



Hans-Jürgen Heinrichs **Otherness**

Stories an history of the great task of our times

248 pages

Euro 22,00 € (D)

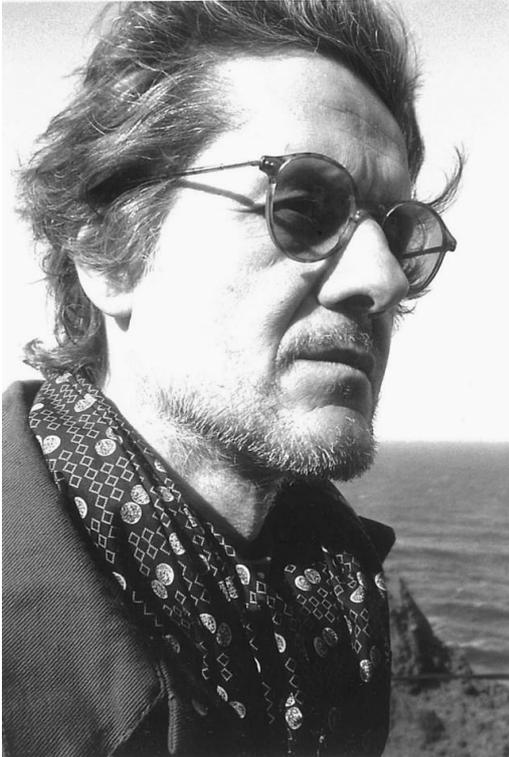
published in February 2019

ISBN 978-3-95614-290-1

Otherness is universal, found in all cultures and among all peoples. Otherness can be enchanting but can also be felt a threat. Heinrichs explores historical, ethnological and psychoanalytical interpretations of otherness, links it with all kinds of experiences, and confronts us with the political issue of our times: at what points does an encounter with difference become contempt for the other?

This book brings the important question of otherness to the forefront of our minds and asks us to think and feel it: to empathize with those fleeing their homes of necessity, to experience ourselves as “other” – while abroad, but also in our own social circle as we confront emotions which are foreign to us.

What happens when those who were once outsiders themselves, and who were welcomed to a new country, abandon their positive experience of foreigners? At what point do rejection and discrimination begin, based on ethnicity, religion, appearance? Do all cultures mistrust the other? The well-known ethnologist and writer Hans-Jürgen Heinrichs uses his wealth of experience and in-depth knowledge of European and other cultures to explore the phenomenon of otherness. He captures the lives of people, their fears and idiosyncrasies, their potential and visions – his voice is serious, clear and compelling.



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Hans-Jürgen Heinrichs

Hans-Jürgen Heinrichs is a freelance writer and ethnologist. He has travelled widely in Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. He has lived for long periods in Spain, in Amsterdam, Rome and Paris and has been based in Berlin since 2008. His writing and editorial work cover a wide range of disciplines, prose and essays, biographies (of Michel Leiris, Georges Bataille and Claude Levi-Strauss, among others) and conversations with Peter Sloterdijk and Gerhard Roth. He has previously published *Schreiben ist das bessere Leben* (Writing is the better life) with Kunstmann (2006).