

VERDAMMTE  
HELDEN

HEROISM  
RECONSIDERED



EINSTEIN  
FORUM

International  
Conference

June 11-14, 2009  
Potsdam



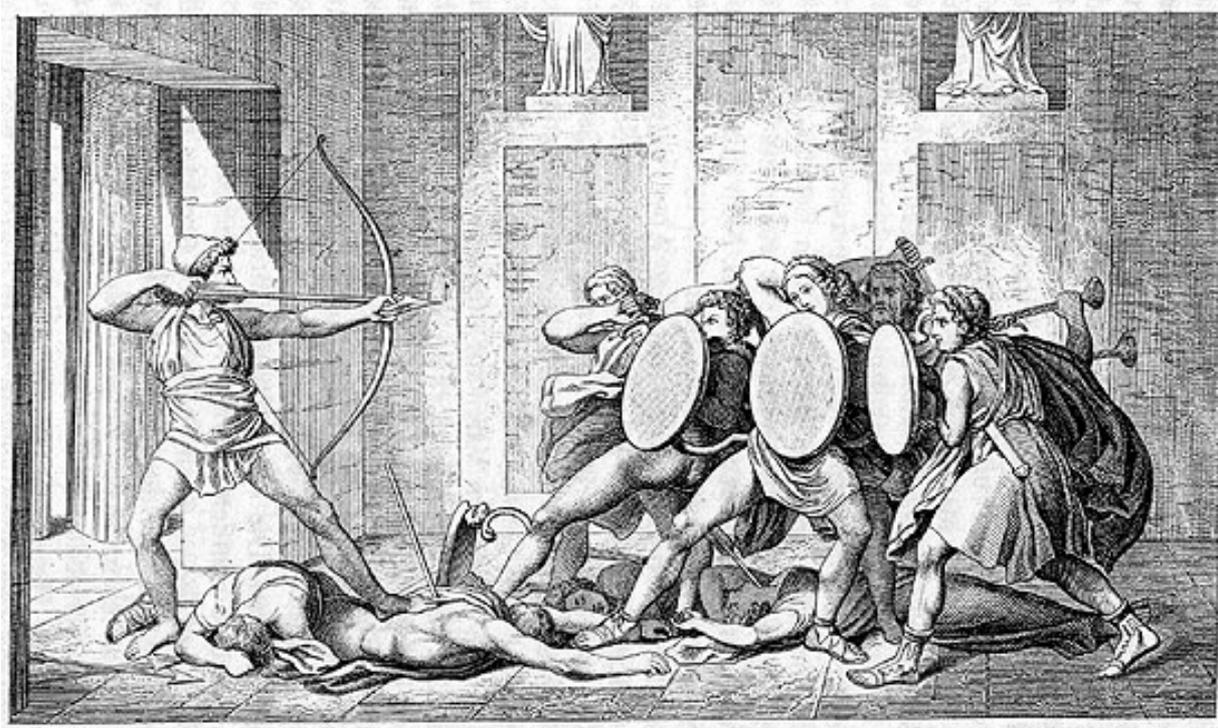
## Verdammte Helden – Heroism Reconsidered

Was the 20<sup>th</sup> century one long assault on the very idea of heroism? The courage once exemplified by military service was first undermined by the changing nature of warfare, and later by the atrocities committed in the name of causes that came to be abhorred. New sciences of psychology revealed common, often infantile motives behind actions once deemed noble – creating an illusion of intimacy possessed by the valet for whom, says the adage, no man is a hero. All that, and the suspicion that heroes are vaguely undemocratic, combined to make the word “Held” virtually unspeakable in German. Other languages are less allergic to speech that provokes images of blood and soil. Yet since the U.S. war on Vietnam, at the latest, international consensus has increasingly suggested that heroes are part of the past – and that we should be grateful for it.

Certainly traditional efforts to become a hero, and a better one than your neighbor, are out of date. People and nations once competed to determine who was the greatest hero: whose adventures and courage and prowess deserved the most honor and attention. Contrast these competitions with contemporary discussions, where the common coin is victimhood: individuals and groups compete for recognition not on the basis of what they have done, but what they have suffered. Though the limiting case of such competition is probably the case of Benjamin Wilkomirski, eventually unmasked for inventing a childhood in a concentration camp, the Holocaust did not begin the trend to compete over comparative suffering. For two decades after WWII ended, Holocaust survivors were treated as shameful; if any victims commanded attention, it was the victims of colonialism. Franz Fanon preceded Elie Wiesel.

Giving voice to the victims began as an act of justice. Earlier histories were written by winners, leaving losers to die a double death: once in the flesh, once again in memory. Contemporary political culture is right to insist that we give a hearing to those whom earlier ages left forgotten. Yet something is wrong when legitimacy is conferred by what the world did to you – without regard for what you did in the world. The rejection of victimhood and the confused longing for heroism is one important factor fueling the rise of suicide terrorism as well as more banal fundamentalist media.

Three years ago, the Einstein Forum explored such questions in our conference “Victims and Losers”. This year we will explore models of modern heroism – while also asking hard questions about the possibility of such models at all. Our interest is not in the truth of particular claims to heroism but in their form. Men and women’s willingness to take risks in service of something other than their own interests is often abused and perverted. We will explore the dangers of heroic longing and the difficulty of deciding whether claims to heroism are genuine or manipulated. We will examine the “heroes of work” celebrated in the former socialist countries and the psyches of soldiers in others, explore heroism in the arts and in scholarship, in underground resistance and in ordinary actions.



Odysseus killing Penelope's Suitors

# Verdammte Helden – Heroism Reconsidered

## THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2009

Venue: Deutsche Kinemathek – Museum für Film und Fernsehen, Potsdamer Straße 2, Berlin-Mitte

18:30        **Susan Neiman**, Potsdam  
*Welcome*

**Jan Philipp Reemtsma**, Hamburg  
*Der Held, das Ich und das Wir*

*Wine Reception*

## FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2009

Venue: Haus der Brandenburgisch-Preußischen Geschichte, Kutschstall, Am Neuen Markt 9, Potsdam

10:00        *Heroes and History*  
A discussion with contributions by:  
**Ute Frevert**, Berlin  
and  
**Glenn Most**, Pisa/Chicago

11:45        *Heroic Imagination*  
A discussion with contributions by:  
**Cornel West**, Princeton  
and  
**Konstanty Gebert**, Warsaw

14:30        **William Ian Miller**, Ann Arbor  
*The Politics of Courage*  
  
**Julian Nida-Rümelin** and **Nathalie Weidenfeld**, Munich  
*Are There Heroes in Liberal Democracy?*

**Simon Blackburn**, Cambridge  
*On Character*

17:30        **Norton Batkin**, Annandale-on-Hudson  
*The Artist as Hero*  
  
**Anthony Grafton**, Princeton  
*The Scholar as Hero*

## **SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2009**

Venue: Haus der Brandenburgisch-Preußischen Geschichte, Kutschstall, Am Neuen Markt 9, Potsdam

- 10:00      *Religion, Heroism, and Violence*  
A discussion with contributions by:  
**Scott Atran**, Ann Arbor  
and  
**Irshad Manji**, New York
- 14:00      *Odysseus as Hero?!*  
A discussion with contributions by:  
**Susan Neiman**, Potsdam  
and  
**Jonathan Shay**, Newton
- 15:45      **Philip Zimbardo**, Stanford  
*How Ordinary People Become Monsters ... or Heroes*  
(Video Screening)
- 16:30      **David Bromwich**, New Haven  
*Lincoln as Educator*
- Karl Heinz Bohrer**, London  
*Rituals and Gestures. On Heroes in American Westerns*
- Hanns Zischler**, Berlin  
*Representing Heroes*

## **SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2009**

Venue: Einstein Forum, Am Neuen Markt 7, Potsdam

- 10:00      *Heroes in Resistance*  
A discussion with contributions by:  
**Breyten Breytenbach**, Dakar  
**Christa Ebert**, Frankfurt/Oder  
and  
**Ramin Jahanbegloo**, Toronto
- 14:00      **Slavenka Drakulić**, Stockholm  
*Ordinary Heroes*
- Annalise Acorn**, Edmonton  
*Epic Lives and Ardent Souls. Observations on the Emotions of Hero Worship*

## Conference Speakers

### **Annalise Acorn**

Professor of Law, Edmonton

Annalise Acorn is Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta, Canada. Her main research interest is the emotions of conflict and justice. She has published numerous articles in journals such as *The Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, *Osgoode Hall Law Journal*, *Valparaiso Law Review*, and the *UCLA Women's Law Journal*. Between 1998 and 1999 she was President of the Canadian Association of Law Teachers. In the same year she was a McCalla Research Professor. In 2000 Annalise Acorn was Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan Law School. Recent publications include: "Besieged by Beneficence: Love Justice and the Autonomous Self", in: *Saskatchewan Law Review* (2000); *Compulsory Compassion: A Critique of Restorative Justice* (2004); "Surviving the Battered Reader's Syndrome or a Critique of Linda Mills' Insult to Injury" in: *UCLA Women's Law Journal* (2005) and "Eine verbogene Meßlatte. Über Mitleid in der Rechtsprechung" in: *Berliner Debatte Initial* (2006).



*Jeanne D'Arc*

### **Scott Atran**

Professor of Psychology, Ann Arbor/Paris

Scott Atran is Adjunct Professor in the Psychology Department at Michigan University, as well as Visiting Professor at the Ford School of Public Policy. He is also Directeur de Recherche at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris. His research and teaching interests include: cognitive and linguistic anthropology; ethnobiology; environmental decision making; categorization and reasoning; evolutionary psychology; anthropology of science (history and philosophy of natural history and natural philosophy); Middle East ethnography and political economy; natural history of Lowland Maya; cognitive and commitment theories of religion, terrorism and foreign affairs. Recent Publications include: *Folkbiology* (1999); *In Gods We Trust: The Evolutionary Landscape of Religion* (2002); *Plants of the Peten Itza' Maya, Plantas de los Maya Itza' del Peten* (2004); *The Native Mind and the Cultural Construction of Nature* (2008).

## **Norton Batkin**

Professor of Philosophy and Art History, Annandale-on-Hudson

Norton Batkin is Professor of Philosophy and Art History and Dean of Graduate Studies at Bard College. He studied at Stanford University before completing his M.A and Ph.D. at Harvard University. From 1981 through 1988, he was Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Yale, where he also acted as assistant director of the Whitney Humanities Center. From 1988 to 1990 he was Associate Professor and Director of the Scripps College Humanities Institute. In 1991 he was appointed to Bard College, where he became Founder and Director of the Center for Curatorial Studies and Art in Contemporary Culture and Director of the graduate program. His publications include *Photography and Philosophy* (1990); "The Museum Exposed," in *Exhibited* (Center for Curatorial Studies Museum, 1994); "Conceptualizing the History of the Contemporary Museum: On Foucault and Benjamin," in: *Philosophical Topics* (1997); and other articles and reviews in the areas of philosophical aesthetics, philosophy of language, and philosophy of psychology. Since 1994 he has also been art editor of the literary journal *Conjunctions*.

## **Simon Blackburn**

Professor of Philosophy, Cambridge

Simon Blackburn studied Moral Sciences at Clifton College and at Trinity College, Cambridge. He was Junior Research Fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge, and then Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy at Pembroke College, Oxford. Between 1990 and 2001 Blackburn was the Edna J. Koury Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He is currently Professor of Philosophy at the University of Cambridge, and Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. He has held visiting appointments at the Universities of Melbourne and of British Columbia, at Oberlin College, Princeton University, Ohio State University and at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, and was for ten years Adjunct Professor at the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University, Canberra. From 1984 until 1990 he edited the journal *Mind*. He was elected Fellow of the British Academy in 2001. Along with numerous essays he has authored the following books: *Reason and Prediction* (1973); *Spreading the Word* (1984); *Essays in Quasi-Realism* (1993); *The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy* (1994); *Ruling Passions* (1998); *Think* (1999); *Being Good* (2001); *Lust* (2004); *Truth: A Guide for the Perplexed* (2005); *Plato's Republic* (2006); and most recently *How to read Hume* (2008).



*Liquidators – Chernobyl*

## **Karl Heinz Bohrer**

Professor emer. for Literature, London

Karl Heinz Bohrer studied History, Philosophy, German literature, and Sociology. In 1962 he completed his studies with a doctoral thesis on the *Geschichtsphilosophie* of the German Romantics at the University of Heidelberg, followed in 1978 by a Habilitation at the University of Bielefeld with a study on the early works of Ernst Jünger. Until 1974, Bohrer was literary editor of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ)*, thereafter he worked for the same paper as a foreign correspondent in London. The *Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung* awarded him its Johann Heinrich Merck Prize for his London essays. In 1982 he was appointed Professor for Modern German Literary History at the University of Bielefeld and in 1983 he succeeded Hans Schwab-Felisch as editor of *Merkur*. The recipient of the 2007 Heinrich-Mann Prize now lives in Paris and London. Among his many publications are *Großer Stil* (2007); *Temporalität und Form* (2004); and *Imaginationen des Bösen* (2004).



*Stephen Bantu Biko*

## **Breyten Breytenbach**

Artist and Writer, Dakar

A native of South Africa, Breyten Breytenbach is a painter, activist and writer of more than 30 books of poetry. In addition, he has authored numerous novels, short story compilations, essays and dramatic works. An active opponent of apartheid, Breytenbach established the resistance group "Okhela" for which he wrote the platform. From 1975-1982, he was a political prisoner serving two terms of solitary confinement in South African prisons. His most renowned work is the four-volume memoir of this odyssey: *A Season in Paradise* (1973); *The True Confessions of an Albino Terrorist* (1983); *Return to Paradise* (1991); and *Dog Heart: A Memoir* (1999) have been translated into more than a dozen languages.

Known as the finest living poet of the Afrikaans language, Breyten Breytenbach's English verse volumes include *The Iron Cow Must Sweat* (1964); *Footscript* (1976); and *Lady One* (2002), a selection of love poems. His paintings portray surreal human and animal figures, many of whom are shown in captivity. He has had solo exhibitions of his artwork in numerous cities around the world including Johannesburg, Cape Town, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Stockholm, Paris, Brussels and Edinburgh. He has been honored with numerous literary and art awards, including the APB Prize, CAN Award (five times), Allan Paton Award for Literature, Rapport Prize, Hertzog Prize, Reina Prinsen-Geerling Prize, Van der Hoogt Prize, Jan Campert Award and Jacobus van Looy Prize for Literature and Art. Breyten Breytenbach has taught creative writing at the University of Natal, New York University, Princeton University, and the University of Cape Town.

## David Bromwich

Professor of English, New Haven

David Bromwich graduated from Yale with a B.A. in 1973 and a Ph.D. four years later. He became an instructor at Princeton University, where he was promoted to Mellon Professor of English before returning to Yale in 1988. From 1995 he served as the Housum Professor of English at Yale. In 2006 he was appointed Sterling Professor of English at Yale University. David Bromwich's main research interests are: Romanticism, modern poetry, history of criticism, political writing, and moral philosophy (18th and 19th century). A well-known cultural and political critic for the *New York Review of Books*, the *London Review*, and *The New Republic*, he is also the author of: *Hazlitt: The Mind of a Critic* (2000); *Selected Poetry of William Wordsworth* (2001); and *Edmund Burke: An Intellectual Biography* (2010).



Rosa Parks

## Slavenka Drakulić

Writer and Journalist, Stockholm

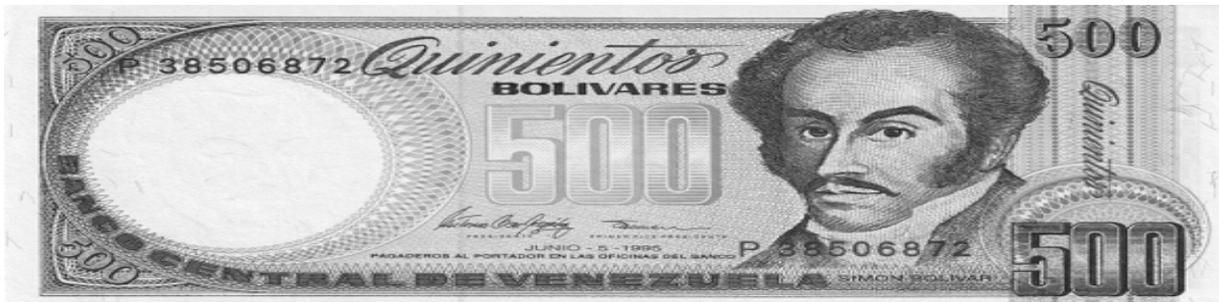
Slavenka Drakulić was born in Rijeka, Croatia. She graduated in comparative literature and sociology at the University of Zagreb. From 1982 to 1992 she was a staff writer for the bi-weekly newspaper *Start* in Zagreb. Drakulić became an outspoken critic of communism as well as an ardent feminist, while continuing her journalistic work as the Eastern European correspondent for *Ms.* magazine and as a contributor to *Danas*, a major Croatian political journal. Her articles and reviews also appeared in *The New Republic*, *The Nation*, and *Time* magazine. Since her emigration from Croatia in 1992 she has written for various newspapers and magazines in many different languages, including *La Stampa*, *Dagens Nyheter*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, and *Politiken*.

In 1987 Slavenka Drakulić participated in the International Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa and soon thereafter published her first novel, *Hologrami straha* (*Holograms of Fear*). The essay collection *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed* (1991) was her first book to be written and published in English. Her noted recent works relate to the Yugoslav wars. *As If I Am Not There* is about crimes against women in the Bosnian War, while *They Would Never Hurt a Fly* analyzes her experience overseeing the proceedings and the inmates of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at The Hague. Slavenka Drakulić received a Fulbright award (1990), the Independent Foreign Fiction Award for *Holograms of Fear* (1992), and an award from the Institute of Human Sciences in Vienna (1994).

## **Christa Ebert**

Professor for Literature, Frankfurt/Oder

Christa Ebert studied Roman Languages, Literature and Slavic Studies in Berlin and Rostov-on-Don. She received her doctorate in 1977 and completed her habilitation on Russian symbolism in 1990, both in Berlin. Initially Ebert worked for the Academy of Sciences of the DDR. Since 1994 she has been Professor for Literature und Eastern European Literature at the Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder). She has held visiting appointments in Moscow, Leningrad, Prague, and New York. Selected publications: *Sinaida Hippus, Seltsame Nähe. Ein Porträt* (2004); *Die Seele hat kein Geschlecht. Studien zum Genderdiskurs in der russischen Kultur* (2004); and most recently *Ideen und Bilder von Gemeinschaftlichkeit in Ost und West* (edited together with Brigitte Sändig, 2008). Christa Ebert is also co-editor of the series *Ost-West Diskurse*.



*Simon Bolivar*

## **Ute Frevert**

Professor of History, Berlin

Ute Frevert studied History and Social Science in Munich, Bielefeld, and London. She received her doctorate in 1982 and her Habilitation in Contemporary History in 1989 at the University of Bielefeld. She has been Professor for Contemporary History at the Freie Universität Berlin and at the University of Konstanz, Professor of History at the University of Bielefeld, and Professor for German History at Yale University. Since 2008, Ute Frevert is Co-Director of the Max-Planck-Institute for Human Development in Berlin. She has held Visiting Professorships in Jerusalem, Stanford, Vienna, and Paris, and was Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin in 1989/90 and 2004/05. Among her many publications are: *Frauen-Geschichte. Zwischen Bürgerlicher Verbesserung und Neuer Weiblichkeit* (1986; translated as: *Women in German History: From Bourgeois Emancipation to Sexual Liberation*, 1989); *Ehrenmänner. Das Duell in der bürgerlichen Gesellschaft* (1991, translated as: *Men of Honour: A Social and Cultural History of the Duel*, 1995); *Die kasernierte Nation. Militärdienst und Zivilgesellschaft in Deutschland* (2001); *Vertrauen. Historische Annäherungen* (Ed., 2003); and *Eurovisionen. Ansichten guter Europäer im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert* (2003).

## **Konstanty Gebert**

Author and Journalist, Warsaw

Konstanty Gebert is an author, journalist, lecturer, and political activist based in Warsaw. In 1976 he graduated from the Department of Psychology at the University of Warsaw. He was a prominent figure in the democratic opposition in Poland in the 1970s and 1980s when he co-founded the unofficial Jewish Flying University (1979), the Polish Council of Christians and Jews (1980), and a trade union of the employees in academia, technology and education which merged with Solidarnosc (1980). In 1981 he avoided internment and during the Martial Law in Poland he continued to write and publish articles for various underground publications under the pseudonym Dawid Warszawski. Gebert also served as a reporter on the war in Bosnia for *Gazeta Wyborcza*. His articles have been widely published in a variety of national periodicals as well as foreign media. He has written several books, including a first-hand account of the Polish Round Table negotiations of 1989 and a book about the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s. Konstanty Gebert is also the founder and editor of *Midrasz*, the first Polish-language Jewish periodical in post-communist Poland and he frequently appears on Polish television and radio. Konstanty Gebert has lectured in Poland, Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, and the USA.

## **Anthony Grafton**

Professor of History, Princeton

Anthony Grafton is the Henry Putnam University Professor of History and the chair of the Council of the Humanities. He joined the Princeton History Department in 1975 after earning his A.B. (1971) and Ph.D. (1975) in history from the University of Chicago and spending a year at University College London. Grafton has been the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship (1989), the Los Angeles Times Book Prize (1993), the Balzan Prize for History of Humanities (2002), and the Mellon Foundation's Distinguished Achievement Award (2003). His many publications on the cultural history and philosophy of the Renaissance include: *Defenders of the Text: The Traditions of Scholarship in an Age of Science, 1450-1800* (1991); *The Footnote: A Curious History* (1997); *Cardano's Cosmos: The Worlds and Works of a Renaissance Astrologer* (1999); *Leon Battista Alberti: Master Builder of the Italian Renaissance* (2000); *Bring Out Your Dead: The Past as Revelation* (2002); and most recently the essay collection *Worlds Made by Words: Scholarship and Community in the Modern West* (2009).



*Albert Einstein*

## **Ramin Jahanbegloo**

Professor of Political Science, Toronto

Ramin Jahanbegloo, born in Tehran, studied Philosophy at the Sorbonne University, Paris. After his doctorate, he became Fellow in Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University. Between 1997 and 2001, Jahanbegloo was Adjunct Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto in Canada. In 2001 he served at the National Endowment for Democracy in the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program. Upon returning to Tehran, he was appointed head of the Contemporary Philosophy Department of the Cultural Research Center. In April 2006 Jahanbegloo was arrested for political reasons and imprisoned for four months by the Iranian authorities. In 2006 and 2007 he was Rajni Kothari Professor of Democracy at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in New Delhi. In 2008 he returned to the University of Toronto as a Professor of Political Science, Massey College Scholar-at-Risk, and Research Fellow at the Centre for Ethics at Trinity College. His many publications include: *Conversations with Isaiah Berlin* (2000); *Iran: Between Tradition and Modernity* (Ed., 2004); and *The Spirit of India* (2008).



*Subcomandante Marcos*

## **Irshad Manji**

Journalist and Writer, New York

The author, journalist and human rights activist Irshad Manji is a refugee from Idi Amin's Uganda. In 1972 she and her family escaped to Vancouver. In 1990 she graduated from the University of British Columbia. Since then, she has been awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Puget Sound. Irshad Manji is senior fellow with the European Foundation for Democracy. She has served as Visiting Fellow at Yale University and Journalist-in-Residence at the University of Toronto. As a journalist, Irshad Manji's columns appear frequently in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Times of London* and on Al-Arabiya.net. She also writes a regular feature for Canada's *Globe and Mail*. Irshad Manji is Director of the Moral Courage Project at New York University, which aims to develop leaders who will challenge political correctness, intellectual conformity and self-censorship. Irshad Manji's book *The Trouble with Islam Today: A Muslim's Call for Reform in Her Faith* (2004), has been published in more than 30 countries.



*German Lego National Soccer Team*

### **William Ian Miller**

Professor of Law, Ann Arbor

William Miller received his B.A. in History from the University of Wisconsin in 1969 and his Ph.D. in English from Yale University in 1975. He held teaching positions at Williams College, at Wesleyan University and at the University of Houston before becoming Professor of Law at the University of Michigan in 1985. Numerous visiting positions at Yale Law School, Chicago Law School, the Department of History of the University of Bergen, Harvard Law School, and Tel Aviv University followed. In 2007 Miller was the Carnegie Centenary Professor at St. Andrews. His publications include: *Bloodtaking and Peacemaking: Feud, Law, and Society in Saga Iceland* (1990); *Humiliation and other essays on Honor, Social Discomfort, and Violence* (1995); *The Anatomy of Disgust* (1997); *The Mystery of Courage* (2000); *Faking It* (2003); *Eye for an Eye* (2006); and *Audun and the Polar Bear: Luck, Law, and Largesse in a Medieval Tale of Risky Business* (2008).

### **Glenn Most**

Professor of Greek, Pisa/Chicago

Glenn Most studied at Harvard College and Corpus Christi College, Oxford, before receiving his Ph.D. in literature at Yale University in 1980. In the same year he completed a doctorate in classics at the University of Tübingen. Glenn Most was Andrew W. Mellon Assistant Professor of Classics at Princeton University and has held Professorships at the Universities of Innsbruck and Heidelberg. Since 2001 Most has been Professor for Greek Philology at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa and since 1997 he also serves as member of the Committee on Social Thought in Chicago. Most has been Visiting Professor in Siena, Michigan and at the Collège de France, and he was Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin. Recent publications include: *Collecting Fragments – Fragmente sammeln* (Ed., 1997); *Raffael, Die Schule von Athen. Über das Lesen der Bilder* (1999); *Editing Texts – Texte edieren* (Ed., 1998); *Commentaries – Kommentare* (Ed., 1999); *Historicization – Historisierung* (Ed., 2001); *Disciplining Classics – Altertumswissenschaft als Beruf* (Ed., 2002); *Ancient Anger* (Co-ed., 2003); *Doubting Thomas* (2005); and *Sebastiano Timpanaros Genesis of Lachmann's Method* (Ed., 2005).

## **Susan Neiman**

Professor of Philosophy, Potsdam

Susan Neiman is Director of the Einstein Forum, Potsdam. Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Neiman studied Philosophy at Harvard and the Freie Universität Berlin, receiving her Ph.D. from Harvard in 1986. Before becoming director of the Einstein Forum in 2000 she was Associate Professor of Philosophy at Yale (1989-1996) and Tel Aviv University (1996-2000). Neiman's work centers on moral and political philosophy and on the history of modern philosophy. She is also a political and cultural commentator whose essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Washington Post*, *Die Zeit*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, and other journals. Her books are: *Slow Fire: Jewish Notes from Berlin* (1992); *The Unity of Reason: Rereading Kant* (1994); *Evil in Modern Thought: An Alternative History of Philosophy* (2002); *Zum Glück* (Co-ed., 2004); *Fremde sehen anders. Zur Lage der Bundesrepublik* (2005); and *Moral Clarity: A Guide for Grown-Up Idealists* (2008).



*Hannah Szenes*

## **Jan Philipp Reemtsma**

Professor of Contemporary German Literature and Director of the Hamburg Institute for Social Research

Jan Philipp Reemtsma studied German Literature and Philosophy in Hamburg and also received his doctorate there. From 1996 until 2007 he was Professor for Contemporary German Literature at the University of Hamburg. In 2008 he was the Johannes-Gutenberg Professor at the University of Mainz; currently, he is Schiller-Professor at the University of Jena. In 1981 Reemtsma created the *Arno Schmidt Foundation* to preserve, disseminate, and study the work of writer Arno Schmidt and has been on its board of directors since then. In 1984 he also launched the *Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Research and Culture*. In the same year, he established the Hamburg Institute for Social Research [Hamburger Institut für Sozialforschung], a private foundation best known for its controversial Wehrmacht exhibition. The Institute focuses on the study of the theory and history of violence; the society of the Federal Republic of Germany; and the relationship between Nation and Society. Among the honors awarded to Reemtsma are the Wieland Medal (1984); the Copernicus Medal of the University of Kraków (1987); the Lessing Prize of the City of Hamburg (1997); the Fine Arts Prize for Literature of Lower Saxony (2001); the Leibniz Medal of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences (2002); the Heinz Galinski Prize for fostering German-Jewish understanding (2003); and an honorary doctorate of the University of Magdeburg (2007). Reemtsma also received the Teddy Kollek Award of the Jerusalem Foundation at a ceremony in Israel's Knesset in October 2007. Recent publications include: *Wie hätte ich mich verhalten? und andere nicht nur deutsche Fragen* (2001); *Das unaufhebbare Nichtbescheidwissen der Mehrheit* (2005); *Folter im Rechtsstaat?* (2005); *Das Scheinproblem "Willensfreiheit". Ein Plädoyer für das Ende einer überflüssigen Debatte* (2008) und *Vertrauen und Gewalt. Versuch über eine besondere Konstellation der Moderne* (2008).

## **Julian Nida-Rümelin**

Professor for Political Theory and Philosophy, Munich

Julian Nida-Rümelin, born in Munich, studied Philosophy, Physics, Mathematics and Political Sciences. In 1983 he was awarded a Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of Munich and then became Assistant Professor in its Department of Political Sciences. His doctorate followed in 1989 at the Department of Philosophy in Munich. After spending one year in Minnesota as Visiting Professor, he was appointed to the Chair of the Centre of Science Ethics at the University of Tübingen. From 1993 to 2003 he held a Chair of Philosophy at the University of Göttingen and then moved to Munich as a Full Professor of Political Theory and Philosophy. From January 2001 to October 2002 Nida-Rümelin held a cabinet office as the State Minister for Culture and Media. From 2009 to 2011, Julian Nida-Rümelin will be the President of the German Association of Philosophy. Latest publications: *Strukturelle Rationalität* (2001); *Humanismus als Leitkultur. Ein Perspektivenwechsel* (2005); *Über menschliche Freiheit* (2005); and *Demokratie und Wahrheit* (2006).



*Mahatma Gandhi*

## **Jonathan Shay**

Clinical Psychiatrist, Newton

Jonathan Shay is a clinical psychiatrist whose treatment of combat trauma suffered by Vietnam veterans combined with his critical and imaginative interpretations of the ancient accounts of battle described in Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* deepen our understanding of the effects of warfare on the individual. He received a B.A. (1963) from Harvard University and an M.D. (1971) and Ph.D. (1972) from the University of Pennsylvania. Since 1987, he has been a staff psychiatrist at the Department of Veteran Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Boston, Massachusetts. In 2001 Shay served as Visiting Scholar-at-Large at the U.S. Naval War College, and from 2004 to 2005 he was Chair of Ethics, Leadership, and Personnel Policy in the Office of the U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. At present he is MacArthur Fellow (until 2012). In 2009 Shay will be Omar Bradley Chair of Strategic Leadership at the US Army War College and the Dickinson College. Selected publications: *Action Theory and Ego Psychology: A Model of the Personality* (1963); *Achilles in Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character* (1995); and *Odysseus in America: Combat Trauma and the Trials of Homecoming* (2002).

## **Nathalie Weidenfeld**

Author and Lecturer, Munich

Nathalie Weidenfeld is Lecturer at the Institute for Performing Arts at the University of Munich. Born in France, she studied American Literature, American Cultural History and Comparative Literature at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich. She studied acting at the Lee Strasberg Institute in New York and returned to Germany in 1993 to work as an assistant editor in TV- and movie productions. In 2005 she was awarded a Ph.D. in American Literature and Culture by the Free University Berlin for a dissertation on *Alien Abduction Narratives*. Nathalie Weidenfeld writes film scripts and novels, including: *Die Orangenprinzessin* (2001); *Einhundert Arten den Mond zu sehen* (2002); and *Thereses wunderbare Weihnacht* (2007).



*John Wayne*

## **Cornel West**

Professor of Religion, Princeton

Cornel West is one of America's best known public intellectuals, whose work weaves together the traditions of the black Baptist Church, progressive politics, and jazz. The *New York Times* has praised his "ferocious moral vision." West earned two bachelor's degrees from Harvard. After completing his Ph.D. at Princeton, he became a professor of religion and director of the Afro-American Studies program there. West has also taught at Union Theological Seminary, Yale, Harvard, and the University of Paris, and has received more than 20 honorary degrees. He is currently the Class of 1943 Professor at Princeton University. His best-known books include *Race Matters* (1993); *Democracy Matters: Winning the Fight Against Imperialism* (2004); and *Hope on a Tightrope* (2008). He also has produced 3 albums; his latest CD, *Never Forget: A Journey of Revelations*, is a collection of socially conscious music with *Black Men Who Mean Business*, featuring collaborations with Prince, Outkast, Jill Scott, Talib Kweli and KRS-ONE. West was an influential force in developing the storyline for the popular *Matrix* movie trilogy and has served as its official spokesperson, as well as playing a recurring role in the final two films.

## Hanns Zischler

Actor and Independent Scholar, Berlin

Hanns Zischler, born in Nuremberg, studied Ethnology and Literature in Munich and Berlin. He began working as a lecturer appearing in his first movie *Summer in the City* by Wim Wenders (1970). Between 1973 and 1975 Zischler worked as a dramatic adviser at the Berliner Schaubühne. Besides other works, he staged Wladimir Majakowskis *Tragödie* for the Schillertheater in 1983, as well as W. S. Landors *Dialoge* for the Berliner Schaubühne in 1969. As an actor, Zischler has worked with the directors Claude Chabrol, Jean-Luc Godard, István Szabó, and Costa Gavras. As an author, he is renowned for his literary essays and articles for newspapers and journals. Among the many movie productions in which he starred are: *Die flambierte Frau* (Robert van Ackeren, 1983); *Kir Royal* (Helmut Dietl, 1986); *Der König* (Christian Görlitz, 1995); *Jahrestage* (Margarethe von Trotta, 2000); and *Munich* (Steven Spielberg, 2005). His publications include: *Tagesreisen* (1993); *Kafka geht ins Kino* (1996); and *I wouldn't start from here. Verzettelte Geschichten* (2008). In 2009 Hanns Zischler received the Heinrich-Mann-Prize.



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