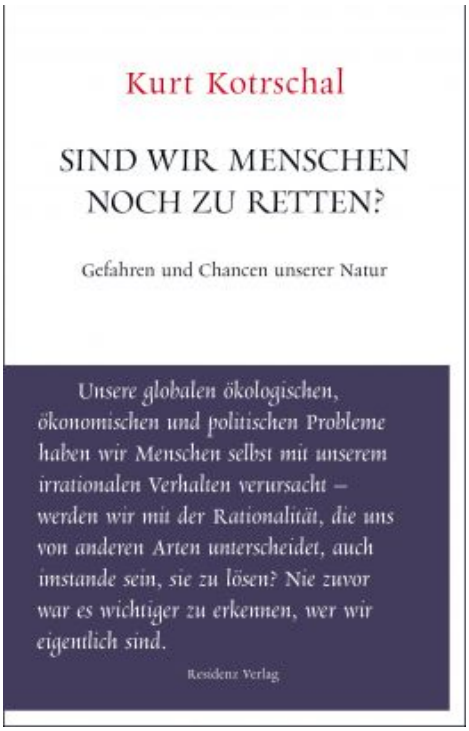

Kurt Kotrschal

IS THERE HOPE FOR US HUMANS?

The dangers and opportunities of our nature

Aus der Reihe „Unruhe bewahren". In Kooperation mit der Akademie Graz, dem Literaturhaus Graz und DIE PRESSE.
Klappenbroschur, 192 Pages, 140 x 220
ISBN: 9783701735105
€ 22,00 incl. VAT

Release date: 14.04.2020

Behavioural scientist Kurt Kotrschal's diagnosis is a wake-up call: Only if we change, will we survive.

Human behaviour is driving our biosphere into the multiple crisis it is in today. But what is the evolutionary basis of human behaviour? And how much room for manoeuvre do we still have? The primary feature that distinguishes humans from other species is our rational potential, yet our everyday behaviour is shaped by irrational decisions. In view of the global survival problems we face, numerous and in some instances radical changes in behaviour are called for, both at an individual and a societal level. But most of all, we need a realistic perception of human nature. Never has it been more important to understand who we really are.

KURT KOTRSCHAL

is a behavioural scientist and author. From 1990 to 2018 he was professor of behavioural biology at Vienna University and head of the Konrad Lorenz Research Centre for Ethology in Grünau, Austria. He is a co-founder of the WSC wolf science centre and spokesperson for AG Wildtiere at Forum Wissenschaft & Umwelt. He was named 2010 Austrian scientist of the year and his book "Wolf – Hund – Mensch. Die Geschichte einer Jahrtausende alten Beziehung" was chosen as the 2013 scientific book of the year. Kotrschal's recent publications include "Mensch. Woher wir kommen, wer wir sind, wohin wir gehen" (2019).

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