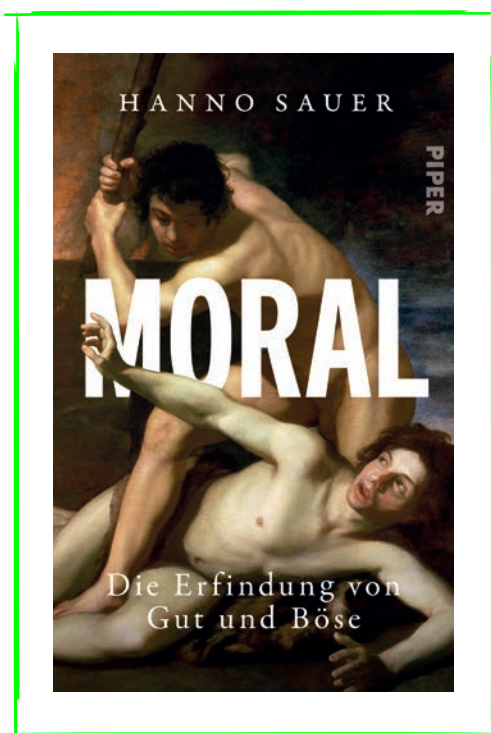
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Hanno Sauer

Moral.

Die Erfindung von Gut und Böse

(Morality. The Invention of Good and Evil)

Piper

Jury comment:

People are relying increasingly on morality to justify their positions in current social debates. But what is this human “morality” anyway, how did it emerge as a successful concept in human history, what is its universal core and how does it manifest differently from one culture to another? Sauer’s comprehensive cultural history of morality from the dawn of humanity to the present provides a solid basis for the highly topical moral debates of our time – intelligently written and entertaining, it invites us to question our own convictions.

Biography

Hanno Sauer, born in 1983, is a philosopher and teaches ethics at Utrecht University. The author of numerous specialised essays and several academic works, he also lectures frequently in Europe and North America.

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Martin Schulze Wessel

Der Fluch des Imperiums. Die Ukraine, Polen und der Irrweg in der russischen Geschichte

(The Curse of the Empire. Ukraine, Poland and the Misguided Path in Russian History)

C.H.Beck

Jury comment:

The principles of freedom, democracy and national self-determination are under attack in Ukraine today. This may sound melodramatic, but the historian of Eastern Europe Martin Schulze Wessel justifies this position masterfully with a history of the Russia Empire. Eruditely retracing the history of Russia, Poland and Ukraine since Peter the Great, he describes how Moscow's imperial policy towards its neighbours was accompanied by an anti-Western attitude that persists to this day. An oppressive history lesson, his book opens our eyes to the mindset of Putin and his regime and its contempt for a diverse Western civil society.

Biography

Martin Schulze Wessel is a professor of Eastern and Southern European history at the University of Munich, and a member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences. From 2012 to 2016 he was chairman of the German Historians' Association.

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Elisabeth Wellershaus

Wo die Fremde beginnt. Über Identität in der fragilen Gegenwart

(Where Foreignness Begins. On Identity in the Fragile Present)

C.H.Beck

Jury comment:

Nothing about the circumstances of Elisabeth Wellershaus's childhood was clear cut. She grew up in an affluent neighbourhood in Hamburg, the daughter of a black father and white mother. Decades later, the author now reports on foreignness in Germany and on a future that cannot have fixed identity attributions if it is to be productive. The book is an attempt to move beyond the debates about racism and identity politics without ignoring them. The author's subjective narrative employs calm, sensitive language to observe and describe with great precision. She does not find certainty in community and collectivism – only grey areas and the realisation that we can be at home in the in-between.

Biography

Elisabeth Wellershaus works as an author and journalist. Among other things, she writes reports, essays and features dealing with the attribution of foreignness and the engagement with belonging. She is a member of the editorial team working on the feminist column '1onach8' in *ZEIT ONLINE*, and works as an editor for the magazine *Contemporary And*, which focuses on contemporary art from Africa and the diaspora.

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