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# **Passagen Gespräche**

## **A New Series**

Initiated on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, **Passagen Gespräche** is an innovative bilingual book series that invites some of the most renowned contemporary philosophers, theoreticians, and leading intellectuals from Europe and the United States to discuss pressing sociopolitical issues. Passagen Verlag enters into a dialogue with authors who have helped shape its philosophical profile and programmatic texture.

This enterprise underlines Passagen Verlag's image as a facilitator of discourses beyond the dissemination of books. A cultural, political-philosophical initiative with international input and global impact, Passagen Verlag attempts not only to analyze current social problems, but also to develop concepts to overcome them. Starting **Gespräche** once again reinforces Passagen Verlag's orientation as a sociopolitical endeavor. **Gespräche** actively engages in controversial debates about a wide range of topics, with current crises as its connective tissue.

The first title in the new series is **Philosophie und die Idee des Kommunismus**. In conversation with Peter Engelmann, Alain Badiou argues why he abides by the idea of communism despite its negative history. Badiou also discusses how significant communism is for his philosophy.

Passagen plans to publish future **Gespräche** with Colin Crouch, Jacques Rancière, Mihály Vajda, Slavoj Žižek, and others.

### **Philosophie und die Idee des Kommunismus**

Edited by Peter Engelmann  
Passagen Gespräche, Band 1  
2012. 112 pages.  
Approx. € 14,90  
ISBN 978-3-7092-0044-5  
Publication date: spring 2013

**Rights available:** All languages.

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Passagen Gespräche

## Philosophie und die Idee des Kommunismus

Alain Badiou, Peter Engelmann

Published 2013  
ISBN 9783709200445  
112 pages



In light of current social crisis scenarios, Alain Badiou discusses with Peter Engelmann why he holds on to the idea of communism, despite its negative historical track record. He explains how significant this attitude is in the complex edifice of his philosophy. Central to Badiou's thought are the anticipation of a stateless communism, the problem of the concept of democracy, and the analysis of capitalism as a pathological system. In discussing his political philosophy, Badiou also addresses current sociopolitical phenomena and developments such as the Arab Spring and the situation in China. With the ensuing debates, the conversation is not only a highly topical contribution to the possibilities of alternative social structures, but also an introduction to Badiou's philosophical thought, as it explains his central concepts within the context of contemporary thought and current political crises. **Philosophy and the Idea of Communism** is the first title in the new series, Passagen Gespräche.

Alain Badiou, born 1937 in Rabat, Morocco, is a philosopher, mathematician, and novelist. He lives in Paris. Peter Engelmann is a publisher, philosopher, and editor of postmodern and deconstructivist French philosophers in German.

**Rights available:** All languages (printable French version already available).

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Passagen Religion und Politik



## Europa, Menschenrechte und Islam – ein Kulturkampf?

Heiko Heinisch, Nina Scholz

Published 2012  
ISBN 9783709200162  
352 pages

**Europe, Human Rights and Islam – a Clash of Cultures?** looks at the controversial and emotional debate about “Islam and Europe.” The authors discuss burning issues such as the “ban on images,” “islamophobia,” “hijab,” and “tolerance” and look at the universal human rights laws to explain these commonly used terms.

As Western society, with its individualistic lifestyles, are confronted with immigrants of traditionally collectivistic structures, myriad tensions may occur. Heiko Heinisch and Nina Scholz locate the essential argument between opponents and advocates of Enlightenment, between those who wish to conserve personal freedoms and those who wish to protect cultural collectives. The authors take a firm stand and plead for the values and ideas of Modernity with academically sound arguments rooted in the history of political thought – beyond all hysteria and polemics.

Heiko Heinisch is an independent historian in Vienna.

Nina Scholz, born in Zeitz/Sachsen-Anhalt, is a political scientist and lives in Vienna.

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Passagen forum

## **Jenseits des Neoliberalismus** Ein Plädoyer für soziale Gerechtigkeit

Colin Crouch



Published 2013  
ISBN 9783709200674  
232 pages

Colin Crouch, author of the bestsellers “Post-Democracy” and “The Strange Non-Death of Neoliberalism,” makes a bold claim in his new book, **Beyond Neoliberalism: A Plea for Social Justice** (published in English by Polity Press as “Making Capitalism Fit for Society”): In order to effectively resist neoliberalism, social democracy needs to be shaken out of the defensive posture to which it has shrunk for several years now.

Neoliberalism has already shaped our society with lasting effect; the changes that have taken place in the past decades are irreversible. This is why, according to Colin Crouch, creative remedies are only possible from within the system: Social democracy needs to focus its efforts on eradicating the undesirable effects of a structurally inefficient market economy. Its task is to render the welfare state into a social investment welfare state. The author puts particular emphasis on family-friendly labor policies, sustainable infrastructure, and the strengthening of trade unions, which have to start working with the market forces, instead of against them. In his new book, Crouch argues why it is only social democracy that can demand and enforce the necessary measures to accomplish this vision.

Colin Crouch is a British political scientist and sociologist. He is a Professor Emeritus of Governance and Public Management at the University of Warwick.

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Passagen Philosophie



## **Hitlers Geiseln** Hegemonialpläne und der Holocaust

Heiko Heinisch

Published 2005  
ISBN 9783851656626  
272 pages

**Hitler's Hostages: Hegemony and the Holocaust** focuses on Hitler's responsibility for the Holocaust and rejects the increasing trivialization of Hitler as a person. Based on the "Akten zur Deutschen Auswärtigen Politik" and a variety of other sources, Heinisch proves that Hitler was indeed the driving force behind foreign policy decisions, war plans, and the anti-Jewish policies of National Socialism. Heinisch demonstrates how the extermination of the Jews was rooted in Hitler's thought and conceptualized at an early stage. Moreover, the author shows that the implementation of these plans was part of the foreign policy plans on the path to world domination. No other project was pursued with such consequence and persistence as the extermination of Jewish people – if possible, of all Jewish people the world over.

Heiko Heinisch is an independent historian in Vienna.

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Passagen forum

## Philosophie und Aktualität Ein Streitgespräch

Alain Badiou, Slavoj Žižek

Published 2012  
ISBN 9783709200308  
104 pages



Two controversial thinkers address a timeless and pressing issue: Should philosophers intervene in current events?

Nothing less than philosophy itself is at stake here: If philosophy does not wish to congeal in academic discipline, it can only exist as an intervention and as a commitment. Philosophy is foreign and new, and yet, it speaks out in the name of everyone – as Badiou shows with his theory of universality, which he wants to be regarded as the epitome of his philosophy.

Žižek argues in similar terms: The philosopher ought to intervene, but in a different way. A philosopher cannot give guidance in current matters of dispute, but he can show that the questions themselves are wrong: We need to change the terms of the debate! says Žižek and ends up with the concept of philosophy as abnormality and excess.

Alain Badiou, born in 1937 in Rabat, Morocco, is a philosopher, mathematician and novelist, and lives in Paris, France.

Slavoj Žižek, born in 1949 in Ljubljana, is a philosopher and psychoanalyst.

**Rights available:** All languages except Spanish, Korean, English, Dutch, Turkish, Chinese, Greek, and Italian.

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Passagen Afrika



## Africa and Climate Change The Heat is On

Edited by Georg Lennkh, Irene Giner-Reichl

Published 2011  
ISBN 9783851659986  
168 pages

Africa may well have to bear the brunt of the effects of climate change. How are African stakeholders analyzing the threat and assessing their options?

Africa as a continent is already experiencing serious effects of climate change. Patterns of precipitation are changing, weather extremes – such as droughts and inundations – are becoming more frequent. Adapting to climate change may well turn into one of the major development challenges for African countries and economies. African stakeholders are mobilizing in the leadup to the Durban Conference of the Parties on Climate Change at the global and regional levels. Providing comprehensive access to energy in ways commensurate with development aspirations and compatible with stabilizing the global climate are increasingly seen as the necessary companion to international endeavours of preventing dangerous global warming. The volume presents important African voices, from government, international organisations and academia, on one of the “hottest” global issues as it affects a continent.

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## Ein Plädoyer für die Intoleranz

Slavoj Žižek

Published 2009  
ISBN 9783851658934  
104 pages



The media bombard us with the idea that the biggest threat today is intolerant fundamentalism (be it ethnic, religious, or sexist), which, allegedly, we can only combat with a consistent stance.

However: Is this idea really self-evident? Is not the predominant form of multicultural tolerance much less innocent than it pretends to be? After all, does it not permit a depoliticization of the economy? This multiculturalism is based on the conviction that we live in a post-ideological world, that we have overcome the differences between left and right, and that the most important challenges are those of recognizing different lifestyles. And another “however”: Could we not describe this idea as the ideology of current global capitalism? What are we to do now? What we need today, Žižek argues in **A Plea for Intolerance**, is a large dose of intolerance – especially regarding the actual political landscape of the opposition. Perhaps it is necessary to criticize the multicultural attitude of the Left and to plead for a new politicization of economic concerns.

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Passagen Philosophie



## **Groß ist ungeschickt** Leopold Kohr im Zeitalter der Post-Globalisierung

Michael Breisky

Published 2010  
ISBN 9783851659245  
132 pages

Rediscovered by the Occupy movement, Leopold Kohr (1909–1994) is the founder of the Small-is-Beautiful movement. Michael Breisky's book, **Big is Clumsy**, describes Kohr's optimistic image of humanity, his scepticism towards big ideas, and his image of society as it was aligned with its natural growth limits.

The book also includes a critique of Kohr's thought from today's point of view: Europe and the information society are two positive surprises which do their part to strengthen the local situation. Breisky then lists ten "megatrends" to support Kohr's theses and investigates how human curiosity is protected from the growing flood of information so that Kohr's call for manageability takes on a new dimension. The author ultimately shows how Kohr's theses may become a general guideline in times of post-globalization.

A former Austrian diplomat, Michael Breisky now works for the Leopold Kohr Akademie in Salzburg.

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Passagen Gesellschaft

## Das Vermächtnis des deutschen Judentums

Hermann Levin Goldschmidt

Edited by Willi Goetschel

Published 1994  
ISBN 9783851650969  
216 pages



First published in 1957 and out of print since its third edition in 1965, **The Heritage of German Judaism** is still the only philosophical examination of German Judaism. By looking at the various stages throughout history, Goldschmidt illustrates not only the cultural self-reliance of Judaism, but also the paradigmatic role of Judaism in the creation of Modernity. Jewish heritage is nothing of the past, but something forward-looking. **The Heritage of German Judaism** is part of a nine-volume collection published by Passagen Verlag.

Hermann Levin Goldschmidt, born in 1914 in Berlin, is the founder and director of the Jüdische Lehrhaus Zürich and received the Austrian Cross of Honor for Science and Art in 1996.

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Passagen Philosophie



**Gianni Vattimo**  
Einführung. Mit einem Interview mit  
Gianni Vattimo

Martin G. Weiß

Published 2012  
ISBN 9783709200582  
224 pages

Gianni Vattimo has developed the concept of “weak thought” within the realms of postmodernism. He sees the current philosophical situation as marked by a general disintegration of the myth of objectivity. **Gianni Vattimo: An Introduction** provides a systematic overview of Vattimo’s philosophy and considers a variety of never before translated texts. The book traces his controversial discussion of the problem of postmodern history, post-metaphysical ethics, and post-ontotheological Christianity. An insightful exclusive interview with the Italian philosopher about the problematic aspects of his thought concludes this first overall introduction to one of today’s most important representatives of philosophical hermeneutics.

Martin G. Weiß was born in 1973 and is a professor at the Institute of Philosophy at the University of Vienna.

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Passagen Philosophie

## Dekonstruktion

Jacques Derridas semiotische  
Wende der Philosophie

Peter Engelmann



Published 2013  
ISBN 9783851659573  
248 pages

Jacques Derrida's philosophical approach of deconstruction is the most successful and, at the same time, the most unknown philosophical innovation since Heidegger's fundamental ontology. Deconstruction has established itself in countless ramifications in various artistic and literary practices, without having tied to it a clear representation of its very concept and philosophical strategy. The antitotalitarian motivation behind deconstruction, which is essential if we want to understand it, has remained almost completely hidden. In fact, deconstruction makes a soberly scientific description thereof rather difficult, since it systematically rejects any finality in its conceptual definition. This characteristic is not only at the core of Derrida's philosophical intervention, but also a necessary condition of an antitotalitarian political stance that does not itself turn into rigid totalitarianism. Engelmann shows that Saussure's semiotics is the sober scientific language with which Derrida developed deconstruction and with which we can understand deconstruction without covering up its idiosyncrasies and cognitive potential with the language we use to describe it. **Deconstruction: Jacques Derrida's Semiotic Turn in Philosophy** places deconstruction in the larger context of historic and contemporary approaches to the philosophy of difference and reestablishes them in the context of philosophical discursivity.

Peter Engelmann is a publisher, philosopher, and editor of postmodern and deconstructivist French philosophers in German.

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Passagen Philosophie



## Grundriß zu einer Philosophie der Opfer der Geschichte

Caroline Heinrich

Publication date: 2004  
ISBN 9783851656633  
368 pages

How to think about the historical past from the standpoint of the victims of history? **An Outline of the Philosophy of the Victims of History** delves into this question and aims to expose the basic elements of a philosophy of the victims of history, which has always been a history of oppression. Hegel and Marx let history rest in a safe ending, which makes victims lose their provocation. For Hegel, victims are either insubstantial for the ends of history or brutally necessary; for Marx, they are “explained away” by the laws of economic progress. Walter Benjamin’s concept of history differs from such philosophies. With Benjamin, Caroline Heinrich illustrates that, in a philosophy of the victims of history, the reverse past is the locus of utopia. Along with Marx and Hegel’s models, the book deals with the notion of a state of emergency in Walter Benjamin, Carl Schmitt, and Giorgio Agamben and with the concept of anarchic subjectivity in Emmanuel Levinas.

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Passagen forum

## “Was denkt ein New Yorker, wenn er in einen Hamburger beißt?”

Mikrophänomenologie der Macht am Beispiel des Referendariats

Caroline Heinrich

Published 2011  
ISBN 9783851659962  
200 pages



Thought today is not threatened by the fight against it, but by its disintegration. Nothing is more threatening than the power of indifference.

Whereas power that opposes thought is a reality in authoritarian societies, our societies have distinctly drawn the line between power and thought. But this has not led to a reconciliation – to a thinking power – but to an evacuation of both: a situation of quotation marks, a power of thought that is neither power nor thought; that which Jean Baudrillard calls simulation.

Taking her teacher training in Germany as an example, Caroline Heinrich describes the literal implementation of the simulation principle: the nonsense produced by such a power of thought on the one hand and the compulsion to see the evacuation of thought as a successful reconciliation of difference, on the other. An everyday power relationship thus becomes a parable for the violence of indifference.

Heinrich's amalgamation of subjective reportage and philosophical reflection in **What Does a New Yorker Think When He Bites into a Hamburger?** is a continuation of the classical tradition, where life and thought have not yet been separated, and of the modern tradition of essay-writing initiated by Michel de Montaigne.

Caroline Heinrich, born in Bühl/Baden, studied philosophy and German studies in Münster and Mainz.

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Hermann Levin Goldschmidt

**Mein 1933**

(My 1933)

Published 2008

ISBN 9783851658330

144 pages

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Eva Angerer

**Die Literaturtheorie Julia Kristevas**

(Julia Kristeva's Literary Theory)

Published 2007

ISBN 9783851658330

168 pages

**Rights available:** All languages.

Claus-Ekkehard Bärsch

**Max Brod im „Kampf um das Judentum“**

Zum Leben und Werk eines deutsch-jüdischen Dichters aus Prag

(Max Brod and the "Struggle for Judaism". Life and Work of the Jewish German Poet from Prague)

Published 1992

ISBN 9783851650242

208 pages

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Claus-Ekkehard Bärsch

**Aporien der Sprache**

Ludwig Wittgenstein und die Literatur der Moderne

(Aporiae of Language: Ludwig Wittgenstein and Modern Literature)

Published 2000

ISBN 9783851654080

216 pages

**Rights available:** All languages.

Bärbel Lücke

**Jelineks Gespenster**

Grenzgänge zwischen Politik, Philosophie und Poesie

(Jelinek's Spectres. Pushing the Limits of Politics, Philosophy and Poetry)

Published 2007

ISBN 9783851657920

216 pages

**Rights available:** All languages.

**Der lange, dunkle Schatten**

Studien zum Werk von Imre Kertész

(The Long Dark Shadow: Studies of Imre Kertész's Works)

Herausgegeben von Mihály Szegedy-Maszák, Tamás Scheibner

Vorwort von Magdolna Janni

Published 2004

ISBN 9783851656541

376 pages

**Rights available:** All languages.

Marie Luise Wandruszka

**Ingeborg Bachmanns**

„ganze Gerechtigkeit“

(Ingeborg Bachmann's

„Whole Justice“)

Published 2011

ISBN 9783709200056

235 x 155 mm

160 pages

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