

Uli Reiter

Noisy gifts

The threatening promise of corruption

With an introduction by Peter Fuchs

Includes an interview with the former Siemens Manager Rudolf G. Vogel

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Synopsis of book

Uli Reiter invites us on an exciting travel through history. Referencing insightful examples, beginning with the sacred societies of Mesopotamia, through the Middle Ages up to the modern age, he describes the early forms, function and evolution of bribery and corruption – and enables a surprising new perspective on this highly moralised topic in modernity. Simultaneously, he delivers compelling explanations and reasons why this problem is so excessively moralised by posing the unfamiliar and uncomfortable questions as to whether bribery and corruption only create problems, or whether they should be more accurately understood as making their own meaningful contribution and as a providing a solution to other societal problems.

The author succeeds in providing a convincing conceptual separation between bribery and corruption and initially identifies bribery as the negotiation of existing procedures. As long as bribery is not forbidden, it can be helpful in the creation of new structures and media which operate within the morally negatively saturated grey zones of society. For example, how money or our very trusted “rent” or “hourly work” were evolutionarily tested and rejected, or consolidated themselves as new potential solutions or processes – until they ultimately become legally and politically legitimated as innovations.

However, as soon as bribery is forbidden and at the same time, the existing problems remain which ignited them, an intertwining between bribery and extortion leads to the creation and stabilisation of corrupt structures. While bribery solves scarcity problems through the verification and execution of the negotiation; offering the society new forms of transfer, corruption, as soon as bribery is forbidden, must consider the question of legitimacy. The problem-solving ability of corruption exists in that through it’s own “process of negotiating the procedure”, legitimate decisions and illegitimate results are interwoven and in this way provides the society with consistency within otherwise incompatible forms?

Short biography

Uli Reiter, born 1954, lives as artist, marketing service provider, communications advisor, coach and author in Lienzing on the Chiemsee.

1. School, training, university studies

Managerial position in public work with youth, “Abitur” certificate, trainee as painter, State Examination for Art and German, supervisory position in student government, completed University studies in Fine Art Painting, civil service in youth center.

2. Professional activities

1985 – 2001

Self-employed as freelance artist

1991 – 2010

Self-employed a freelance designer

Founding of UNDO company

Designer of 3D graphics & author and designer of education software

Participation in two research projects with the IPA at FHG

Marketing service provider

1999 – 2010

Self-employed as advisor, coach and manager

Databank quality management models with the IPA at FHG

Development of simulation games for companies

Coach for leadership staff, tutor and coach for youth

Corporate advisor and manager

2006 – 2010

Self-employed as academic author

2009 Book publication of "Noisy gifts"

2010 Article in the *Revue für postheroisches Management* "Bestechung: Wenn der Zufall auf sich warten lässt"

Since 2009 work on the subject of "illegality"

3. Scholarships, awards, festivals

Forum Young Art in Germany, Art Foundation Baden Wuerttemberg, Studio scholarship Baden Wuerttemberg, Debutant scholarship with exhibit and catalog, Forum of Industry and Business in Germany, Short Film Festival "24 hours of Nürnberg".