

Deutscher Sachbuchpreis

Press conference

21 May 2019, 11 am

Haus des Buches

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Speakers

- **Heinrich Riethmüller**, President of the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels and Chairman of the Akademie Deutscher Sachbuchpreis
- **Jürgen Fitschen**, Chairman of the Deutsche Bank Stiftung
- **Regula Venske**, President of the PEN Centre Germany and member of the Akademie Deutscher Sachbuchpreis
- **Lavinia Frey**, Managing Director Programme and Projects at Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss

Moderation:

- **Thomas Koch**, Head of Press and Public Relations of the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels

Presse-Information

The non-fiction book of the year:
Börsenverein to award German Non-Fiction Prize
for the first time in 2020

*Award for outstanding, socially relevant German-language non-fiction /
First awards ceremony to be held at the Humboldt Forum in Berlin in
June 2020 / Total prize money: 42,500 euros / Main sponsor: Deutsche
Bank Stiftung*

Transmitting knowledge, inspiring debate: Beginning in 2020, the German Non-Fiction Prize will honour the non-fiction book of the year. On 16 July 2020 at the Humboldt Forum in Berlin, the Stiftung Buchkultur und Leseförderung des Börsenvereins des Deutschen Buchhandels (Foundation for Book Culture and the Promotion of Reading of the German Publishers and Booksellers Association), formerly known as the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels Stiftung (foundation of the German Publishers and Booksellers Association) will award this prize, worth a total of 42,500 euros, for the first time. The prize honours outstanding non-fiction written in German and concerning current events. With the German Non-Fiction Prize, the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels aims to promote awareness of non-fiction as a basis for transmitting knowledge, developing informed opinions and encouraging public discourse. The Deutsche Bank Stiftung (Deutsche Bank Foundation) is the main sponsor of the prize, which is also supported by the technology and information provider MVB and the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss (Foundation of the Humboldt Forum in the Berlin Palace).

Jury and Akademie Deutscher Sachbuchpreis (Academy of the German Non-Fiction Prize)

To ensure that the prize is awarded in an impartial and transparent manner, a seven-member jury selects the winner through a multiple-stage selection process. The jury is composed of seven experts from the areas of non-fiction criticism, journalism, science, the cultural sector and the book trade. It is comprised of new members each year. The jury of the German Non-Fiction Prize 2020 will be announced in November 2019.

The members of the jury are selected by the Akademie Deutscher Sachbuchpreis. The eleven-member committee is convened by the board of the Börsenverein, whose members included representatives of the book, media and culture industries, science, as well as sponsors and supporters of the prize. The Chairman of the Akademie Deutscher

Sachbuchpreis is the President of the Börsenverein, Heinrich Riethmüller. The complete list of members is available at www.deutscher-sachbuchpreis.de.

Call for submissions and selection process

The submission period for the German Non-Fiction Prize 2020 begins on 23 September 2019 and ends on 22 November 2019. Publishers from Germany, Austria and Switzerland may submit up to two German-language non-fiction books from their current or planned programme for consideration for the prize. The jury may request additional titles that it deems appropriate.

The non-fiction book of the year is selected through a two-stage process. First, the jury compiles a list of nominations comprising eight titles, which will be announced around World Book Day in April 2020. From this selection, the members of the jury then choose the non-fiction book of the year. The eight nominated authors will only find out who is the winner of the German Non-Fiction Prize on the evening of the awards ceremony. The winner receives 25,000 euros, the seven nominees 2,500 euros each.

Heinrich Riethmüller, President of the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels and Chairman of the Akademie Deutscher Sachbuchpreis:

“We need non-fiction now more than ever: It provides accurate information and helps us understand complex connections – attributes that are of utmost importance for our society today. With the German Non-Fiction Prize, we are creating a platform for books and authors whose topics affect people today and inspire them to think and debate. We are delighted to have found strong partners to join us in our commitment to these important goals.”

Jürgen Fitschen, Chairman of the Deutsche Bank Stiftung:

“Expanding horizons and inspiring debate – these are two key attributes of non-fiction. As a result, the German Non-Fiction Prize contributes significantly to a wide-ranging social discourse that we, the Deutsche Bank Stiftung, are extremely proud to support financially.”

Regula Venske, President of the PEN Centre Germany and member of the Akademie Deutscher Sachbuchpreis:

“The right to freedom of information corresponds to the right to freedom of speech as one of the most precious human rights. However, we in our modern society have not only a right to gather a wide range of information, we have a duty to do so. How else can we expect to make informed decisions, considering the complexity of the world? We need literary fiction to develop our hearts and non-fiction for our minds.”

Lavinia Frey, Managing Director Programme and Projects at Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss:

“A forum thrives on open discourse, a wide range of different stories and perspectives. For the Humboldt Forum, contributions from authors on current and socially relevant topics that cut across disciplines and fields are an essential source of inspiration. That’s why it is so important to us to cooperate with the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels on the new German Non-Fiction Prize. We’re delighted to be able to be a part of this important new award from the start!”

Press material and further information

More information about the prize is available at www.deutscher-sachbuchpreis.de as well as on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Hashtag: **#DSP20**

Material available at www.boersenverein.de/pressemappen:

- Press kit with factsheet und statements from other industry participants from Germany, Austria and Switzerland
- German Non-Fiction Prize logo
- Photos from the press conference today available

Frankfurt am Main, 21 May 2019

Contact for the media:

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The German Non-Fiction Prize at a glance

The prize

The German Non-Fiction Prize is awarded annually to a non-fiction book for outstanding presentation and communication of topics relevant to contemporary history.

Goal of the prize

The prize aims to promote awareness of non-fiction as a basis for transmitting knowledge, developing informed opinions and encouraging public discourse.

Funding organisation:	Stiftung Buchkultur und Leseförderung des Börsenvereins des Deutschen Buchhandels (Foundation for Book Culture and the Promotion of Reading of the German Publishers and Booksellers Association)
Prize money:	Total: 42,500 euros; 25,000 euros for the winner, 2,500 euros each for the nominees
Awards ceremony:	16 June 2020 at the Humboldt Forum in Berlin
Main sponsor:	Deutsche Bank Stiftung (Deutsche Bank Foundation)
Supporters:	MVB GmbH, Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss (Foundation of the Humboldt Forum in the Berlin Palace)

The Akademie Deutscher Sachbuchpreis (Academy of the German Non-Fiction Prize)

- 11 representatives of the book, media and culture industries, and science, as well as representatives of the prize's sponsor and supporters
- The list of current members is available at www.deutscher-sachbuchpreis.de
- The Chairman of the Akademie Deutscher Sachbuchpreis is the President of the Börsenverein, Heinrich Riethmüller
- Tasks: Act as an advisory board, select the jury

The jury

- 7 jurors
- Experts from the areas of non-fiction criticism, journalism, science, the cultural sector and the book trade
- Selected by the Akademie Deutscher Sachbuchpreis each year

Criteria for the award

- Relevant subject
- Narrative quality of the text
- Presentation of the topic, clarity of the language and accessibility of the material
- Quality of the research

Submissions criteria

- Submissions may be made by publishers who are members of the Börsenvereins des Deutschen Buchhandels (German Publishers and Booksellers Association) or of the Austrian

or Swiss equivalents, the Hauptverband des Österreichischen Buchhandels and the Schweizer Buchhändler- und Verleger-Verband

- Each publisher may submit at most two titles and recommend up to five additional titles
- Submitted books must be published between May of the previous year and the date on which the nominations are announced
- The jury may request additional titles if necessary
- An original German-language book
- Satisfy the criteria for non-fiction, technically and in terms of content, and concern current events
- Monograph

Selection process

- The jury compiles a list of nominations comprising eight titles, which is announced around World Book Day in April
- From this selection, the members of the jury choose the non-fiction book of the year, which they announce in June

The aim of events and other communications initiatives, including on social media, is to promote public discussion about the nominated titles and their topics.

The 2019/2020 prize

23 September 2019	Beginning of submission period for publishers
5 November 2019	Announcement of jury members /
22 November 2019	Ending of submission period for publishers
14 January 2020	Announcement of number of submissions and speaker of the jury
21 April 2020	Announcement of nominated titles
16 June 2020	Awards ceremony and announcement of winning title at the Humboldt Forum in Berlin

Further information: www.deutscher-sachbuchpreis.de

The Akademie Deutscher Sachbuchpreis (Academy of the German Non-Fiction Prize)

Dr. Jonathan Beck

Publisher C.H. Beck

Lavinia Frey

Managing Director Programme and Projects at Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Martin Grötschel

President of Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Wissenschaften

Dr. Kristina Hasenpflug

Managing Director Deutsche Bank Stiftung

Margit Ketterle

Publishing director non-fiction Droemer Knaur

Michael Münch

Chairman of the board of the Deutsche Bank Stiftung

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Raulff

President of ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen)

Heinrich Riethmüller (Chairman of the Akademie Deutscher Sachbuchpreis)

President of the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels and Chairman of the Akademie Deutscher Sachbuchpreis

Ronald Schild

Managing Director MVB

Dr. Regula Venske

President of the PEN Centre Germany

Sabeth Vilmar

Georg Büchner Buchladen am Kollwitzplatz, bookstore

Partners of the Deutscher Sachbuchpreis

Main Sponsor

Deutsche Bank Stiftung

The Deutsche Bank Stiftung gears its activities to the overall aim of developing and boosting people's long-term potential – the younger generation, in particular. The foundation initiates and supports projects that open up new realms of experience for young people and enable them to unfold their individual talents. In addition, it encourages up-and-coming artists to explore new directions and enhance their professional skills. The foundation's numerous projects contribute to the integration of immigrants and promote equal opportunities for disadvantaged groups in society. Another important function it performs is to foster cultural diversity in Germany. It is also committed to collaborating with influential partners in worldwide disaster-prevention schemes.

www.deutsche-bank-stiftung.de

Supporters

MVB

Technology and information provider MVB makes books visible. Major platforms, based on international metadata standards, enable publishers and bookstores to promote their products successfully and efficiently in their home markets and abroad. Editorial and advertising formats as well as face-to-face networking give orientation in different book markets. In close cooperation with customers and market players from all areas of the book industry, the teams located in Frankfurt am Main, New York und São Paulo continuously work on innovative Infrastructure solutions for the book trade of the future.

www.mvb-online.com

Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss (Foundation of the Humboldt Forum in the Berlin Palace)

Inspired by the eponymous Alexander and Wilhelm von Humboldt and their delight in exploring the world and comprehending it as a system linking nature and culture in myriad ways, the Humboldt Forum will establish a new venue for experience, learning and encounter in the heart of Berlin. The organisations participating in the Humboldt Forum are the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz with the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Kulturprojekte Berlin and Stadtmuseum Berlin, and the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, with the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss at the helm.

www.humboldtforum.com/en

Statements about the German Non-Fiction Prize

Michael Busch, CEO and Managing Director Thalia

“Debate is alive in our bookstores, which are places of dialogue and social discourse. Good non-fiction drives these debates. It transmits knowledge and can inspire interest in topics and curiosity about the world. The German Non-Fiction Prize opens up another important space that amplifies the resonance of these topics and titles.”

Margit Ketterle, publishing director non-fiction Droemer Knaur

“I cannot imagine a world without books that explain the world. That is exactly what non-fiction does – and sometimes it even changes the world, or at least makes it a little bit better. It’s marvellous that this is being recognised and rewarded with a prize for German-language non-fiction.”

Klaus Kowalke, Lessing und Kompanie bookstore, Chemnitz

“Non-fiction, especially about topics in the humanities and sciences, is available as a potential source for narrative literature. What would literature be without non-fiction? That’s why we ought to move non-fiction books and their authors to the forefront! Insights require attention. As a bookseller, in our store, I put the focus on the subject areas history, philosophy, the humanities, and natural and environmental sciences. As a reader of humanities books in particular, I am delighted about increasing public awareness.”

Michael Lemling, Lehmkuhl bookstore, Munich

“Knowledge! Education! Information! Good non-fiction deciphers and makes sense of a puzzling world. What’s more, it allows us to see it with new eyes or from a different perspective. If, with its nominations and prizes, the German Non-Fiction Prize succeeds in stimulating necessary public debate or reinvigorating controversial social discussions, it will be fulfilling an important function.”

Thomas Rathnow, CEO of the Random House Publishing Group

“The non-fiction published by German-language trade publishers in no way takes second place to fiction in terms of its diversity, quality and importance in encouraging us to reflect on our society. Yet, to date, there have scarcely been any prizes or awards for non-fiction authors that provide cultural and financial recognition while also attracting the attention of the general public. We therefore urgently need a non-fiction prize that pays tribute to this genre and ensures the dissemination of outstanding works.”

Claudia Romeder, Publishing Director Residenz Verlag:

“For Residenz Verlag, non-fiction books offer an important opportunity to take a position in current debates and to raise awareness about socially relevant topics. A prominently advertised prize significantly supports publishers in the effort to give non-fiction the public attention it deserves.”

Marianne Sax, Bücherladen Marianne Sax bookstore, Frauenfeld

“Until now, our non-fiction customers have only been able to see a book’s topic. A non-fiction prize should convey that the quality of a text alone is reason to take a closer look at a topic.”