This selection of German titles in English translation is showcased at book fairs all over the world on the German collective stands organized by the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2015.

"IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE. IT'S GREAT TO BE ANYWHERE."

KEITH RICHARDS

50 BOOKS THAT TRAVEL

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Foreword

We invite you to explore this selection of contemporary German fiction, non-fiction, and children’s books which have been published in English since 2013.

This catalogue has been curated by the British publication “New Books in German” and by the German Book Office New York, Inc., a not-for-profit branch of the Frankfurt Book Fair, as we both pursue the same mission: raising awareness of German literature. While it is often lamented that German books don’t get translated into English, this catalogue proves that a wide selection of fine books are already available in English. Many of these books are published by small and independent publishers, which has been a developing trend in recent years. There is crime, there is love, and unexpected twists and turns that are found even in our children’s books. There are prize-winning authors, established intellectuals, debut novels, and literary gems. We hope that you’ll enjoy browsing through this selection as much as we did choosing it.
More than twenty-five years after Jakob Arjouni's debut — and after publishing a string of critically acclaimed literary novels — the author returns to his favourite protagonist, the beleaguered Turkish-German Private Investigator, Kemal Kayankaya. While some parts of Frankfurt have become more glamorous, the city's underworld has hardly changed at all. Kayankaya has two seemingly straightforward cases, but then it all starts to go wrong for him, as it almost always does. Luckily, that's when he's at his best.

Meet the Beatles … right at the beginning of their careers. This gorgeous, high-energy graphic novel offers an intimate peek into the early years of the world's greatest rock band. The 'fifth Beatle', Stuart Sutcliffe, fell in love with the beautiful Astrid Kirchherr when she recruited the Beatles for a sensational photography session during their time in Hamburg. When the band returned to the UK, Sutcliffe quit, became engaged to Kirchherr, and stayed in Hamburg. A year later, his meteoric career was cut short when he died unexpectedly.

An atmospheric evocation of modern Berlin and a vivid portrait of youth under pressure, "Just Call Me Superhero" is destined to consolidate Alina Bronsky's reputation as one of Europe's most wryly entertaining authors. After being mauled by a dog, seventeen-year-old Marek begins attending a support group which he dubs 'the cripple group', led by an eccentric older man known as The Guru. When a crisis forces Marek to face his demons, he is in dire need of support. But the distance he has put between himself and The Guru’s misshapen acolytes may well be too great to bridge.

It's a late-summer night in Berlin and notorious criminal Ragnar Desche isn't too happy. He's just found his brother, Oskar, dead in his home next to a swimming pool full of marijuana plants. Someone's flooded the pool and stolen a Range Rover, but what's worse is that Ragnar's huge cache of drugs is missing — and he wants it back. A gritty, pulsating, psychological thriller told through the eyes of an enormous cast of characters, "You" is an audacious and unpredictable combination of pulp, pluck and revenge.
The End of Days
Aller Tage abend
JENNY ERPENBEC
Translated by Susan Bernofsky
Albrecht Knaus, 978-3813503692
Portobello (UK), New Directions (US), 978-0811221924, 320 pages, 2014

"The End of Days" consists of five 'books', each leading to a different death of an unnamed female protagonist. How could it all have gone differently? — The narrator asks in between each scenario. The first book begins with the death of a baby in the early twentieth-century Habsburg Empire. In the next book, the same girl grows up in Vienna, but her strange relationship with a boy leads to another death. Finally the woman survives into adulthood and returns to Berlin to become a respected writer.

Back to Back
Rücken an Rücken
JULIA FRANCK
Translated by Anthea Bell
Fischer, 978-3596191864
Harvill Secker (UK), Grove Press (US), 978-0802121677, 320 pages, 2013

Julia Franck's German Book Prize-winning novel "The Blindness of the Heart" was an international phenomenon, selling 850,000 copies in Germany alone, and was published in thirty-five countries. "Back to Back", is the moving story of two unhappy children in communist East Germany in the 1950s and 1960s — a sharp portrayal of how totalitarianism can poison the family along with the rest of society. Thomas and Ella find strength through their powerful bond with each other — but faced with such a hostile world, will this be enough?

I Called Him Necktie
Ich nannte ihn Krawatte
MILENA MICHIKO FLAŠAR
Translated by Sheila Dickie
Klaus Wagenbach, 978-3803132413
New Vessel (US), 978-1939931146, 133 pages, 2014

Twenty-year-old Taguchi Hiro has spent the last two years of his life living as a hikikomori — a recluse who never leaves his room and has no human interaction — in his parents' home in Tokyo. As Hiro tentatively decides to re-enter the world, he spends his days observing life around him from a park bench. Gradually he makes friends with Ohara Tetsu, a middle-aged salaryman who has lost his job but can’t bring himself to tell his wife. This moving, unforgettable novel is full of surprises. The reader turns the last page feeling that a small triumph has occurred.

Earthing
Alien
AISHA FRANZ
Translated by Helge Dascher
Reprodukt, 978-3941099708
Drawn and Quarterly (US), 978-1770461666, 208 pages, 2014

The German cartoonist Aisha Franz’s debut graphic novel details a few short days in the life of two sisters and their single mother. Set in a soulless suburb populated by block after block of identical row houses bordered by empty fields and an industrial no-man’s-land, “Earthing” explores the loneliness of everyday life through these women’s struggle to come to terms with what the world expects of them. “Earthing” is an atmospheric and haunting account of the inevitability of losing the dream worlds of childhood.

Who is Martha?
Wer ist Martha?
MARIJANA GAPONENKO
Translated by Arabella Spencer
Suhrkamp, 978-3518423158
New Vessel (US), 978-1939931139, 217 pages, 2014

In this rollicking novel, ninety-six-year-old ornithologist Luka Levadski foregoes treatment for lung cancer and moves from Ukraine to Vienna to make a grand exit in a luxury suite at the Imperial Hotel. Levadski was born in 1914, the same year that Martha — the last of the now-extinct passenger pigeons — died. This gloriously written tale, in which Levadski feels ‘his heart pounding at the portals of his brain’, mixes piquant wit with lofty musings about life, friendship, aging and death.

All Russians Love Birch Trees
Der Russe ist einer, der Birken liebt
OLGA GRIASNOWA
Translated by Eva Bacon
dtv, 978-3423142465
Other Press, 978-1590515846, 336 pages, 2014

Originally from Azerbaijan and haunted by her childhood experiences of the civil war, Mascha is now studying in Germany to become an interpreter. When her partner dies, Mascha leaves her adopted country for a job in Israel. Many Israelis are hostile to her because she speaks Arabic but not Hebrew. Asked to join a group of activists on a trip into the West Bank, Mascha is brought face to face once again with her traumatic childhood memories. This is a deeply affecting work that is guaranteed to gain an international readership.
Come Sweet Death
Komm, süßer Tod

WOLF HAAS
Translated by Annie Janusch
rororo, 978-3499228148
Melville House (US) 978-1612193397, 240 pages, 2014

In this winner of the German Thriller Prize, ex-cop Simon Brenner takes a job as an ambulance driver in downtown Vienna. Brenner’s new employer has a problem: its major competitor is somehow listening in on radio communications and beating his unit to every pickup. Knowing his past on the force, Brenner’s boss asks him to act like a cop and investigate. Meanwhile, is it Brenner’s paranoia or are certain wealthy elderly patients dying more quickly than they should?

The Village Indian
Der falsche Inder

ABBAS KHPIDER
Translated by Donal McLaughlin
Edition Nautilus, 978-3894015763

Part “Odyssey of the Persian Gulf” and part “1001 Nights in Europe”, this debut novel is drawn from the author’s experiences as a political prisoner and his years as a refugee. Our hero Rasul Hamid describes the eight different ways that he fled his home in Iraq and the eight ways he has failed to find himself a new way home. This is a stunning piece of storytelling which provides what every good translation should: a literary looking glass between two cultures, between East and West.

Someday We’ll Tell Each Other Everything
Irgendwann werden wir uns alles erzählen

DANIELA KRIEN
Translated by Jamie Bulloch
Graf Verlag/Ullstein, 978-3862200191
Maclehose (UK), 978-0857052094, 196 pages, 2013

It is summer 1990, only months after the border dividing Germany has dissolved. Maria, nearly seventeen, moves in with her boyfriend on his family farm. A chance encounter with enigmatic loner Henner, a neighbouring farmer, quickly develops into a passionate relationship. But Maria soon finds that Henner can be as brutal as he is tender. “Someday We’ll Tell Each Other Everything” is a bold and impressive debut in which love and violence, conflict and longing, are inextricably entwined.

F: A Novel
F

DANIEL KHELMANN
Translated by Carol Janeway
Rowohlt, 978-3698035440
Quercus (UK), Pantheon (US), 978-030791181, 272 pages, 2013

F is for family. F is for fortune. F is for fraud. F is for fate. From the internationally acclaimed author of “Measuring the World”, here is a dazzling tragicomedy about three brothers whose father takes on the occult and both wins and loses. The brothers have taken very different paths in life, but when the summer of the global financial crisis dawns they’re thrown together again with cataclysmic results. Kehlmann’s novel about truth, family, and the terrible power of fortune is a fictional triumph.

The Boxer: The True Story of Holocaust Survivor Harry Haft
Der Boxer

REINHARD KLEIST
Translated by Michael Waaler
Carlsen, 978-3551786975
SelfMadeHero (UK & US), 978-1906838775, 200 pages, 2014

Reinhard Kleist’s latest graphic novel confirms his position at the forefront of the new wave of German author-illustrators who are gathering an increasing international following. When the Nazis occupy Poland in 1939, Harry is fourteen years old. He falls in love with Leah, a friend’s sister, but is captured by the Nazis and transported to a labour camp without being able to say goodbye. Harry manages to survive through a combination of his resilience and cunning. But will he ever see Leah again?

The Glory of Life
Die Herrlichkeit des Lebens

MICHAEL KUMPFMÜLLER
Translated by Anthea Bell
Kiepenheuer & Witsch, 978-3462043266

In July 1923 Franz Kafka is convalescing by the Baltic Sea when he meets Dora Diamant and falls in love. Set over the last year of Kafka’s life, the tale of Franz and Dora’s fragile time together in Germany juxtaposes the excitement and vitality of Weimar Berlin with Kafka’s indecision and failing health. Mediated through letters, telegraphs, and the telephone, Michael Kumpfmüller captures the exhalation of modernity and the essence of a friendship nourished by communication.
Red Love: The Story of an East German Family
Halte eurer Herz bereit
Maxim Leo
Translated by Shaun Whiteside
Heyne, 978-3453408074
Pushkin Press (UK), 978-1908968517, 272 pages, 2014

Growing up in East Berlin, Maxim Leo knew not to ask questions. All he knew was that his rebellious parents, Wolf and Anne, with their dyed hair, leather jackets and insistence he call them by their first names, were a bit embarrassing. That there were some places you couldn’t play; certain things you didn’t say. As an adult, Maxim decides to find the answers to all the questions he couldn’t ask. With warmth and unflinching honesty “Red Love” captures why so many dreamed the GDR would be a new world and why, in the end, it fell apart.

A Fabulous Liar
Ein fabelhafter Lügner
Susann Pasztor
Translated by Shaun Whiteside
Kiepenheuer & Witsch, 978-3462043105
Atlantic (UK), 978-1848878488, 208 pages, 2013

Joschi Molnar is an enigma: father, Holocaust survivor, wit, and fabulous liar. Thirty years after his death, Joschi’s legacy is one of confusion, unanswered questions, and irreconcilable differences. On what would have been their father’s 100th birthday, the Molnar children — along with Joschi’s sixteen-year-old granddaughter, Lily — stage a reunion: but in a lively Italian restaurant, as they remember the man that none of them really knew, their shared history dissolves into tall tales, fights, confessions and laughter.

The Beggar King
Die Henkerstochter und der König der Bettler
Oliver Pötzsch
Translated by Lee Chadeayne
Ullstein, 978-3548281148
AmazonCrossing (UK), Mariner Books (US), 978-0547992198, 466 pages, 2013

The year is 1662. Alpine village hangman Jakob Kuisl receives a letter from his sister calling him to the imperial city of Regensburg, where a gruesome sight awaits him: her throat has been slit. Arrested and framed for the murder, Kuisl faces first-hand the torture he’s administered himself for years. Chock-full of historical detail, “The Beggar King” brings to vibrant life another tale of an unlikely hangman and his tough-as-nails daughter, confirming Pötzsch’s reputation as a writer to watch.

Snow White Must Die
Schneewittchen muss sterben
Nele Neuhaus
Translated by Steven T. Murray
List, 978-3548609829
Pan Macmillan (UK), St Martin’s (US), 978-1250039774, 400 pages, 2013

“Snow White Must Die” is a huge international bestseller — with more than 3.5 million copies in print! On a rainy November day, police detectives Pia Kirchhoff and Oliver von Bodenstein are summoned to a traffic accident: a woman has fallen from a pedestrian bridge onto a car driving underneath and according to a witness, she may have been pushed. This is an atmospheric, character-driven, and suspenseful mystery set in a small town that could be anywhere, dealing with issues of gossip, power, and keeping up appearances.

Part of the Solution
Teil der Lösung
Ulrich Peltzer
Translated by Martin Chalmers
rororo, 978-3499248443

It’s Berlin in the summer of 2003 — sunshine for weeks on end, weather to fall in love. And that’s just what Christian Eich, the protagonist in Ulrich Peltzer’s acclaimed novel “Part of the Solution”, does. Eich, a thirty-something freelance journalist, is researching a story on the radicals of the previous generation. Ulrich Peltzer’s thriller leads from Berlin into the East German countryside and finally to Paris, capturing the feel of Berlin today and exposing the precariousness of the lives of the inhabitants of all contemporary cities.

Elsewhere
Andernorts
Doron Rabinovici
Translated by Tess Lewis
Suhrkamp, 978-3518463109
Haus Publishing (UK & US), 978-1908323491, 246 pages, 2014

On one level “Elsewhere” is a satire that takes aim at a number of sacred cows: identity, nationalism, Holocaust commemoration and the moral obligation to remember, collective guilt and amnesia, victimhood and anti-Semitism. But it’s also a heart-wrenching family drama and a very funny novel. Ethan Rosen is a brilliant, opinionated academic, as is his rival, Rudi Klausinger. Klausinger catches Ethan Rosen out in one of his many self-contradictory pronouncements and an ugly public spat ensues, soon complicated by a web of family revelations.
In Times of Fading Light
In Zeiten des abnehmenden Lichts

EUGEN RUGE
Translated by Anthea Bell
Rowohlt Verlag, 978-3498057862
Faber & Faber (UK), Graywolf Press (US), 978-1555976439, 304 pages, 2013

Eugen Ruge’s debut novel tells a story of three generations. The grandparents, as convinced Communists, return to the fledgling East Germany at the beginning of the 1950s to help build up the new state. Their son returns from the other direction, having emigrated to Moscow and found himself banished to Siberia. He arrives with his Russian wife to find a country ridden with petit bourgeois values, though he steadfastly believes that things can change. The grandson, meanwhile, feels increasingly constricted by the country his elders chose for him, so he moves to the West.

The Collini Case
Der Fall Collini

FERDINAND VON SCHIRACH
Translated by Anthea Bell
Piper, 978-3492301466

Fabrizio Collini is a quiet, unassuming man who commits a brutal murder. Collini ends up in the charge of Caspar Leinen, a rookie defence lawyer eager to launch his career with a not-guilty verdict. Complications soon arise when Collini admits to the murder but refuses to give his motive, much less speak to anyone. As Leinen searches for clues he unearths a terrible truth at the heart of Germany’s legal system that stretches back to World War II. But how much is he willing to sacrifice to expose the truth?

All Days are Night
Nacht ist der Tag

PETER STAMM
Translated by Michael Hofmann
Fischer, 978-3100751348
Granta Books (UK), Other Press (US), 978-1590516966, 192 pages, 2014

“All Days Are Night” is the story of Gillian, a successful and beautiful TV host, content with her marriage to Matthias, even if she feels restless at times. One night following an argument, the couple are involved in a terrible car accident: Matthias is killed and Gillian wakes up in hospital completely disfigured. In Stamm’s unadorned and haunting style, this new novel tells the story of a woman who loses everything but must stay alive all the same.

The Giraffe’s Neck
Der Hals der Giraffe

JUDITH SCHALANSKY
Translated by Shaun Whiteside
Suhrkamp, 978-3518421772
Bloomsbury (UK & US), 978-1620403389, 224 pages, 2014

Schalansky is both a writer and artist of the highest quality. “The Giraffe’s Neck”, like her acclaimed “Atlas of Remote Islands”, interweaves lucid prose with her own beautifully crafted drawings to great effect. Protagonist Inge Lohmark is a biology teacher at a secondary school in contemporary Eastern Germany. Her passion for natural history defines her entire world view and is expressed in Schalansky’s intricate line drawings depicting images from the narrative: chromosomes, jellyfish, a huge manatee, a tiny amoeba.

Indigo
Indigo

CLEMENS J. SETZ
Translated by Ross Benjamin
Suhrkamp, 978-3518423240
Serpent’s Tail (UK), Liveright (US), 978-1846689536, 448 pages, 2014

It is 2007 and Austria is in the grip of a sinister epidemic: Indigo Syndrome. Children are the carriers and anyone who comes near them is afflicted with severe headaches, nausea and vertigo. Set in a world uncannily familiar and yet entirely strange, “Indigo” is part thrilling detective story, part post-modern puzzle. Clemens J. Setz has written a novel that will change the way we read novels, and change the way we look at the world.

The Tower
Der Turm

UWE TELlkAMP
Translated by Michael Mitchell
Suhrkamp, 978-3518461600
Allen Lane (UK & US), 978-0241004579, 976 pages, 2014

Poetic, heartfelt, and dramatic, “The Tower” vividly resurrects the sights, scents and sensations of life in the GDR as it hurtles towards 9 November 1989. This striking tapestry of the East German experience is told through the tangled lives of a soldier, surgeon, nurse, and publisher. With evocative detail, Uwe Tellkamp masterfully reveals the myriad perspectives of the time as people battle for individuality, retreat to nostalgia, choose to conform, or toe the perilous line between East and West.
Plan D
Plan D

SIMON URBAN
Translated by Katy Derbyshire
bbVerlag, 978-3442744428,
Harvill Secker (UK), Random House (US),
978-0099578352, 518 pages, 2014

While West Berlin enjoys all the trappings of capitalism, on the crowded, polluted Eastern side of the Wall, the GDR is facing bankruptcy. The ailing government’s only hope lies in economic talks with the West, but then an ally of the GDR’s chairman is found murdered. Detective Martin Wegener must work with the West German police if he is to find the killer, even if it means investigating the Stasi themselves. Wegener begins to unravel the identity of both victim and killer, and the meaning of the mysterious Plan D.

Tiger Milk
Tigermilch

STEFANIE DE VELASCO
Translated by Tim Mohr
Kiepenheuer & Witsch, 978-3462045734
Head of Zeus (UK), 978-1781858134,
268 pages, 2014

Nini and Jameelah are fourteen. The summer has just begun and Berlin is their playground. Smelling of salt and suncream, sticky-lipped and heavy-eyed from drinking Tiger Milk all day, they head for the red light district. They’ve decided it’s time to grow up — and practice makes perfect, doesn’t it? Tender and funny, shocking and tragic this is an explosive literary debut about leaving childhood behind, ready or not.

Decompression
Nullzeit

JULI ZEH
Translated by John Cullen
Schöffling & Co., 978-3895614361
Harvill Secker (UK), Nan A. Talese (US),
978-0385537582, 272 pages, 2014

“Decompression” is a psychological thriller about two couples caught in a web of conflicting passions while deep-sea diving off the beautiful Canary Islands. As the point of view shifts from one character to the next, the reader is constantly kept guessing about who knows what, and, more importantly, about who is telling the truth. A brutal game of delusion, temptation and manipulation plays out, pointing toward a violent end. But a quiet one, down in the underwater world beneath the waves.

The Mussel Feast
Das Muschelessen

BIRGIT VAN DER BEKE
Translated by Jamie Bulloch
Piper, 978-3462045734
Peirene Press (UK), 978-1908670083,
112 pages, 2013

This is a modern German classic that has shaped an entire generation. A mother and her two teenage children sit at the dinner table. In the middle stands a large pot of cooked mussels. Why has the father not returned home? As the evening wears on, we glimpse the issues that are tearing this family apart. This poignant family saga with its tyrannical father figure offers an insight into German lives as the Berlin Wall was about to fall.

Light in a dark House
Das Licht in einem dunklen Haus

JAN COSTIN WAGNER
Translated by Anthea Bell
Galiani, 978-3869710167
Harvill Secker (UK), Vintage, 978-0099572671,
336 pages, 2014

Finnish detective Kimmo Joentaa is called to the local hospital where an unidentified woman in a coma has been murdered by someone who wept over the body, their tears staining the sheets around her. The death marks the start of a series of killings. Kimmo’s attempts to unravel the case and identify the first victim are complicated by the disappearance of his sometime girlfriend, who has vanished after a party thrown by the head of the police force, and by a colleague’s spiral into the depths of a gambling addiction.
The Queen of Colors
Die Königin der Farben

Jutta Bauer
Translated by David Henry Wilson
Beltz & Gelberg, 978-0735841666
North South (US), 978-0735841666, 66 pages, 2014

Matilda, the Queen of Colors, has a color for every mood — she calls for Blue when she’s calm, Red when she’s wild, and Yellow when she wants to be warm. But when Matilda and Yellow begin to quarrel, not even Blue and Red can stop the argument. And before long everything in the kingdom turns Grey, until Matilda cries tears — bright colourful tears. Jutta Bauer’s simple yet evocative story and pictures convey a rainbow of emotions as The Queen of Colors plays and jousts with her primary subjects — Blue, Red, and Yellow.

Goose the Bear
Gans der Bär

Katja Gehrmann
Translated by Connie Stradling

Bear gets more than he bargained for when he accidentally runs into Fox and picks up Fox’s stolen goose egg. Soon, the egg hatches and Bear finds himself holding a confused little gosling who calls him ‘Mama.’ In this quirky mix-up at its finest, Katja Gehrmann tells the heart-warming and species-confused story of Goose the Bear with the help of colourful, offbeat illustrations and a narrative to match. If you want to be a bear, be a bear — even if you’re a goose.

Why We Took the Car
Tschick

Wolfgang Herrndorf
Translated by Tim Mohr
rororo, 978-3499256356

Mike Klingenberg and Andre Tschichatschow, aka Tschick, don’t have any friends at their school. One day Tschick shows up at Mike’s house out of the blue and the two of them embark on a road trip. No parents, no map, no destination. Will they get hopelessly lost in the middle of nowhere? Probably. Will they meet crazy people and get into serious trouble? Definitely. But will they ever be called boring again? Not a chance. This is a darkly funny coming-of-age story from an award-winning, bestselling author.

Fearless
Reckless

Cornelia Funke
Translated by Oliver Latsh
Dressler, 978-3791504896

Jacob Reckless returns once again to the Mirrorworld — filled with extraordinary creatures and epic life-or-death treasure hunts that could only come from the mind of the master storyteller, Cornelia Funke. With only a few months left to live, Jacob is searching for the one thing that can save him: a crossbow that can kill thousands — or heal one — when shot through the heart. But someone else is also searching for the prized crossbow. Jacob must find it first and somehow convince Fox to do whatever it takes to save him.

One Red Shoe
Ein roter Schuh

Karina Gruss & Tobias Kreitschi
Translated by Hannah Johnson
Wilkins Farago (US), 978-0987109965, 32 pages, 2014

There’s been an attack. Grabbing his camera, a newspaper photographer rushes to the nearest clinic. What he finds there will change the way he thinks forever. Inspired by real events in the Middle East, this groundbreaking and acclaimed picture book for older readers will take you to a place far from comfort and safety. “One Red Shoe” was named one of the five Most Beautiful German Books of 2013 in the children’s book category by the German Book Art Foundation.

Anton and the Battle
Anton und der große Streit

Ole Könnecke
Translated by Catherine Chidgey
Carl Hanser, 978-3446238947

Starring Anton from “Anton Can Do Magic” (a United States Board on Books for Young People winner and ReadBoston Award finalist), this is another funny, child-centered picture book, full of imagination. Anton and his friend Luke fight an epic battle to be declared the strongest — but will they be outdone by a puppy?
**Distant Love**  
*Fernliebe*  
**ULRICH BECK & ELISABETH BECK-GERNSHEIM**  
Translated by Rodney Livingstone  
Suhrkamp, 978-3518117002  
Polity (UK & US), 978-0745661810, 220 pages, 2013

In their new book, Ulrich Beck and Elisabeth Beck-Gernsheim investigate all types of long-distance relationships, marriages and families that stretch across countries, continents, and cultures. These long-distance relationships comprise many different forms of what they call ‘world families’: love and intimate relationships between individuals living in, or coming from, different countries. This trail-blazing book will appeal to a wide readership interested in the changing character of love in our times.

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**Freedom’s Right: The Social Foundations of Democratic Life**  
*Das Recht der Freiheit: Grundriß einer demokratischen Sittlichkeit*  
**AXEL HONNETH**  
Suhrkamp, 978-3518296486  

The theory of justice is one of the most intensely debated areas of contemporary philosophy. Most theories of justice, however, have only attained their high level of justification at great cost. By focusing on abstract principles they become detached from social reality. Axel Honneth proposes a different, ambitious approach: to renew the theory of justice as an analysis of society.

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**Lifted: A Cultural History of the Elevator**  
*Die Geschichte des Fahrstuhls*  
**ANDREAS BERNARD**  
Translated by David Dollenmayer  
Fischer, 978-3596173488  

In this elegant and fascinating book, Andreas Bernard explores how the appearance of the elevator changed notions of verticality and urban space. While the elevator quickly took hold in large American cities, it gained much slower acceptance in European cities like Paris and Berlin. Combining technological and architectural history with the literary and cinematic, Bernard opens up new ways of looking at the elevator. “Lifted” takes the reader on a compelling ride through the history of the elevator.

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**Unlearning with Hannah Arendt**  
*Verlernen: Denkwege bei Hannah Arendt*  
**MARIE LUISE KNOTT**  
Translated by David Dollenmayer  
Matthes & Seitz Berlin, 978-3882216059  
Granta (UK), Other Press (US), 978-1590516478, 152 pages, 2014

Anchoring its discussion in the themes of laughter, translation, forgiveness and dramatization, this book explores the ways in which Arendt ‘unlearned’ recognized trends and patterns — both philosophical and cultural — to establish a theoretical praxis all her own. Through an analysis of the social context and intellectual influences — Karl Jaspers, Walter Benjamin, and Martin Heidegger — that helped shape Arendt’s process, Knott has formed a historically engaged and incisive contribution to Arendt’s legacy.
Angela Merkel: The Authorized Biography
Stefan Zweig: Three Lives
Wolfgang Streeck: Buying Time

The Key to Music’s Genetics: Why Music is Part of Being Human
Philosophical Temperaments: From Plato to Foucault

With the Eurozone engulfed in an unprecedented crisis, one political figure looms largest of all, Angela Merkel, the leader of its most powerful economy. This book examines how a girl from East Germany rose to the highest echelons of European power. As well as explaining how Angela Merkel’s world view was shaped and influenced by her background and ideology, this lively account discusses her personal relations with international counterparts such as David Cameron, Barack Obama and Vladimir Putin.

Drawing on a great wealth of newly available sources, this definitive biography recounts the eventful life of a great writer spoilt by success — a life lived in the shadow of two world wars, and which ended tragically in a suicide pact. Including the sort of personal detail conspicuously absent from Zweig’s memoir, and incorporating newly discovered documents, Matuschek’s biography offers us a privileged view into the private world of the master of psychological insight.

The financial crisis has disoriented the people of Europe and beyond. Wolfgang Streeck exposes the roots of the current financial, fiscal and economic crisis, which he situates in the context of a long neoliberal transformation of post-war capitalism stretching back to the 1970s. Streeck analyses the way in which the tension between democracy and capitalism has unfolded over the course of the past four decades and the resulting conflicts between states, governments, voters, and the interests of capital.

Christian Lehmann brings his experience as a musician, singer, and academic to this fascinating journey through the origins of music and its role in human development, culture, and society. Technical terms are clearly described in a way that appeals to both the musically well-informed and the musically inexperienced. Well-chosen examples and amusing asides help to make this a highly informative and extremely readable book — a must for anyone interested in the development of music and its relation to the human condition.

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