



Deutscher
Sachbuch
Preis 2024

The nominees

Jens Beckert • Sebastian Conrad • Ruth Hoffmann
Roman Köster • Christina Morina • Frauke Rostalski
Marcus Willaschek • Moshe Zimmermann



Jens Beckert

Verkaufte Zukunft.

**Warum der Kampf gegen den
Klimawandel zu scheitern droht**

(Selling the Future. Why the Fight Against Climate Change
Is in Danger of Failing)

Suhrkamp Verlag

Jury comment:

With "Selling the Future", Jens Beckert challenges current climate policy. Refusing to resort to positive thinking or apocalyptic accusations, this book also avoids the well-worn paths of moralised lifestyle choices and market-driven technological openness. From a socio-economically informed perspective, Beckert demonstrates how in many cases our economic system merely externalises the damage from climate change and increases social stress on a global scale. In light of the lack of alternatives, realism is necessary: an expected global warming of 2.5 to 3 degrees Celsius by the end of the century requires not only stronger and more intelligently explained investments but also adaptation. A book that hopefully will spark dialogue and action among many readers from different backgrounds and schools of thought.

Biography

Jens Beckert was born in 1967 and has been Director at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies and Professor of Sociology in Cologne since 2005. He has previously taught in Göttingen, New York, Princeton, Paris, and at Harvard University. In 2005 he was awarded the Prize of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and in 2018 the German Research Foundation's Leibniz Prize. He also received the Karl Polanyi Prize from the German Sociological Association for his book "Imagined Future".

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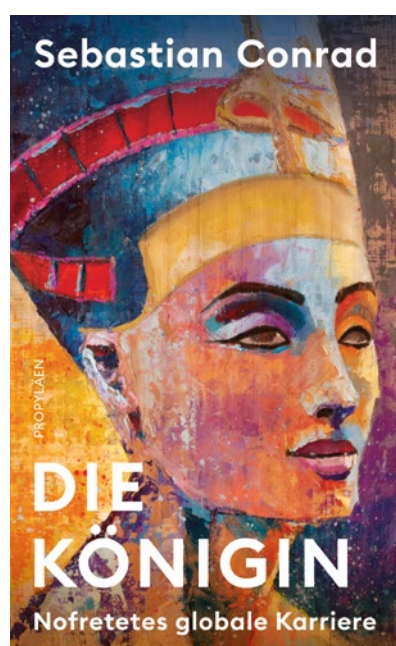
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Sebastian Conrad **Die Königin. Nofretetes globale Karriere**

(The Queen. Nefertiti's Global Career)

Propyläen Verlag

Jury comment:

The bust of Nefertiti has been a source of fascination for centuries, and a wide range of agendas are projected onto it, from pop culture to politics. Sebastian Conrad focuses on the levels of attribution of meaning, starting with the history of its discovery and its fraudulently obtained export licence. On the basis of this very concrete object, he illustrates current global discourses on how to contend with colonial injustice and epistemic hegemonic struggles, with a clear stance on the question of restitution. The book also succeeds in terms of including diverse and emotionally charged fields while demanding that academia, politics and the public reflect honestly on their own interests and implicit judgments.

Biography

Sebastian Conrad, born in Heidelberg in 1966, is a professor of modern history at the Free University of Berlin. His main areas of research include the history of colonialism and post-colonialism, the history of East Asia and the history of historical thought. He has taught in New York, Paris, Florence and Tokyo. One of the most internationally renowned representatives of global history, he is also the author of numerous books, including "Geschichte der Welt. 1750–1870" ("History of the World. 1750–1870") (with Jürgen Osterhammel) and "Deutsche Kolonialgeschichte und Globalgeschichte: Eine Einführung" ("German Colonial History and Global History: An Introduction").

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Ruth Hoffmann

Das deutsche Alibi. Mythos „Stauffenberg-Attentat“ – wie der 20. Juli 1944 verklärt und politisch instrumentalisiert wird

(The German Alibi. The "Stauffenberg Assassination" Myth:
How 20 July 1944 is Glorified and Politically Instrumentalised)

Goldmann Verlag

Jury comment:

The journalist Ruth Hoffmann has undertaken nothing less than to deconstruct a German myth. The assassination attempt against Hitler on 20 July 1944 has been instrumentalised again and again from different directions, becoming in the process, according to Hoffmann, a "German alibi". She succeeds in convincingly explaining the various contexts and uncovering the often perfidious ways in which it has been exploited. What is particularly valuable is that she does not get stuck on her chosen example, instead illustrating the historical depth of the events and their impact to this day. The author shows how important it is – particularly against the backdrop of current debates – to take a holistic view, which also offers surprising insights. The fact that she writes about all this in a riveting way won the jury over.

Biography

Ruth Hoffmann, born in Hamburg in 1973, studied ethnology, history and politics and is a graduate of the Henri Nannen School of Journalism. From 2004 to 2006 she was an editor at *Stern* *Gesund leben* and she has worked since as a freelance journalist for various outlets, including *Geo*, *Stern*, *P.M. History* and *Spiegel Geschichte*. She is a co-founder of the journalists' association Plan 17 and :Freischreiber, the professional association of freelance journalists. In 2012 she published "Stasi-Kinder. Aufwachsen im Überwachungsstaat" ("Stasi Children. Growing Up in a Surveillance State") about the children of full-time employees of the East German Ministry for State Security. She lives in Hamburg with her husband and two children.

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Roman Köster

Müll. Eine schmutzige Geschichte der Menschheit

(Rubbish. A Dirty History of Humanity)

Verlag C.H.Beck

Jury comment:

Waste is generally seen as a problem of consumption, and many public debates centre on waste sorting as a downstream problem. Roman Köster's great achievement is in describing the production of waste as a problem intrinsic to our economy – "our daily way of life". His analysis of the history of the creation of waste and its connection to the capitalist economy is easily comprehensible and supported by clear examples. The solution he offers is what we all suspect: namely, that we cannot maintain the speed of economic life and our own convenience in its present-day form if we want to tackle the problem of waste as part of the current anthropogenic climate change.

Biography

Roman Köster is a research assistant on the Historical Committee at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and did his post-doctoral qualification on German waste management after World War II. His book "Hugo Boss, 1924–1945" (2005) is also published by C.H.Beck.

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Christina Morina

Tausend Aufbrüche.

Die Deutschen und ihre Demokratie seit den 1980er Jahren

(A Thousand New Beginnings. Germans and Their Democracy Since the 1980s)

Siedler Verlag

Jury comment:

In her methodologically fascinating study, Christina Morina analyses East and West Germans' divergent understanding of democracy since the 1980s on the basis of previously unanalysed letters, petitions and leaflets from ordinary citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic. In this way, she succeeds in writing a profound history of German-German democracy "from below" – beyond prefabricated narratives and polemical biases. On the one hand, she explores an East German "history of claims to democracy", which was based on its citizens' mistrust of the state even as they identified with the country and its ideals, and, on the other, she looks at the "Bonn Republic" as a history of loss. Offering new perspectives, her book reinvigorates the entrenched East-West debates.

Biography

Christina Morina was appointed professor of history at Bielefeld University in 2019. She specialises in contemporary history, and is particularly interested in the social history and remembrance of National Socialism, the political and cultural history of divided and reunited Germany, and in the relationship between history and memory. Morina studied history, political science and journalism at the universities of Leipzig, Ohio and Maryland, and obtained her PhD in 2007 with a thesis on the war against the Soviet Union in East and West German culture of remembrance. From 2008 to 2015, she was research assistant in the department of modern and contemporary history at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena, where she was also promoted to professor in 2017, with a thesis on the origins of Marxism.

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Frauke Rostalski

Die vulnerable Gesellschaft. Die neue Verletzlichkeit als Herausforderung der Freiheit

(Vulnerable Society. The New Vulnerability as a Challenge to Freedom)

Verlag C.H. Beck

Jury comment:

Vulnerability: this is a new key concept that has emerged in the face of pressing crises such as war, pandemics and climate change, and it is at the centre of Frauke Rostalski's book. The legal scholar examines various facets of this phenomenon, from legal protection for particularly vulnerable social groups to an atmosphere in public discourse that can lead to a restriction of individual and social freedoms, especially when it comes to controversial issues. The author astutely analyses the tense relationship between vulnerability and freedom without playing them off against each other. A refreshingly dispassionate, intelligent book which itself attests to the fact that democracy cannot survive without free thought and discussion.

Biography

Frauke Rostalski was born in 1985. She is a professor of criminal law, criminal procedural law, the philosophy of law, commercial law, medical law and comparative law at the University of Cologne. Since 2020 she has been a member of the German Ethics Council. Her recent publications include "Der Tatbegriff im Strafrecht" (2019) and "Das Natürlichkeitsargument bei biotechnologischen Maßnahmen" (2019).

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Marcus Willaschek

Kant. Die Revolution des Denkens

(Kant. The Revolution of Thought)

Verlag C.H.Beck

Jury comment:

Do we really need another book about Immanuel Kant? The great surprise of Marcus Willaschek's book is that it makes us want to answer this question with a resounding "yes". The author succeeds in making the entire thematic breadth of Kant's thought accessible and comprehensible with impressive clarity. That alone is commendable. Yet the book's particular achievement lies in demonstrating Kant's topicality by constantly drawing connections to current debates and concepts: freedom, democracy and human dignity, the motivation for political action in the face of dramatic crises, the importance of the project of enlightenment and the limits of our knowledge – without losing its critical distance to Kant. Yes, it is possible to understand Kant's thinking. And yes, you should. Now more than ever.

Biography

Marcus Willaschek is a leading international expert on Kant and Professor of Modern Philosophy at the University of Frankfurt am Main. As chair of the Kant Committee at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, he is one of the people responsible for the Academy edition of Kant's collected works. His most important publications include "Praktische Vernunft. Handlungstheorie und Moralbegründung bei Kant" (1992), "Der mentale Zugang zur Welt: Realismus, Skeptizismus, Intentionalität" (2003), "Kant-Lexikon" (3 volumes, 2015) and "Kant on the Sources of Metaphysics" (2018).

Press contact and interview requests:

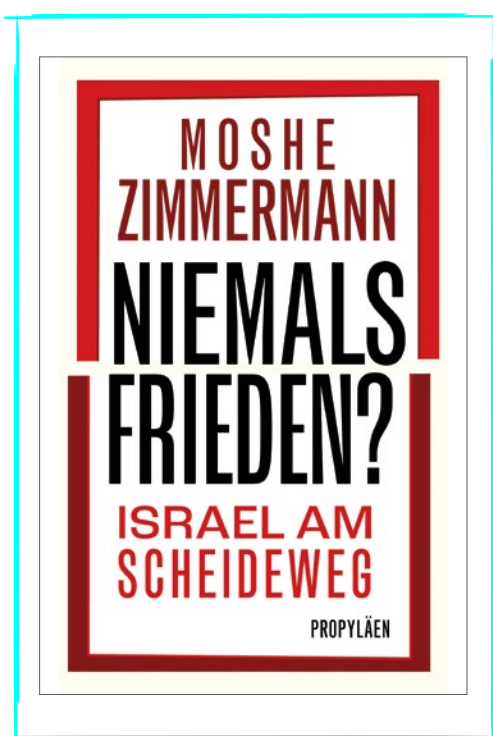
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Moshe Zimmermann Niemals Frieden? Israel am Scheideweg

(Peace Never? Israel at the Crossroads)

Propyläen Verlag

Jury comment:

With "Peace Never", Moshe Zimmermann, one of the most important contemporary historians, makes an important, factual contribution to a discussion that is virtually unavoidable after the 2023 terrorist attack on Israel and the violent reaction to it. He expertly describes the decades-long vicious circle of violence and counter-violence and the clash of civilisations in his home country: between West and East, between Jews and Muslims, between violent and liberal groups on both sides. He also includes the Palestinian perspective and proposes a shared constitutional structure for both states. Offering a wealth of perspectives, this book is helpful for anyone who prefers to be informed before passing judgement.

Biography

Moshe Zimmermann is a world-renowned historian and Professor emeritus for German History at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He was Director of the Richard Koebner Minerva Center for German History, Professor at the Department of History at the Hebrew University, and visiting professor at various international universities (i.a. Princeton, Krakow, Munich). He is the author of numerous books, including "Wende in Israel" (1996) and "Die Angst vor dem Frieden" (2010), in which he passionately advocates the two-state solution. He lives in Tel Aviv.

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