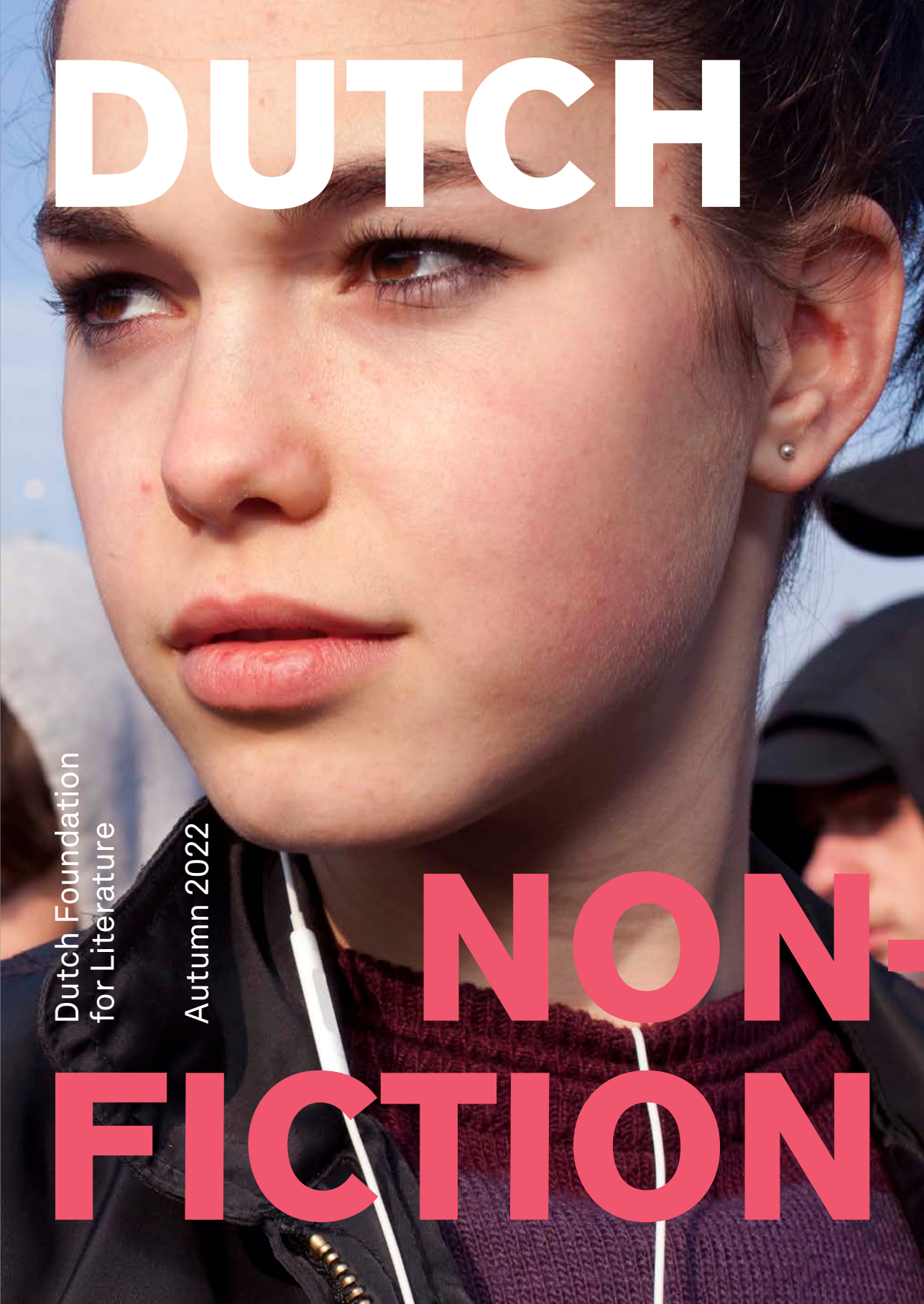




DUTCH

Dutch Foundation
for Literature

Autumn 2022

NON- FICTION



DISCLOSURES AND DISTINCTIONS

MIREILLE BERMAN

In 1966, publishing house De Arbeiderspers launched a series of memoirs, diaries and letters. This series, containing the intimate adventures of famous writers, became an integral part of the Dutch publishing scene. Who wouldn't want to read about the deeply personal aspirations and concerns of celebrities like Turgenev, Neruda, Heine, and Canetti – though it was only fairly late that female authors such as Erica Mann and Marguerite Yourcenar were added to the gallery of honour. Dutch authors were also sporadically invited to contribute, which was invariably considered a great privilege.

Over recent years, Ronit Palache has compiled three additions to this treasure trove of confessions. She edited a selection of the works of Dutch post-war authors Ischa Meijer (1943-1995), Renate Rubinstein (1929-1990) and Andreas Burnier (1931-2002). All three were independent-minded intellectuals, outspoken and committed. Together these three anthologies form a monument to these exceptional writers. What binds them is the perspective: their thoughts and observations are those of an outsider. As children, they narrowly escaped death during the Second World War because of their Jewish origins. This experience determined their world view.

Non-fiction prizes

Like in most European countries, there is a multitude of literary prizes in the Netherlands. For non-fiction, the traditional line-up is the Libris History Prize, the Socrates Prize for philosophical books, the Jan Wolkers Prize for nature writing, and the Brusse Prize for the best journalistic book. This year, a prestigious new prize is being added: a prize for the 'Most important book of the year'. Roline Redmond's *The Doorsons*, about the history of her own enslaved family, was on the shortlist. It already won the Brusse Prize earlier this year. The Libris History Prize was won this year by Sandra Langereis, for her groundbreaking Erasmus biography. These literary non-fiction prizes are also an important guide to proven quality for an international audience, which is why we will start highlighting them in this brochure.

We look forward to meeting you in Frankfurt – please don't hesitate to contact Mireille Berman m.berman@letterenfonds.nl for an appointment.

Lynn Berger

Care



Without care, children fail to thrive, the sick fail to recover and the elderly die. Care is at the cradle of human civilization and it is society's engine. It is what makes people human. But if care is so important, why do we undervalue it? In a fascinating quest for its significance, Lynn Berger discovers how all-encompassing but invisible care is, and that we are hurtling towards the biggest crisis ever.

When we talk about care, we usually talk about healthcare. Hospitals, nursing homes, youth welfare work, care for the elderly, mental health services. Care that we only need when we are sick or old. But care is more than that. It is the father who cradles his baby, the daughter who holds her mother, the grandparent who looks after their grandchildren. But also: the neighbour who helps with the groceries, the volunteer who cleans up the park, the activist who protects nature.

A mother of two small children, Lynn Berger is first confronted with the vulnerability of her family unit's system of sharing the workload of childcare (because care is work!) when she is confined to hospital with a leg infection. When, soon after she recovers, the Covid pandemic hits, day-care closes and grandparents can no longer look after the children.

A fine balance is lost as she and her husband struggle to care and undertake freelance work by turns on a makeshift desk between bed and wall. Without care, people can't work, the economy can't run, she realizes. And all the different forms of care are connected. If a nursing home is full, a family member is forced to take over. If a child is ill, a parent cannot work. If the ICUs overflow,

An important book on an essential, all too often neglected function of society

society as a whole grinds to a halt. And guess what, most caring is unpaid and done by women.

This chain is fast approaching its breaking point. Healthcare costs are rising and staff shortages are growing. Parents feel pressured. More and more is being asked of informal carers, but already one in ten is overburdened. Those who provide care increasingly have to do too much in too little time due to efficiency quotas and unnecessary admin. But we're all givers and receivers of care, all our lives – and once you see that, you can no longer unsee it.

'This is journalism like you always hoped it would be: engaged and yet with the necessary distance.'

NRC

After studying at Columbia University in New York, Lynn Berger (b. 1984) became a journalist, writing for *De Correspondent* about health care. Her work has appeared in *Time*, *Vrij Nederland*, *nrc.next* and *de Volkskrant*. Her previous book, *Second Thoughts: On Having and Being a Second Child*, sold almost 10,000 copies in the Netherlands

and was published in the UK by September Publishing and in the US by Henry Holt & Co.

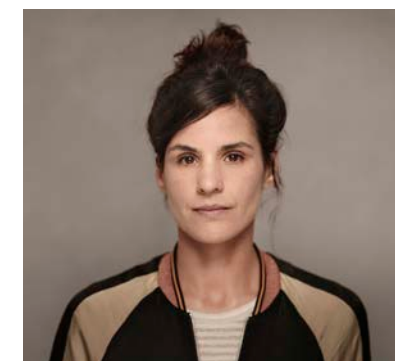


Photo (© Frank Ruiter)

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Rights
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Mairi Friesen-Escandell
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Sample translation available

Siebre van der Werf



Dutch title
Drieduizend jaar navigatie op de sterren.
Mythevorming en geschiedenis
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Rights
Singel Uitgeverijen
Martijn Prins
m.prins@singeluitgeverijen.nl
Sample translation available

Three Thousand Years of Navigation by the Stars — Myth-making and History

From its earliest mention in Homer's *The Odyssey*, the history of celestial navigation at sea is one bound up with myths, sagas and flights of fancy. Venturing into uncharted territories with the sun, moon and stars as guide often went hand in hand with tales of phantom islands, sea beasts and monster waves with varying bases in truth. In this compact work, physicist and navigation historian Siebre van der Werf brings us a fascinating history of navigation, from antiquity to the twentieth century, and demystifies tall tales from the high seas.

Van der Werf delves into sailors' historic accounts, across three-thousand years, from Odysseus' return to Ithaca, to Thor Heyerdahl's 1947 raft voyage to the Easter Islands, to show how navigation techniques have changed over the centuries, but also what has remained the same. These stories of Greeks and Vikings, Polynesians and Britons, reveal how different groups have used the light of the heavens to sail across the sea. In doing so, Van der Werf uses original sources, often translating from Ancient Greek epics as well as Old Norse sagas telling of encounters with North America, and providing clear explanations with illustrative diagrams and exquisite maps.

Sometimes it seems that history writers themselves were the ones who helped famous nautical legends into the world. For example the long-sought Terra Australis ('Southern Land'), a continent which turns out to never have existed (but led to many unintentional discoveries). Or the idea that the Vikings used a 'sun stone' as a compass. At other times Van der Werf dives into

An original history of celestial navigation around the world

the mechanics of physical phenomena such as fata morganas and mirages, and computer simulations of atmospheric events, to clarify what sailors of old often colourfully claimed to have experienced. Ultimately this history and the legends of the sea largely came to an end around the time of James Cook in the eighteenth century, with the inventions of the chronometer and sexton.

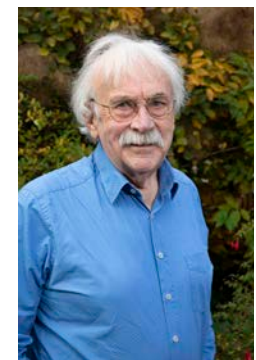
This is a rich book, bursting with historical and nautical facts, written accessibly for a broad audience. It's also steadying: the stars that once guided Odysseus home are the same that led the Vikings to the discovery of the North America, the same that aided Kupe's discovery of Aotearoa, which later became New Zealand, and the same that, in this ever-changing world, we can still look to today.

Siebre van der Werf (b. 1942) is a retired physicist who worked for the Centre for Nuclear-Physics Research at the University of Groningen. He is also a historian of navigation, specialising in the early history of sea-navigation and the progression of navigation techniques. Using computer simulations of fata morganas and distorted sunsets,

he studies the refraction of light in the atmosphere. Previously, he wrote *The Nova Zembla Effect*, on mirages.

'Siebre van der Werf is physicist who understands everything that goes on in the sky and who knows how to clearly describe it. He has written a fine guide that offers explanations, while keeping one's admiration for our ancestors intact.'

NRC



Sandra van Beek

The History of a Diary — Otto Frank and his Daughter's Diary



Dutch title
Geschiedenis van het dagboek.
Otto Frank en het Achterhuis
Year of publication
2022
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271
Publisher
Pluim
Rights
Marianne Schönbach literary agency
m.schönbach@schönbach.nl
Sample translation available

Anne Frank's diary, *The Secret Annex*, was published seventy-five years ago. It has achieved iconic status, with over 30 million copies sold in over 70 different languages. *The History of a Diary* tells the story of the relationship between Otto Frank, Anne's father, and the red-and-white checked diary: how it belatedly fell into his hands, his hesitation to read it, and then the way it took over his life. Accessibly written, the book describes how the diary attained the status it has today, while also offering an empathetic portrait of Otto Frank.

When Otto Frank returned to Amsterdam from Auschwitz in the spring of 1945, he searched in vain for his wife and daughters only to find they had died in the camps. 'I am 56, alone, life has no meaning left for me,' he wrote to one of his friends. Then Miep Gies, a former employee who had helped the group hiding in the secret annex, handed him a pile of his daughter's papers and her diary. Anne Frank's legacy became his salvation, a reason to carry on.

While working as a researcher on a documentary about Otto Frank, Sandra van Beek spoke to many people who were close to him. She had access to unique material, including interviews with the last witnesses, most of whom have since died. There are no scoops in the book, and no sensationalism, just an original angle and good source material. Van Beek recounts how the diary came into Otto Frank's possession, and how, after initial hesitation, he translated extracts for his family before considering publication. It was very difficult to get the diary published, it was widely

A beautiful portrait of Anne Frank's father and her diary's rise to global fame

rejected. Van Beek describes the atmosphere in post-war Holland, where there was no interest in 'war literature'. Thanks to an influential socialist historian, who read the typescript and was deeply impressed, a publisher was finally found.

The route to international translations is also described in detail, as are Otto Frank's attempts to maintain control over the many adaptations, including those for film and theatre. Otto was determined his daughter's diary should be an appeal for tolerance and answered an enormous amount of correspondence sent to him by young people over the years; the Anne Frank House owns 30,000 of such letters.

'The History of a Diary is a book for those who want to gain a deeper understanding of Anne Frank's iconic value.'

NRC

'A deeply fascinating book about the history of the diary itself.'

Zin Magazine

Sandra van Beek (b.1952) worked for years as a film journalist before specialising as a researcher for films and documentaries. In 2010, she worked on a documentary about Otto Frank. She has authored several books on important figures in the Dutch film and art world, relating to her documentary work.



Photo (© Olivier Garcia)

Max Nieuwdorp

We Are Our Hormones



Dutch title
Wij zijn onze hormonen
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De Bezige Bij
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Uta Matten
u.matten@debezigebij.nl
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Hoffmann und Campe (German)
Sample translation available

Hormones are invisible chemicals produced by our bodies that, by way of blood vessels, enable and direct different bodily functions throughout our lives. They are essential to our quality of sleep, the rhythm of our hearts, our body temperatures, sugar levels, digestion, stress responses, reproduction and much more. When our hormonal systems derail, the consequences are of vital importance to our health, and in some cases even to world history: during the Cold War, US President John F. Kennedy's wildly swinging hormones almost caused nuclear disaster (to name just one example).

In *We Are Our Hormones*, Professor Max Nieuwdorp, an international authority on the human endocrine system, interweaves scientific discoveries, stories of patients and centuries of medical history to unveil hormones as the conductors of our bodies. We are, as it turns out, not our brains: 'It's a little subtler, the brain is not an absolute ruler, but is rather shaped by hormones. When our hormones go haywire, our brains function differently.' Nieuwdorp explains and clarifies the role of hormones in pregnancy and birth, puberty, aging and seniority, the nurture vs nature debate, the spectrum of sexualities and genders, hunger and our intestines, weight loss or gain, our immune systems, contraception, the thyroid, as well as meno- and penopause.

Influential though hormones may be, Nieuwdorp does put their power in perspective and debunks the many pseudo-scientific conceptions surrounding them today. While hormone research has advanced in leaps and bounds over

A book that sets the record straight on the influence of hormones — for the readers of Dick Swaab

the last seventy years, there remains much we do not know. For example, how large the influence of our gut bacteria is on our hormonal balance, or all the changes the female body undergoes during menopause. According to Nieuwdorp the research is, however, clear in this regard: We are not just our hormones. We are the interplay of environment, body and mind. Hormones might muddle one's ability to make decisions, but they are no excuse from responsibility for one's actions.

In the end, this is a wonderfully informative plea to doctors everywhere, against standard treatments, and for taking into account the far-reaching roles played by hormones throughout each human body. Especially given that endocrine disorders such as diabetes and thyroid issues are so common in the world.

Professor Max Nieuwdorp (b. 1977) studied medicine at Utrecht University and received a Ph.D. in diabetes at the Academic Medical Centre of the University of Amsterdam. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship on glycobiology at the University of California, San Diego, in the department of cellular and molecular medicine. Professor Nieuwdorp

is currently chair of the AMC Diabetes Centre as well as chief of the Vascular Medicine Department. His research focuses on the intersection between hormones, the intestines and their residents, and human health.

'Max Nieuwdorp debunks the myths which are making the rounds in self-help books.'

de Volkskrant



Photo (© Frank Ruiter)

Michel Krielaars

The Sound of Utopia — Musicians in the Time of Stalin



Dutch title
De klank van de heilstaat.
Musici in de tijd van Stalin
Year of publication
2021
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rieck@cossee.com
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Sample translation available

When the Soviets took power in Russia, not only did politics and the economy change, but so did culture as artists saw their craft turning into a matter of life or death. Through the fascinating lives of ten famous and lesser-known musicians, historian and Russia expert Michel Krielaars recounts how radically Stalin's reign altered the tone of music throughout the USSR. The product is a well-written, nuanced portrait of a surreal world of wonderful music and unspeakable horror.

In 1932 Josef Stalin mandated that music serve to help the people of the Soviet Union realise the socialist dream – to help turn them into better human beings. What that exactly entailed was anything but clear, however, musicians had the particular misfortune that, as an avid fan of classical music, Stalin enjoyed personally rating each new release with 'Good', 'Average' or 'Rubbish'. Successful musicians and composers might have been treated like gods, but they lived under the double-edged sword of popularity and state pressure. One could fall in and out of favour from one day to the next, and just as easily join the millions of innocent Russians put on trial, hauled off to the gulags and sentenced to death.

Each of these musicians responded to such threats and constraints differently, some blindly weathervaning to the winds of personal gain, others attempting to maintain artistic and moral integrity to mixed results. Krielaars reconstructs the lives of the legendary pianist Sviatoslav Richter; the regularly self-compromising Sergei Prokofiev; the composer Vsevolod Zaderatsky, who wrote most of his works in a prison camp

On making music for the masses under state terror — in ten portraits

on toilet paper; Klavdiya Shulzenko, the 'Russian Vera Lynn'; Mieczysław Weinberg, a Jewish composer completely erased by the regime; the popular singer and songwriter Vadim Kozin; the wayward and eccentric pianist Maria Yudina; the composer Alexander Mosolov, most of whose work has been lost; the ever-controversial 'last lackey of Stalin', Tikhon Khrennikov and the cellist Mstislav Rostropovich. Along the way readers also meet the many other musicians and artists who crossed their paths in this tapestry of cultural life during turbulent times, extending through the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Historian Michel Krielaars mixes these biographies with his own contacts, conversations and experiences while conducting research amid Russia's political present. Time and again, things are not what they seem. These sketched lives – filled as they are with paranoia, chance and absurdity, as well as a certain poetry – are both disconcerting and deeply empathetic. The book also comes with a Spotify playlist.

Michel Krielaars (b. 1961) is a historian, journalist and Russia expert. He has published novels, a short story collection and various books about Russian history, including the prize-winning *Chek-hov's Spectacles: Travels through Russia*, in which he follows in the footsteps of the famous author through Russia. His essay *At War*

with Russia has just been published and became a bestseller.

'Ten interesting portraits, not only of celebrities like Sergei Prokofiev, but also lesser-known people who seldom receive attention in the Western world.'

NRC

'Michel Krielaars unravels a staggering piece of history.'

De Morgen



Photo (© Merlijn Doomernik)

Rediscovered voices

Recently, three Dutch-Jewish writers from the latter half of the twentieth century have been rediscovered by a new generation. Their oeuvres are also worthwhile for an international audience: these are three outsiders, remarkable intellectuals, who asserted themselves from the margins of society. Each of them was a unique personality with a razor-sharp pen, self-deprecating wit and formidable intellect.

Last autumn saw the publication of *Every Book Is a Danger*, an anthology of work by Andreas Burnier (1931-2002). This is the third anthology and final panel of a triptych assembled by Privé-Domein, the series of writers' letters, memoirs and diaries. Journalist and author Ronit Palache's selection from the work of Burnier was preceded by *I Have Nothing Against Anti-Semites: I Feed Off of Them!*, a collection of works by Ischa Meijer (1943-1995), and *Fearful People Don't Ask Questions*, the selected works of Renate Rubinstein (1929-1990). Together, these collections present a literary monument to this trio of exceptional Jewish authors. They were courageous, at times ground-breaking thinkers. Having come out of the war disillusioned and damaged, none of them had much trust in their fellow human being. They knew all too well that during World War Two their lives had hung by a thread because of their Jewish backgrounds.

Renate Rubinstein Fearful People Don't Ask Questions

Wherever Renate Rubinstein went there was uproar. Starting in 1961, she regularly caused a furor with the pieces she published. Whether it was on her love life; how she missed her father, murdered during the war; feminism or her love of cats, her writing always attests to an autonomous spirit – and her voice brings to mind Joan Didion. She wrote openly about her Jewish roots and her ambivalent attitude towards Israel. Her account of her painful divorce, *Nothing to Lose and Yet Afraid*, became an international classic. The columns, lectures and letters gathered in this anthology offer the reader an intimate portrait of an ambivalent woman, who never shied away from telling herself and others the truth.



Dutch title
Bange mensen stellen geen vragen
Year of publication
2020
Page count
512

A literary monument to a trio of exceptional Jewish authors

Ischa Meijer I Have Nothing Against Anti-Semites: I Feed Off of Them!

In his work, Ischa Meijer fought relentlessly and often with great humor against hypocrisy and untruthfulness. He also mercilessly rejected what he saw as the suffocating Jewish environment he came from – in this he is somewhat reminiscent of Philip Roth. His work is typified by its kaleidoscopic nature: he wrote poems, reportages, diaries, letters, theatre pieces, songs, columns and interviews. His childhood memories, in particular, are as tragic as they are striking: as the son of concentration camp survivors, he was the 'little boy who was supposed to make everything right'. *Letter to My Mother* (1974) is his most famous work: a furious treatment of his 'upbringing' at the hands of parents traumatized by the war.



Dutch title
Ik heb niets tegen antisemieten. Ik leef ervan
Year of publication
2020
Page count
540

Andreas Burnier Every Book Is a Danger

Catharina Irma Dessaur, Ronnie van Rijk, Atara, Reinier or Andreas Burnier (1931-2002) had as many names as she led lives. Alongside her work as a professor of criminology, she published as a novelist, essayist and poet. She wrote about being lost in a woman's body and in doing so was one of the pioneers of homosexual and transgender emancipation, much in the same way that Susan Sontag was in the United States. She spoke out on feminism, discrimination, genetic manipulation and the relationship between spirituality and science. At the same time Burnier was tormented by fears originating in the war years, when she went into hiding from the Nazis at no less than sixteen different addresses.



Dutch title
Elk boek is een gevaar
Year of publication
2022
Page count
400

These three titles are published by De Arbeiderspers. Please contact Martijn Prins for foreign rights: m.prins@singeluitgeverijen.nl. For available translations, please see: en.vertalingendatabase.nl

Frank Meester

Squaring the Circle: In Defence of Inconsistency



Dutch title
Waarom we de wereld niet rond kunnen krijgen. Pleidooi voor de inconsequentie
Year of publication
2021
Page count
208
Publisher
Ten Have
Rights
Shared Stories
Julia Foldenyi
julia@sharedstories.nl

Squaring the Circle is a philosophical essay on a new school of thought, coined as ‘inconsequentialism’ by Frank Meester, while tidying his desk ‘on 17th September 2019 at 10.46 am’. Try as he might, each system he devises to organise his things leaves him with uncategorisable items to be tucked away in a cluttered drawer. This does, however, give him an analogy – for the impossibility of creating a perfectly consistent existence – which is just as well, according to the author: ‘People like to put things in boxes, but it never quite works out, not everything fits.’

What follows is a subtly humorous treatise, in 12 chapters, on the impossibility of creating a consistent and immovable worldview, and why this is not bad, but liberating. With playful wit, Meester turns to examples from quantum mechanics (Einstein, Newton), mathematics and music (Pythagoras), logic (Wittgenstein, Russell) and philosophy (Kant, Peirce) to back up his thesis. But playing is a serious business, he writes, and his argument holds graver consequences: fanatical worldviews are always consistent, and there lies the danger. Instead he argues for space, for margins, for uncertainty and being flexible in one’s opinions; for stopping trying to make sense of everything. Not being able to make the world make sense is not a problem, but a solution.

The aim of the book is to take the heavy moral pressure off our shoulders that utilitarians and moral knights like to impose on us. Our existence is never perfect, but that is something to be glad about. This is light-hearted, cheerful philosophy that gets you thinking, stimulates your curiosity,

A philosophical argument against trying to make sense of everything

and keeps you thinking. A rare plea for playfulness, finagling and imperfection, entirely against the spirit of the times.

‘Playing various roles requires you to juggle them. You need resourcefulness not to get caught in the role of a radical proponent – or a radical opponent. This is exceedingly difficult, as other people want to cast you in one of these roles to make you a manageable entity. Human thinking tends inherently towards pigeonholing. Consequently, you must be stuffed into a pigeonhole. But that doesn’t quite come off because you, and everything and everyone, defy every categorisation. And this is a happy obverse of the inconsequentialist supposition that it will never be possible to completely order the world. There is always a chink through which you can escape.’

Frank Meester (b. 1970) is a philosopher, writer and musician. Together with his brother Maarten, he wrote *Philosophical Masters* and *Religious Masters*. In 2008, he published *Islam* in the series *Young Thinkers on Major Religions*, and *See Me: A Philosophy of Vanity*. He publishes regularly in *Filosofie Magazine* and in the national daily *de Volkskrant*.

‘With this book, Frank Meester demonstrates how interesting and relevant philosophy can be.’

de Volkskrant

‘A very welcome book in this period of sometimes very heated debate. Starting point: we will never succeed in telling a consistent story about the world. [...] Great stories, wonderfully written.’

NRC



Photo (© Valerie Granberg)

Marlies Bongers & Corien van Zweden

A Biography Of The Womb — The Ingenious Organ So Often Misunderstood



Dutch title
*Biografie van de baarmoeder.
Het ingenieuze orgaan dat vaak
niet begrepen wordt*
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2022
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256
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De Arbeiderspers
Rights
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Martijn Prins
martijn@singeluitgeverijen.nl
Sample translation available

The womb is ingenious; in maturity, a beautiful organ the shape and size of a pear, ever replenishing its lining in preparation for an embryo. But it is also surrounded by taboos and is alternately revered, feared and despised. Van Zweden and Bongers, two experts – one an author who has previously written about the female body, the other a gynaecologist – try to break the taboo surrounding the uterus and share the vital information about it which is so lacking. The open-mindedness of the first author and her writing skills perfectly complement the experience and knowledge of the second.

The uterus goes through many changes in a woman's life, evolving from a tiny white speck already present at birth, to a large plush organ, before shrinking back down again once it is no longer needed. In this accessible, informative book, first the womb's anatomy and role are explained, then common medical issues such as heavy periods, unwanted pregnancies, cysts, fibroids, endometriosis and miscarriages. Finally pregnancy, birth and the post-menopausal uterus.

Equally fascinating in the book is the history of ideas surrounding the uterus and the menstruation taboos deeply embedded in our culture. On a papyrus from 1800 BC, menstruation was already described as dirty and unclean. It was thought that its function was to remove waste products or undigested food, something the superior male body did not need. Wombs were also believed to wander around the body causing hysteria and could be lured back to their right place with the scent of flowers held to the vagina. Worshipping

Everything you need to know about the organ we all developed in

the womb also has historical roots that go back a long way. This dichotomy still plays tricks on us today.

Marlies Bongers invited Corien van Zweden to observe at her gynaecology practice, so that she could note down first-hand the real life experiences from the consulting room included in the book. Typically women wait a long time before coming forward with their complaints because pain and blood loss have traditionally been seen as feminine ailments to be endured in silence. In the interest of women's health, we must start to talk about the womb, its sensitivity and fallibility, and how to manage the periodic challenges it throws at women such as severe bleeding, exhaustion and hot flashes.

Marlies Bongers is a gynaecologist specialising in menstrual complaints, attached to the Máxima MC Hospital in Eindhoven. Since 2015, she has been an associate professor at Maastricht University.

Corien van Zweden studied theology and history and is a journalist and writer. She writes about health and has published several books, such as *Breasts: The Life of an Intimate Body Part*. It has been translated into Finnish and Polish and was nominated for the prize for the best journalistic book of 2019.

'This book fills a gap. Many books are written about fertility, pregnancy and the desire to have children, but the organ that makes all this possible is systematically ignored.'

De Telegraaf

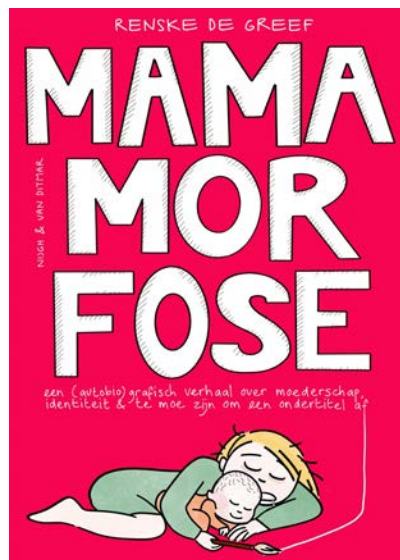
'Eye-opener about the organ in which life begins.'

Goed gevoel magazine



Renske de Greef

Mamamorphosis — An Autobiographical Tale of Motherhood, Identity & Being Too Tired to Finish the Subt-



Dutch title
*Mamamorphose. Een autobiografisch
verhaal over moederschap, identiteit
& te moe zijn om een ondertitel af*

Year of publication
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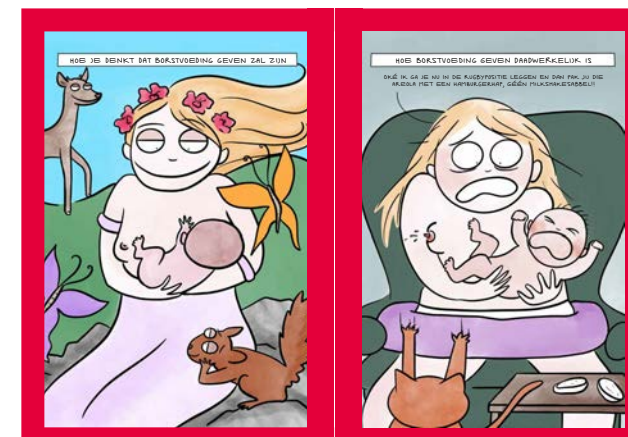
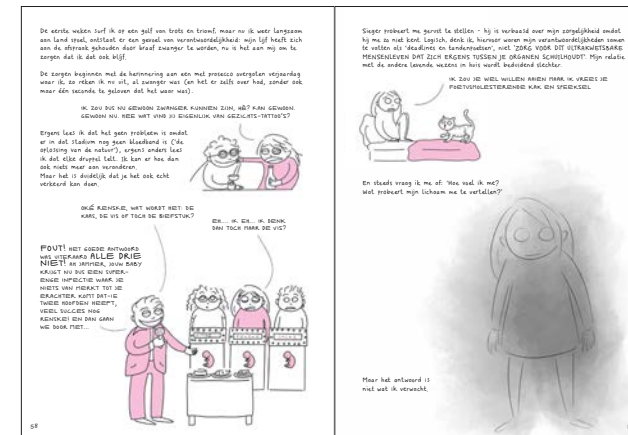
Sample translation available

When Renske becomes pregnant she feels like a sorcerer's apprentice: something big has been set in motion and the outcome is entirely unpredictable. Nevertheless she is confident her body will do what it has to – nature will take its course, or something of the sort. She pictures herself lying on a picknick blanket under a tree with a rosy-cheeked baby, because if she's completely honest, that's her idea of family life.

Things don't go entirely according to plan. There is second trimester depression, doubt, fear, a vacuum-assisted delivery, a strange flap left behind after the stitches have gone, a relationship that is suddenly a three-way thing, and a whole lot more to navigate.

Mamamorphosis is a funny, personal and brutally honest account in words and images about becoming a mother – from the decision to try for children until the baby's first birthday. A coming-of-age book about the differences between expectations and reality, with drawings of the household chaos of fresh parenthood as well as diagrams depicting, for example, unsolicited pieces of well-intended but useless advice.

A graphic novel charting a woman's evolution into a mother



Renske de Greef (b. 1984) writes columns, novels, scripts and cartoons. This is her first graphic novel and her eleventh book. Two collections of her humorous cartoon columns have been published.

**'I'm deeply impressed.
So beautifully and mov-
ingly drawn and written.
A fantastic book.'**

Pauline Cornelisse, writer

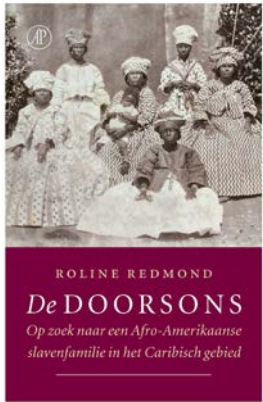
**'Mamamorphosis
brings the humour and
doubts of motherhood
into focus [...] and
the fact of being torn
between laughter and
tears. In the passage
about the birth her
talent not just for jokes
but also for writing
becomes clear.'**

de Volkskrant



PRIZE-WINNERS

WINNER OF THE BRUSSE PRIZE FOR THE BEST WORK OF LITERARY JOURNALISM 2022



Roline Redmond The Doorsons: In Search of An Afro-American Enslaved Family in the Heart of the Caribbean

After ten years of searching for official records, delving into the few written resources and speaking to witnesses and descendants, anthropologist Roline Redmond tells the story, spanning two centuries, of her enslaved family. In her search for answers, she considers herself a contemporary griot, a West African chronicler of family history: Who were her ancestors, what was their daily life like? How was colonial oppression passed down from generation to generation?

The Doorsons lived in freedom from 1873, but in great poverty. They were able to work their way up thanks to their enormous willpower and perseverance, often driven by women, protecting their offspring and using ancient rituals to heal the inherited pain of loss and longing.

Three women are central to this survival story: Redmond's great-grandmother, a market vendor, her grandmother, a laundress, and her daughter – Redmond's mother – a seamstress. Though strong and independent, these generations of matriarchs exuded an air of loss, and a longing for connection with kin, both living and dead.

'How do you pen a family history when there are almost no written sources? It's almost impossible. But Roline Redmond managed it anyway, and with great success.'

de Volkskrant

Dutch Non-Fiction Autumn 2022

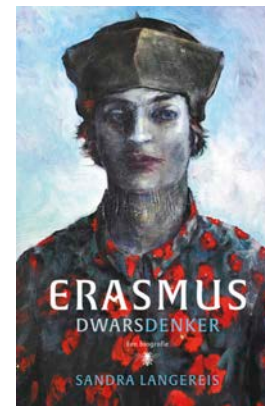
20



Photo (@Chris van Houts)

PRIZE-WINNERS

WINNER OF THE LIBRIS HISTORY PRIZE 2022



Sandra Langereis Erasmus The Maverick: A Biography

Erasmus (1469-1536) was a humanist, an icon of critical thought and tolerance. Nevertheless he has always been a controversial figure. In his critical study of the Bible, he assumed that the scriptures were man-made, enraging both conservative clergymen and Martin Luther. Sandra Langereis presents Erasmus as a modern thinker, who sought to make Bible readers more rational and intelligent. Although he is still seen as an advocate for tolerance, we can only truly understand him within the context of his day, and Langereis closely examines the contemporary historical, cultural and religious developments. She delves into medieval theology, the Bible's evolution over a thousand years, the practice of copying manuscripts in monasteries, the rise of universities and the printing press, the rise of the book market, the rediscovery of classics and the development of vernaculars, the reform movement within the church, financial flows and the problems travellers were confronted with.

The author was able to draw on a wealth of archival material. Erasmus' published correspondence alone consists of more than 3,000 letters. She paints a detailed and accessible portrait of Erasmus, which clearly shows his merits and those aspects of his personality that were less admirable.

'In powerful sentences Langereis introduces the reader to Erasmus as a person, with all his good and bad qualities.'

Jury report Libris History Prize

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752
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m.nagtegaal@debezigebij.nl
Rights sold
German (Ullstein)
Italian (Mondadori)

Sample translation available



Photo (@Geert Snoeijer)

21

A story of music, loss, Judaism, sorrow and shame

Shula Tas Where There Is Singing



'If a thread were to connect me to all the generations before and after me, then at this moment it would only consist of a small red dot. A lonely dot in eternity. A single note on an otherwise empty score'

A young woman graduates from the conservatorium, loses her parents, and then stops singing for good. When her Iranian neighbour asks her one day why she doesn't sing anymore, it is the start of a quest. Why has she fallen silent?

Shula Tas (b. 1987) comes from a Jewish family that had turned its back on Judaism. In this sensitive autofiction debut, she investigates her past, that of her parents, and then delves even further back, to the history of her ancestors in another country but with comparable stories. She navigates the passed-down pain and the mysterious shame that comes with it. *Where There Is Singing* is an intimate search for her family history and identity, but above all for her own voice.

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144
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'In a clear style, Shula Tas feels her way toward her own identity. She slowly learns to process her Jewish family history, a source of shame and grief.'

de Volkskrant

The long-awaited biography of Etty Hillesum

Judith Koelemeijer Etty Hillesum: The Story of Her Life



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576
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vanalbada@uitgeverijbalans.nl
Sample translation available

The diaries and letters of Etty Hillesum are still an inspiration to millions of readers worldwide and have greater contemporary relevance than ever. But who was the real Etty Hillesum, the woman behind the myth that others made of her?

Bestselling biographer Judith Koelemeijer (b. 1967) has managed to garner a treasure trove of new material, including the wartime diaries of a Jewish friend who was grappling with her friendship with Etty; previously unknown correspondence by Etty and her friends, and documents hidden all this time in the archives and attics of those involved. A new story emerges, bringing the lives of Etty and her family and friends almost tangibly close. Etty Hillesum refused to go into hiding, foregoing the opportunities offered to escape Nazi persecution – to the despair of her friends. How did she arrive at that decision? And did she survive for a few months in Auschwitz, as has always been assumed?

Etty Hillesum: The Story of Her Life is an unparalleled narrative biography about a young, passionate woman who, in the most horrific of circumstances, persisted in believing in the beauty of life and remained true to herself.



Photo (© Bob Bronshoff)

'This brilliant biography brings Etty Hillesum to life.'

Trouw

Political philosopher Eva Meijer on silence and resistance



Page count
96
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Cossee
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Stella Rieck
rieck@cossee.com
Sample translation available



Eva Meijer

Don't Confuse This With Absence: On Political Silences

In this essay, Eva Meijer maps out the different kinds of political silences and, in an original and informed way, marks out the moral dilemmas that are hardly ever discussed in the heated (social) media debate.

Language is central in politics: in parliament, on social media and in the public debate, words are used to fight. In philosophy, too, language is always linked to politics. But who is able to speak is never certain: in Black Lives Matter, #MeToo and climate marches, people who have traditionally been silenced are claiming their voice. Silence can suppress – sometimes people (and other animals) are literally deprived of their language, other times, they are figuratively deprived. 'Speak up,' says poet Audre Lorde, 'your silence will not protect you.'

But silence also has another, often overlooked side: it can be a path of resistance, a refuge, or part of a conversation in the form of listening and silence. In an increasingly loud world, we can develop new political manners by learning to be quiet from time to time.

'Writing concisely, philosopher and NRC columnist Eva Meijer casts herself as a spokesperson for silence. She says: not all silences are the same, just as listening and remaining silent are not the same thing.'

NRC

An unusual memoir about a search for the real Buddha



Page count
248
Publisher
Ambo Anthos
Rights
Orli Naamani
onaamani@amboanthos.nl
Sample translation available



Photo (© Ruud Pos)

Casper Luckerhof Restless: Stranded in Buddha's Country

A quirky memoir about an almost obsessive quest for independence, meaning and a place of your own in the world. In 2017, Casper Luckerhof decides to travel to Nepal. His plan is to write a book about the Buddha, the greatest sage from the East, in which he will be unmasked as a power-hungry sect leader. This way he can put his deeply spiritual childhood behind him and prove to his parents that he can lead his own life. Things turn out differently.

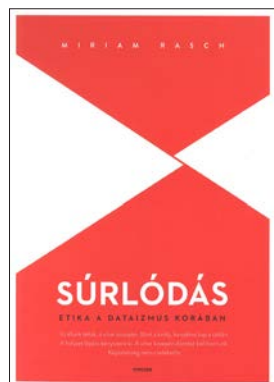
In the town of Lumbini, where the Buddha was born 2500 years ago, he is offered a job in the world's largest Buddhist library. In an institute that resembles a fortress, he works with a German Tibetologist and an Italian academic. Casper's main task is to keep visitors out; the institute is their secret. Things fall apart, however, and his father arrives.

This is the highly entertaining story of an unlikely friendship between three men who eventually drive each other to despair in a remote area of Nepal.

'Casper Luckerhof sees all his ambitious plans for Nepal go awry. His reports of daily life in a Buddhist institute are extraordinarily funny.'

de Volkskrant

RECENT TRANSLATIONS



Miriam Rasch

Friction

Dutch title
Frictie. Ethiek in tijden
van dataïsme

Published in
Hungarian by Typotex
(2022)

Translated by
Viktor Zákány



Steven Derix
and Marina Shelkunova

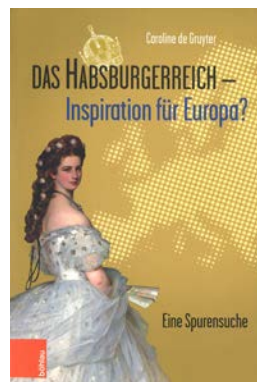
**Zelensky: Ukraine's
President and His
Country**

Dutch title
Zelensky. De president en
zijn land

Published in
English by Canbury Press
(2022)

Translated by
Brent Annable

Other translations
Norwegian (Spartacus)



Caroline de Gruyter

It Won't Get Any Better

Dutch title
Beter wordt het niet. Een
reis door de Europese
Unie en het Habsburgse
Rijk

Published in
German by Böhlau (2022)

Translated by
Leopold Decloedt

Other translations
French (Actes Sud)
Hungarian (Európa)
Swedish (Lopinita)

A selection of recently published translations from the Dutch.
For more information please go to our online database of translations:
en.vertalingendatabase.nl



Pieter van Os

Hiding in Plain Sight

Dutch title
Liever dier dan mens.
Een overlevingsverhaal

Published in
German by Europa Verlag
(2022)

Translated by
Annette Wunschel

Other translations
English (Scribe)
Polish (Poznańskie)



Henriëtte Roosenburg

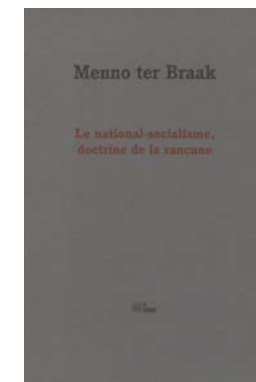
**The Walls Came
Tumbling Down**

Dutch title
De muren vielen om

Published in
Spanish by Altamarea
(2022)

Translated by
Alfonso Zuriaga

Other translations
Albanian (Dituria)
English (Scribe)
German (Aufbau)
Italian (Fazi)



Menno ter Braak

**National Socialism as a
Doctrine of Rancour**

Dutch title
Het nationaal-socialisme
als rancuneleer
(First published in 1937)

Published in
French by La Barque
(2022)

Translated by
Pierre-Marie Finkelstein

Other translations
Arabic (Sefsafa)
Bulgarian (Institute of
Bulgarian Philosophical
Culture)
Greek (Kastaniotis)
Italian (Apeiron)
Spanish (Casus Belli)

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Lynn Berger

Care 2

Siebre van der Werf

Three Thousand Years
of Navigation by the Stars 4

Sandra van Beek

The History of a Diary 6

Max Nieuwdorp

We Are Our Hormones 8

Michel Krielaars

The Sound of Utopia 10

Frank Meester

Squaring the Circle:
In Defence of Inconsistency 14

**Marlies Bongers
& Corien van Zweden**

A Biography Of The Womb 16

Renske de Greef

Mamamorphosis 18