



BÜCHNER

**RIGHTS
2026**

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INTRO

Büchner-Verlag was founded in 2008 and publishes academic literature as well as non-fiction books. We are a small, independent publishing company (situated close to Frankfurt and Kassel/Germany) which is organized in a cooperative structure. Our interest lies in innovative works from the literary, cultural and social sciences with a special focus on media and film related titles. Since 2017 our non-fiction program offers a platform for food-for-thought titles which critically discuss relevant themes of our times.

The name of the publisher is a tribute to the German writer and political activist Georg Büchner. In his short lifespan Büchner (1813–1837) wrote poetry and fiction (e.g. *Lenz*, *Woyzeck*, *Leonce und Lena*) – works which are still held in high esteem. Moreover, he was involved in the revolutionary struggle for a just and democratic society. In the spirit of Büchner we want to make books

which reflect and discuss the issues of a free and complex society, and seek to foster a life worth living. Books that question the unquestioned and expand the horizon of our thinking. Books that serve the purpose of a reflective and involved existence – in the framework of our everyday lives as well as a global context. Books that celebrate the odd, the edgy, the messy-queer, and everything else which normally falls out of the range of our perception.

Twice each year we board our VW oldtimer bus in order to visit authors, booksellers as well as universities. We are interested to learn from independent publishers all over Europe and beyond and are open to all kinds of exchanges and cooperations: info@buechner-verlag.de

Awards: 2018 Hessian Publishers' Award, 2020, 2022 and 2025 Seal of Quality of the German Publishing Award.



Left side: Happy Büchner team, after winning the seal of quality of the German Publishing Award for the third time in 2025; Büchner-Verlag's presentation at Leipzig Book Fair 2026; Johanna Schellhagen (right) on a podium of Verlage gegen Rechts at Leipzig Book Fair 2026. This side: On tour with the VW oldtimer, Büchner office at Marburg/Germany.



Ben Knight

WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE

Unusual Encounters with People
Awaiting the End of the World

200 pages • softcover with flaps • 14,5 × 20,5 cm

56.000 words

20,- €

ISBN 978-3-96317-450-6

March 2026



- › Far-traveled bilingual author with a great sense for the predicaments of human existence in globalized, crisis-ridden societies

Ben Knight is a British-German journalist, filmmaker, and translator. He has published in *Deutsche Welle*, *The Guardian*, *The Observer*, *The New Statesman*, *taz*, and *Der Freitag*, among others. His topics range from illegal fishing in Sierra Leone to Oktoberfest in Palestine, the German arms trade, and corruption in the Chinese health-care system, to Stalin statues in Georgia and the practice of colonic irrigation. He is the co-host of the biweekly podcast »Megan's Megacan,« which focuses on German politics, has worked as director for theater productions and also translated several texts by the German writer Sibylle Berg.

Prior to this book version he produced an award-winning documentary, *We're All Going To Die!* (2024). The author currently lives in Berlin. Website: <http://benknight.de/>

IN SHORT

In *We're All Going to Die*, journalist and documentary filmmaker Ben Knight meets people who are preparing for the apocalypse in one way or another – whether it's climate collapse or the societal breakdown that could result from it. On his journey through Germany, the United Kingdom, the U.S., Norway, and Mexico, he visits people who are devising elaborate emergency plans or joining radical climate protests; who are breeding worms or taking classes to learn how to express their own end-times grief; who seek to stir people up as melancholic clowns, bury supply crates, or even use a former missile launch pad as a safe haven.

Knight wants to know: What do you do when you're convinced that your own species is teetering on the brink of extinction? His portraits get up close and personal, revealing that this apocalyptic mood also fosters a sense of universal interconnectedness. We're all in the same boat, and grappling with »collective dying« also requires grappling with our own mortality.

BOOK MENTIONED IN

Deutschlandfunk • scharf links



Ben Knight (left) talking to Deutschlandfunk editor Christian Rabhansl, Leipzig Bookfair 2026

Heidemarie Schroeder

A GIGA-FACTORY IN BRANDENBURG

Or the Nightmare Which Calls Itself Green Capitalism

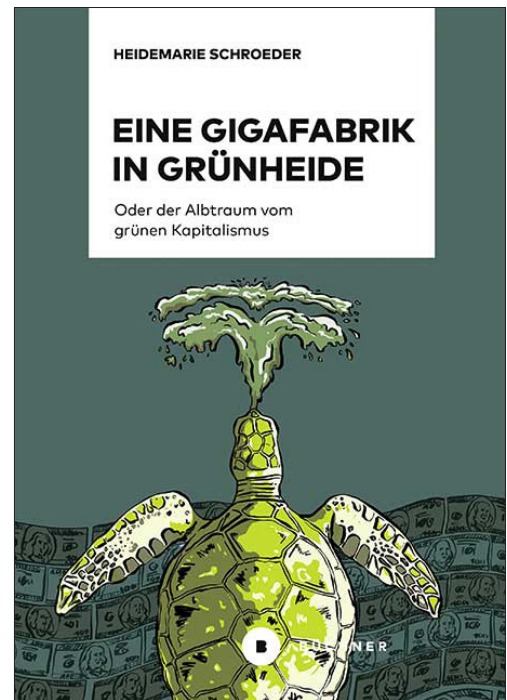
200 pages • softcover with flaps • 14,5 × 20,5 cm

51.250 words

22,- €

ISBN 978-3-96317-404-9

February 2025



IN SHORT

In the first half of her life, as a resident of East Berlin, Heidemarie Schroeder witnessed the failure of the idea of a socialist state on German soil. Today, as a resident of Grünheide in Brandenburg – where one of Europe's largest industrial complexes is situated – she is witnessing how the core values of Green and Socialist politics are being abandoned by Green and Socialist politicians themselves.

In Grünheide, it is not only the forest and the water that are being damaged, but also people's understanding of democracy. Electric cars are being produced that do nothing to contribute to a genuine transportation revolution. Working conditions at the electric car manufacturer Tesla are poor. The influence on politics that CEO Elon Musk has gained – in part thanks to skyrocketing Tesla stock prices – is devastating.

Based on her experiences with the company's establishment in the area, Heidemarie Schroeder embarked on an in-depth investigation that delves into the issues at hand. The central message of her book is that people can take action to protect nature, the environment, and civil rights – especially where politics and government agencies fail to do so.

BOOK MENTIONED IN

Berliner Zeitung • bibiomatics • Contraste • Frankfurter Rundschau • Graswurzelrevolution • Klimareporter • Lunapark21 • ND-Aktuell.de • Neues Deutschland • Ökologienpolitik • Rabe Ralf • Robin Wood • Sozialistische Zeitung • WDR 5 Quarks

› An illuminating and gripping piece of storytelling

Heidemarie Schroeder was born in Leipzig in 1953 and grew up in the southeastern suburbs of Berlin. As scientist curious about current technologies and as someone affected by the Tesla plant's relocation to Grünheide, Heidemarie Schroeder became a member of the Grünheide Citizens' Initiative and, together with Berlin water activists, founded the Wassertafel Berlin-Brandenburg. She has written numerous articles on e-mobility, citizen participation, and environmental protection; she gives lectures and organizes conferences and meetings on these topics.



Heidemarie Schroeder at bookstore ›Schwarze Risse‹ in Berlin, February 2026.



Martin Daniel Schott

PRIORITIZING SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Outline for a Radical Dual Strategy

354 pages • softcover with flaps • 14,5 × 20,5 cm

105.500 words

29,- €

ISBN 978-3-96317-456-8

October 2026



- › Between political essay, academic theory and practical application
- › Debate-worthy text by an inspiring and inspired author

IN SHORT

Throughout history, people have sought to change the system from within through reforms – only to find themselves, just a few years later, virtually indistinguishable from the rest of the elite. To escape this grind of realpolitik, two distinct approaches emerged on the left: Marxism, which aimed at the violent seizure of state power, and anarchism, which consistently rejected state politics. Both attempts failed, but their theoretical legacy remains key to understanding our present.

Martin Daniel Schott takes as his starting point the ideas of the political theorist Nicos Poulantzas (1936–1979). Poulantzas conceived of the state as a complex balance of power in which social movements also participate. Taken to their radical conclusion, his ideas open up a political strategy that makes the vision of democratic socialism tangible once again: one that places the dynamics of extra-parliamentary movements at the center, without, however, neglecting the scope for action offered by state institutions. The German climate movement, as well as the protesters in Chile and Hong Kong, set out to put this approach into practice.

Martin Daniel Schott, born in 1993, studied geography and political science. As a young adult, he was involved in the anarchist scene and active in anti-fascist protests. Later, he turned to democratic socialism and became involved in the climate movement. He has published occasional essays on political theory. Through his previous work in public administration, he gained firsthand experience with the possibilities and limitations of statist policies. He is currently preparing to work as a foreign language teacher.

Johanna Schellhagen

SECURING A FUTURE ON THIS PLANET

A Handbook for the Unafraid

172 pages • softcover with flaps • 14,5×20,5cm

38.000 words

18,- €

ISBN 978-3-96317-442-1

February 2026



IN SHORT

Johanna Schellhagen has been making films about social movements, strikes, class struggles, and the climate movement for twenty-five years. In the process, she has realized that we need to do more than just appeal to the government to secure a future for us on this planet. There is no lack of people willing to get involved and fight. What is missing is a compelling strategy that unites us and enables us to leave capitalism behind.

In her book, the author outlines what the transition to a rational society might look like – a society that no longer cuts off the branch on which it sits. Schellhagen shows that a sustainable mode of production within planetary boundaries is entirely possible. The crucial question is how we can build up enough material power to make it a reality.

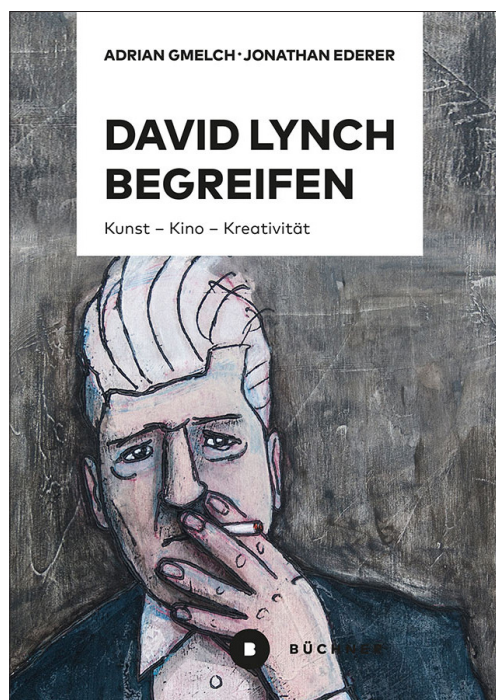
BOOK MENTIONED IN

Communaut • Contraste • direkte aktion • junge Welt • Mo-saik-online • Neues Deutschland • radicalbookstore, Wien • Sozialistische Zeitung

- › Active author who, as a filmmaker, regularly travels the world
- › Book can be marketed in close relation to a documentary authored by the same creator

Johanna Schellhagen lives in Berlin and works for Labournet TV. She studied analytical philosophy in Austria, something her grandfather could never quite understand, since it was clear to him that when a young woman left home on her own, it was to work as a maid in a middle-class household. After graduating, she worked in sound editing for television series and then began producing documentaries – in an activist context and independently of television and the festival circuit. Johanna has always wanted to make films, because the screen is a projection surface for what we carry in our hearts: a new world.





Adrian Gmelch, Jonathan Ederer

UNDERSTANDING DAVID LYNCH

Art – Cinema – Creativity

388 pages • softcover with flaps • 14,5 × 20,5 cm

126.000 words

30,- €

ISBN 978-3-96317-377-6

July 2024



- › Joins images of Lynch's cinematic and artistic work with deep-dives into the underlying themes of his creative universe
- › 800 copies sold

Jonathan Ederer, born in 1992, is a journalist and author. He studied German language and literature, social sciences, and education in Regensburg. After graduating, he completed an internship at Mittelbayerischer Verlag. Today, he works as an editor.

Adrian Gmelch, born in 1993, is a film critic and author. He studied political science, communication, and social sciences in Eichstätt, Rennes, and Paris. Gmelch writes for several print and online film magazines. His publications include *The Reinvention of M. Night Shyamalan* (2021), *Art-Horror: The Films of Ari Aster and Robert Eggers* (2022) and *Perspectives on Robert Eggers' Films* (2024). Visit his author website: <https://adrian-gmelch.com/>

IN SHORT

David Lynch rose to fame through films such as *Blue Velvet* and *Dune*, as well as the series *Twin Peaks*. He is considered a cult director, and people have been poring over his cinematic work for decades. What often gets overlooked, however, is his work as a visual artist, musician, and designer.

To fill this gap, authors Adrian Gmelch and Jonathan Ederer explore the full artistic spectrum of Lynch's work. The idea: an essayistic journey of discovery through his life, creative work, and thought. A journey that does not end with film, but rather begins there.

Through 31 key terms, Lynch and his work in art and cinema are comprehensively explored. The result is a handbook that establishes connections within Lynch's body of work, to other artists, and to the world around us. Through this approach, various concepts emerge as central (such as »idea« or »Los Angeles«) or open up (as in the case of »nature« or »body«) new perspectives on Lynch's work.

BOOK MENTIONED IN

Deutschlandfunk Corso • Die Tagespost • HorrOhr-Podcast • Mediennerd.de • MEDIENwissenschaft • Podcast »Serienreif« • Podcast DFF • Standard



Adrian Gmelch and Jonathan Ederer on podium at Frankfurt Book Fair 2024.

Guillaume Robin

BERGHAIN, TECHNO AND THE BODY FACTORY

Ethnography of a Club's Core Audience

178 pages • softcover with flaps • 14,5 x 20,5 cm

43.000 words

22,- €

ISBN 978-3-96317-274-8

August 2021



IN SHORT

»Tomorrow is the question« announced a banner that hung on Berghain's imposing facade when the first Covid-19 lockdown ended its regular operation. The famous techno club in Berlin Friedrichshain temporarily turned into a museum because of the pandemic. What does this development mean for Berlin? What if clubs threatened by gentrification and health crisis became museums?

Berghain is a world reference in techno culture and cultivates its mystery. It shakes up the norms and breaks with the usual flow of time: thus, day becomes night and Monday – the day of closing – becomes a day of rest, while the dancers run out of breath on Sunday.

In an ethnography of the club's core audience, Guillaume Robin explores the techno scene as a place of liberation of bodies. To what extent does this »other place« in a Foucaultian sense allow us to liberate ourselves from social norms and gender roles?

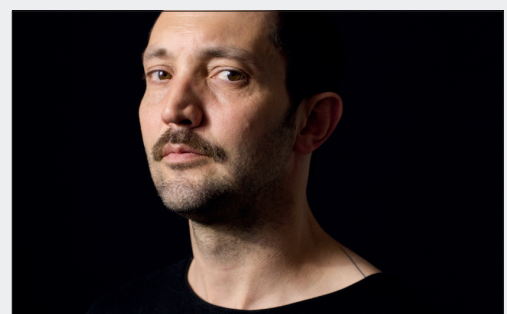
What lies behind the desire for ecstasy and excess? At the intersection of cultural history and body anthropology, the study delves into the bodily experience of Berghain – techno as a mode of resist-dance, but also as a site of self-discipline and surveillance.

BOOK MENTIONED IN

Siegessäule • Welt.de

- › An exploration of Berlin's legendary and subversive club, the »Berghain« – through personal experience and with an ethnological sensitivity
- › 1.000 copies sold

Guillaume Robin, PhD, is an assistant professor at the Université de Paris. His research interests revolve around the history of sport and the body in 20th century Germany. His recent research is on studies of Berlin subcultures, with a particular focus on the Berlin techno crowd. He is with the academic journal *Allemagne d'Aujourd'hui* and the research lab 'Identité, Cultures et Territoires'.





Michael Striss

BY GRACE OF GOD AND THE POWER OF MY COLT

Motives, Symbolism and Religious References
in the Spaghetti Western

672 pages • hardback with thread stitching
and ribbon page marker • 15 × 22 cm

193.000 words

39,- €

ISBN 978-3-96317-123-9

June 2018



- › Book by a priest who developed an unusual liking for action-packed genres

Michael Striss was born 1962 in Berlin. He completed a theological college education and went on to study Protestant theology at university. He has lived and worked as a Protestant pastor in the Rhineland for many years. He loves the cinema of the 60s and 70s: the style-defining Italian genre cinema, but also the English hammer film as well as American and British cult series of the time. He is also the author of the book »Columbo – A man of many questions«.



© Max Hoenow

The film heroes are called »Hallelujah«, »Amen« and »Spirito Santo«. The usual cast includes pastors, priests, nuns and monks. The holy Bible is often quoted and characters will pray more than once. What's all this about? Are we talking about edifying entertainment for pious Christians? No, not at all! Author Michael Striss examines the cynical and violent genre of Spaghetti Western (Italian Western). Spaghetti Western is a broad subgenre of Western films in European genre cinema of the 1960s and 1970s. These films have become iconic and influence films even today.

Michael Striss approaches the phenomenon from the perspective of a lover of Italian genre film, but also from that of a theologian. Combining both perspectives helps him deliver a detailed analysis of the motifs of the genre as well as a comprehensive presentation of the many and varied religious references.

This book examines whores, saints, devils, avenging angels and messianic figures. The reader witnesses passion, crucifixion, resurrection, but also hell and the divine final judgment. The surprising conclusion: the Spaghetti Western cannot be without its roots in the Biblical Christian faith - no matter how buried or broken it is depicted.

BOOK MENTIONED IN

epd film • Filmmagazin »Deadline« • Filmmagazin Ray • KMG-Nachrichten • MEDIENwissenschaft • Zeitzeichen

»By Grace of God... is a beautiful book that will give its readers lasting joy as well as a lot of it. You can use it as a manual or read it like a novel. And even the connoisseur of the Spaghetti Western will discover one or more new pearls here.« Marcus Stiglegger in *Deadline* #70, 2018

Michael Striss

COLUMBO – A MAN OF MANY QUESTIONS

Analysis and Interpretation of a Cult Figure

512 pages • paperback with thread stitching • 15 × 22 cm

141.000 words

25,- €

ISBN 978-3-96317-176-5

September 2019



He might be the most famous figure in television history: The bizarre Inspector Columbo from Los Angeles. Not only the sophisticated crime stories but especially the shrewd protagonist have made the TV series incredibly successful. Columbo does not only ask many questions but his character also raises numerous.

The author, Michael Striss, investigates and interprets the inspector's quirky habits and introduces the reader to Columbo's world. We learn all about the pitfalls of his public appearances; the extended family, including Mrs. Columbo; the dog called »Dog« or the indispensable props like coat, cigar and car. Michael Striss analyses the behavioral patterns using psychological and communication science findings. He also reveals the rich cultural references used in Columbo. It becomes clear what Columbo has in common with the English detective novel, with Dostoevsky and Wim Wenders.

A detailed episode guide makes this book indispensable for any fan. After the death of the Columbo actor Peter Falk in 2011, this revised and expanded edition provides an exhaustive picture of the famous series character.

»Marvelous, not just for fans of Columbo«
Hans Helmut Prinzler, film historian and publicist

› 1.400 copies sold and still going strong



Michael Striss at Frankfurt Book Fair 2019

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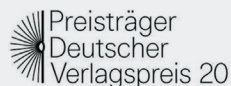
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ganze Jahr: Alle Titel per Blitzlieferung»



Aufgenommen in den
Freundeskreis der
Kurt Wolff Stiftung

Ihre Buchhandlung vor Ort:

Stand: April 2026. Änderungen und Irrtümer vorbehalten.



BÜCHNER