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Fall 2014**

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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 9783709200445

Rights available: All languages.

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Passagen Gespräche



**Europa – Krise
und Chance**
Im Gespräch mit Peter Engelmann

Angelo Bolaffi

Not yet published
ISBN 9783709201312
approx. 112 pages

“Today’s crisis, which is an economic crisis, is at the same time a political, moral, and geopolitical crisis of Europe.” – **Europe – Crisis and Opportunity** ties in with Bolaffi’s bestseller, *Il Cuore Tedesco*, and introduces new theories about the European crisis.

In conversation with Peter Engelmann, the Italian philosopher Angelo Bolaffi analyzes Europe’s crisis in a historical and political-philosophical context. The two philosophers examine the question of the extent that neoliberal globalization is a threat not only to the European economy, but also to the democratic constitution of its member states. Bolaffi traces the current crisis back to specific historical events, which he debunks as congenital defects of the European Union. According to him, Germany, as the EU’s strongest economy, plays a decisive role in overcoming the difficult situation in Europe. In his new considerations that go beyond Italy and Germany, Bolaffi devises various future scenarios for Europe and proposes a new, collective European narrative to overcome the narrow-mindedness of nation states. Completing the conversation, Bolaffi and Engelmann pose the question of what contemporary political philosophers can contribute to a new Europe. Does Europe have to rethink its course in order to persist?

Angelo Bolaffi, born in 1946 in Italy, is a philosopher, political scientist and professor at La Sapienza University in Rome. From 2007 to 2011, he was the director of the Italian Cultural Institute in Berlin.

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Passagen Gespräche

Philosophie und die Idee des Kommunismus Im Gespräch mit Peter Engelmann

Alain Badiou

Published 2013
ISBN 9783709200445
120 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 except English (printable French version already available).

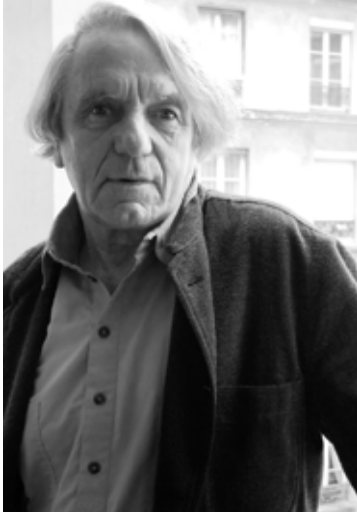
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Passagen Gespräche



Das Andere sehen Im Gespräch mit Peter Engelmann

Jacques Rancière

Not yet published
working title
approx. 120 pages

Seeing the Other, the third volume in the series Passagen Gespräche, documents a dialogue between Peter Engelmann and French philosopher Jacques Rancière. It touches on the themes discussed in the previous volume with Alain Badiou and continues the concept of the series: This critical interview attempts to reflect the political, philosophical and aesthetic terminological intersections central to Rancière's thought: the aesthetic-artistic potential of the proletariat, the emancipatory gaze through which views change to a productive "seeing the Other," a critique of the concept of representation which can be seen as mimesis in the Aristotelean sense, a critique of the concept of democracy which is, in truth, a concept of self-exhaustive oligarchy. In expounding his political philosophy, Rancière addresses current sociopolitical developments such as the Arab Spring or the situation in China. The conversation thus delivers not only a highly topical contribution to the question of alternative social orders, but also offers a concise introduction to Jacques Rancière's philosophical thought while also illustrating his personal biography.

Jacques Rancière, is a Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and an art historian. He has gained international renown with his works on political philosophy and aesthetics.

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

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Passagen Gespräche

Markt und Moral Im Gespräch mit Peter Engelmann

Colin Crouch



Published 2014
ISBN 9783709201107
136 pages

“A plea for social justice is not only a question of a redistribution of income and goods, but also one of power and, therefore, a question of democracy.”
Colin Crouch

In **Markets and Morality**, the second volume of the series Passagen Gespräche, Peter Engelmann asks the renowned British political scientist and sociologist Colin Crouch about the functions and effects of neoliberalism. Neoliberalism has shaped our society in a lasting way. Global financial markets are largely withdrawn from oversight; democracy has been hollowed out. While the political and economic elites follow their own interests, social injustice is on the rise, the gap between the poor and the wealthy is growing. Democratic institutions, political parties, and decision-makers are rapidly losing the trust of an increasingly dissatisfied public.

Colin Crouch is a British political scientist and sociologist, and became internationally renowned with his work on post-democracy. He is a Professor Emeritus of Governance and Public Management at the University of Warwick.

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

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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, and became internationally renowned with his work on post-democracy. 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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Passagen forum

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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Passagen Kunst



Die Ablösung vom 20. Jahrhundert Malerei der Gegenwart

Robert Fleck

Published 2013
ISBN 9783851659399
112 pages

What is the future of painting in the new century? Robert Fleck takes on the new themes, aesthetic rejections, and generational conflicts of the last decade of painting and poses questions and perspectives in the age of globalization and digitalization for the artform that has the longest tradition in Euro-American culture.

What is going on in painting, one hundred years after the invention of a 20th century language of forms, which occurred with Picasso's "Desmoiselles d'Avignon" (1907)? How does art react to the fact that what has been a hegemonic form of expression in Western art for centuries has become a minority medium ever since mechanic and digital means of reproduction have come to dominate the arts? Who are the artistic "fathers" (and "mothers") of the 21st century, opposite Cézanne, Gauguin, Seurat, and Van Gogh from 1905 onwards? How does the globalization of artistic production and discourse since the 1990s influence contemporary painting? What conclusions can painters draw in this new world from the experience of space and time in terms of the representation of space and time in their images? Painting remains an area where we may approach philosophical and ontological problems in the spirit of Deleuze with media-specific instruments.

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Passagen forum

Das Kunstsystem im 21. Jahrhundert Museen, Künstler, Sammler, Galerien

Robert Fleck

Published 2013
ISBN 9783709200827
102 pages



Robert Fleck investigates the changes in art and the art market as well as the conflicts between art, artists, traders, collectors, and museums in the age of globalization.

Art and the art scene are currently in a time of epic and radical change: While globalization renders artists from all continents and various cultural backgrounds equal, Western artists have become a minority in a vast number of major exhibitions. The big museums of the new century are being built in emerging nations, and the art trade has mutated to a worldwide activity. Robert Fleck investigates these developments using concrete examples and art-sociological and historical comparisons. The artists' positioning within globalization, challenging the European concept of a museum, the new balance of power between collectors, traders, and museums, new experiential spaces of artists and audience, new public forms of art – all this characterizes the geopolitics of a new 21st century art system, for which we have to develop new instruments of criticism.

Robert Fleck, born in 1957 in Vienna, now lives in Paris, and has studied under Gilles Deleuze and Michel Foucault, among others. He was the director of the Fine Arts School of Nantes, the Deichtorhallen Hamburg, and the Bundeskunsthalle in Bonn. Today he is a professor of art and public relations at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf.

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Hermann Levin Goldschmidt

Mein 1933

(My 1933)

Published 2008

ISBN 9783851658330

144 pages

Rights available: All languages.

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

Rights available: All languages.

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

Rights available: All languages.

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