

Helmut Dubiel

Deep in the Brain

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Helmut Dubiel is professor of sociology at the University of Giessen. For the past 13 years he has suffered from Parkinson's disease. A remote-controlled probe implanted in his brain enables him to opt for movement over speech or vice versa. He rarely touches the remote control. Life just isn't like that. This remarkable book reveals how much life changes when you are suddenly confronted with the certainty of an incurable disease and, at the same time, how much remains normal". How you hide the disquieting early symptoms from yourself, making little of them, while at the same time doing the research - behind your own back as it were. How the diagnosis restores order to the diffuse ailments, but how knowing brings hopelessness. It reveals the nature of the disease and how perceptions and preconceptions are shaken by it - from the way we see ourselves to the reactions of others. It tells of dealings with doctors, of both personal and professional helplessness.



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Helmut Dubiel was born in Essen in 1946 and studied German and philosophy in Bielefeld and Bochum. He was professor of sociology in Giessen and has been visiting professor at the University of California in Berkeley, Florence and New York. His new book »Membran oder Gehäuse – Sozialkritik heute« (Membrane or Casing – Social Criticism Today) was published by Suhrkamp. Dubiel passed away on November 3th 2015 in Frankfurt.