



Deutscher
Sachbuch
Preis 2022

The nominees

Bettina Baltschev · Alice Bota · Stefan Kreuzberger
Samira El Ouassil & Friedemann Karig · Ludwig Huber
Stephan Malinowski · Steffen Mau · Natan Sznajder



Bettina Baltschev

Am Rande der Glückseligkeit. Über den Strand

(On the Edge of Happiness. On Beaches)

Berenberg

Jury comment:

A book that changes how you look at the world. The way Bettina Baltschev writes about beaches makes you see the border between sea and land as never before. In Ostend, Max Beckmann writes: "If I were emperor of the earth, I would request as my supreme right to spend a month every year alone on the beach." Bettina Baltschev is familiar with this heaven on earth. Yet, in her inspiring essay, she also reveals beaches as places of politics and history. She takes her readers to Dunkirk with Winston Churchill ("We shall fight on the beaches ...") and to Utah Beach in Normandy with J.D. Salinger on D-Day, and describes the suffering and misery of the migrants on the Beach of Refugees in Lesbos today.

Biography

Bettina Baltschev, born in Berlin in 1973, studied cultural studies, journalism and philosophy in Leipzig and Groningen. She is managing director of the Sächsischer Literaturrat (Saxon Literature Council), an author and editor for the regional broadcaster MDR, and commutes between Leipzig and her second home in Amsterdam. Most recently, Berenberg published "Hölle und Paradies. Amsterdam, Querido und die deutsche Exilliteratur" (Hell and Paradise. Amsterdam, Querido and German Literature in Exile) (2016).

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Alice Bota

Die Frauen von Belarus. Von Revolution, Mut und dem Drang nach Freiheit

The Women of Belarus.
On Revolution, Courage and the Pursuit of Freedom

Berlin Verlag

Jury comment:

A convincing plea for free, liberal, pluralistic societies and against post-Soviet-style dictatorships – from the mouths of women who are fighting for their freedom right now in the middle of Europe. In her book, journalist Alice Bota combines reporting, research and analysis, striking on a legitimate way to present even our current moment in non-fiction, respectfully and compassionately. Based on her knowledge of the conditions in Belarus, gathered first hand over the course of many years, the author allows both nameless and well-known heroines of the resistance to speak for themselves, enlightening her readers in the best sense of the word. At the same time, through hundreds of interviews, she collects important historical evidence. Bota's feminist perspective unites contemporary and social history.

Biography

Alice Bota, born 1979 in Krapkowitz, Poland, is a journalist, author and editor of *Die Zeit*. She has received numerous accolades including the Axel Springer Award. She has headed up the *Die Zeit* office in Moscow since 2015.

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Stefan Kreuzberger

Das deutsch-russische Jahrhundert. Geschichte einer besonderen Beziehung

The German–Russian Epoch. History of a Special Relationship

Rowohlt

Jury comment:

Is it possible to understand war? To understand Vladimir Putin, or contemporary Russia? – Probably not. But what we can understand, in retrospect, is how events develop and what they lead to. What Stefan Kreuzberger describes here is a history of German–Russian relations: the tsarist era, revolution and upheaval, World War I, the Soviet Union, World War II, the Cold War, Willy Brandt's Moscow and Warsaw Treaties and, finally, the fall of communism and the present. Kreuzberger's brilliant presentation of details is impressive, revealing a wealth of interconnections in our shared history that helps us to better understand our relationship with Russia today. At the same time, his interpretation of the present is also a revelation.

Biography

Stefan Kreuzberger, born in 1961 in Calw, is professor of Contemporary History at the University of Rostock. He heads the Research and Documentation Centre of Mecklenburg–Western Pomerania focusing on the history of dictatorships in Germany. He publishes on German and Russian history in the 20th century and is, among other things, co-editor of the academic anthologies "Akten zur Auswärtigen Politik der Bundesrepublik Deutschland" and a member of the Joint German–Russian History Commission.

Press contact and interview requests:

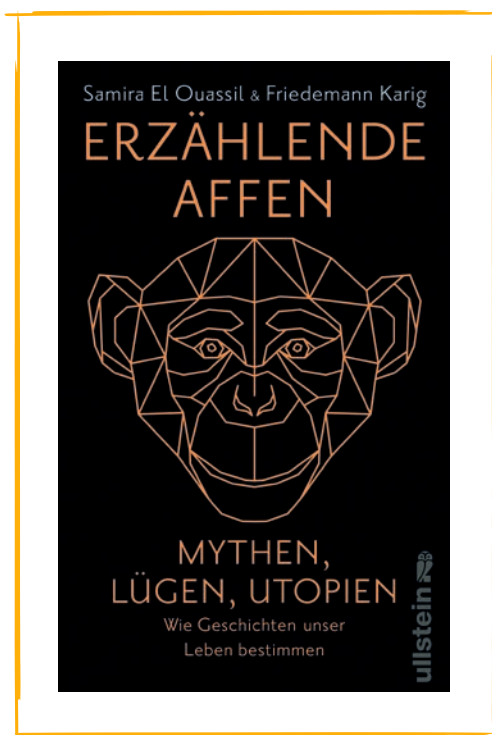
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Samira El Ouassil & Friedemann Karig **Erzählende Affen. Mythen, Lügen, Utopien – Wie Geschichten unser Leben bestimmen**

Narrating Monkeys. Myths, Lies, Utopias –
How Stories Determine Our Lives

Ullstein

Jury comment:

Humans are animals capable of telling stories. They transform the jumble of their experiences into coherent stories with a beginning, an aim and an end. This ability not only saved the life of the storyteller Scheherazade, but also gave Homo sapiens a distinct evolutionary advantage. From Adam and Eve to QAnon, from Homer to Hollywood, we find universal narratives that give meaning to the world and form collective identities – but that also shape our images of the enemy and justify wars. Criss-crossing through the ages, El Ouassil and Karig trace this phenomenon and, vividly and with edifying enthusiasm, describe how it continues to function today.

Biography

Samira El Ouassil, born in Munich in 1984, is a German author, actress, musician and politician. Since September 2018, she has been writing the column "Wochenschau" for the online portal *Übermedien*. She has been hosting the philosophical Audible podcast "Sag niemals Nietzsche" with Christiane Stenger since 2019 and writing an online column for *Der Spiegel* since 2020. Also since 2020, she has been hosting the podcast "Piratensender Powerplay" with Friedemann Karig. El Ouassil is the singer of the band Kummer and a member of the Verein Mensa (Mensa association).

Friedemann Karig, born in 1982, studied media science, politics, sociology and economics and writes for *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *SZ-Magazin*, *Die Zeit* and *jetzt*, among others. He hosted the Grimme Award-nominated "Jäger&Sammler" (Hunters & Collectors), created by funk, the online youth channel of ARD and ZDF. After publishing "Wie wir lieben. Vom Ende der Monogamie" (How We Love. On the End of Monogamy) in 2017, he made his literary debut with "Dschungel" (Jungle). Karig lives in Berlin and Munich.

Press contact and interview requests:

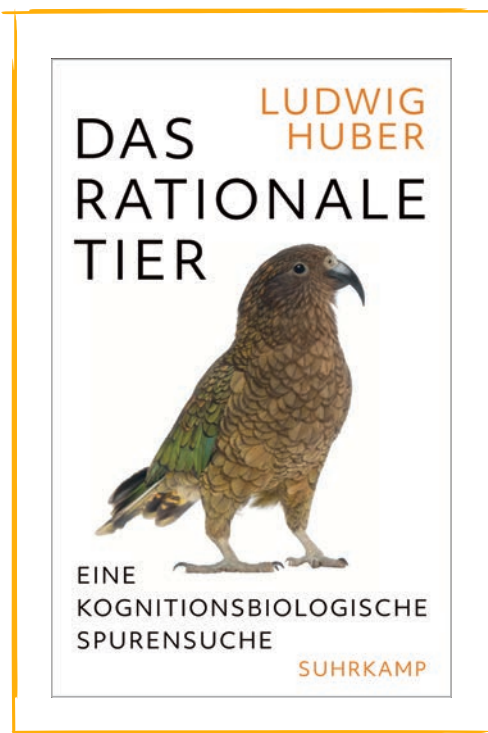
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Ludwig Huber Das rationale Tier. Eine kognitionsbiologische Spurensuche

The Rational Animal. A Search for Clues in Cognitive Biology

Suhrkamp

Jury comment:

A rook learning to extract food from a tube with a stick; monkeys cracking nuts with a wide range of tools; dolphins hesitating when they don't recognise a sound correctly. Animals communicate, read minds and plan actions. They are – as countless experiments over the past decades have shown – far more intelligent than we humans have long assumed. What's more, they also act rationally, as Ludwig Huber describes. In his book, he brings us up to date on the latest research in cognitive biology and offers impressive evidence that the results of these studies compel us to change our attitude towards animals – namely, to treat them more rationally and ethically. His book is science and elucidation at its best.

Biography

Ludwig Huber, born in 1964, is Professor and head of the interdisciplinary Messerli Research Institute for Human-Animal Relations at the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna. He heads the Department of Comparative Cognition Research there, which he founded and which focuses on research into the cognitive and emotional abilities of animals.

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Stephan Malinowski

Die Hohenzollern und die Nazis. Geschichte einer Kollaboration

The Hohenzollern and the Nazis. History of a Collaboration

Propyläen

Jury comment:

In this brilliant social study, Stephan Malinowski describes how, from the 1920s onwards, the Hohenzollern family and the Nazis moved closer together, forging symbolic political alliances. Despite their many differences in terms of manners and origins, the old aristocracy and new movement came together in their mutual hatred of democracy and the Weimar Republic. This was the cement that bound these very different people and milieus. Malinowski's politically and legally explosive book about this collaboration is as cleverly composed as it is insightful – a joy and intellectual delight to read, despite the horrors. And Malinowski's thorough research and clear arguments, which can also be understood as a response to the constant threat of legal action by the House of Hohenzollern, are also very persuasive.

Biography

Stephan Malinowski studied and taught history in Berlin, France, Italy, the USA, and Ireland. Since 2012, he is a professor for European history at the University of Edinburgh. His previous book "Nazis and Nobles" received various awards. The expert opinion, which he prepared on behalf of the state of Brandenburg in 2014, plays an important role in the discussion about the restitution claims asserted by the "head of the house" of Hohenzollern.

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Steffen Mau

Sortiermaschinen. Die Neuerfindung der Grenze im 21. Jahrhundert

Sorting Machines. Reinventing Borders in the 21st Century

C.H.Beck

Jury comment:

Borders are invisible for some and insurmountable for others – hence their double function as “sorting machines”. In contrast to the myths of borderless globalisation, borders – those places that can open or close, where we can be waved through or rebuffered – have not become more permeable per se in recent history; on the contrary, they have been expanded, enhanced, technically optimised and “fortified”. Worldwide, they shape people’s opportunities in life, existentially and unequally. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in Germany, these fortified borders have multiplied around the world. In an empirically rooted and stylistically straightforward manner, Berlin sociologist Steffen Mau analyses the borders of our global present, destroying many illusions about a borderless world in the process.

Biography

Steffen Mau teaches macrosociology at Humboldt University in Berlin. His most recent books are “Das metrische Wir. Über die Quantifizierung des Sozialen” (The Metric We. On Quantifying the Social) (2017) and “Lütten Klein. Leben in der ostdeutschen Transformationsgesellschaft” (Lütten Klein. Life in the East German Transformation Society) (2019). In 2021, he received the Leibniz Prize of the German Research Foundation (DFG).

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Natan Sznajder

Fluchtpunkte der Erinnerung. Über die Gegenwart von Holocaust und Kolonialismus

Vanishing Points of Memory.
Holocaust and Colonialism in the Present

Carl Hanser

Jury comment:

Is the Holocaust an unparalleled crime or an act of colonialism, and what are the differences between anti-Semitism and racism? Starting from the finding that the globalisation of memory does not necessarily lead to a shared meta-narrative, Natan Sznajder intervenes in the heated controversy about the relationship between the Holocaust and colonialism. Drawing on authors such as Hannah Arendt and Albert Memmi, he offers important suggestions to facilitate a productive conversation between postcolonialism and Jewish experiences. To this end, he clearly exposes the ideological short-circuits that cluster around apparently morally sound political desires. An important, stimulating and intelligent book in a debate that is, as Natan Sznajder notes, about nothing less than our "shared responsibility for the public sphere".

Biography

Natan Sznajder was born in 1954 in Mannheim, and has worked as Professor of Sociology at the Tel Aviv Academic College since 1994. His most recent publications include "Gesellschaften in Israel. Eine Einführung in zehn Bildern" (Suhrkamp 2017), "Neuer Antisemitismus? Fortsetzung einer globalen Debatte" (edition suhrkamp 2019, ed. with Christian Heilbronn and Doron Rabinovici) and "Politik des Mitgefühls. Die Vermarktung der Gefühle in der Demokratie" (Beltz Juventa 2021).

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