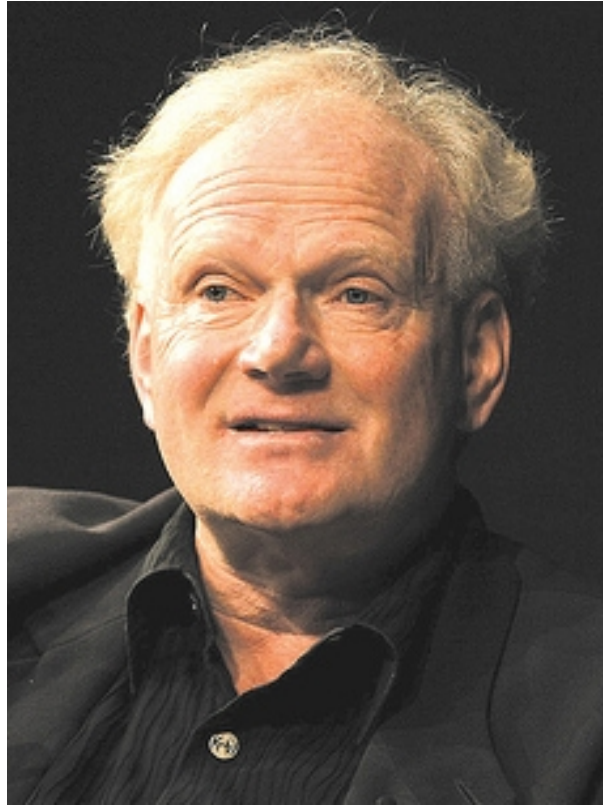


Obituary on Ulrich Beck

(15 May 1944 – 1 January 2015)



Prof. Dr. Ulrich Beck, one of the globally most influential sociologists of our time and one of the major German public intellectuals, has suddenly died of a heart attack on 1 January 2015.

The great respect for his scientific achievements was expressed in many obituaries by his close colleagues and friends in Germany (Armin Nassehi), in the United Kingdom (Lord Anthony Giddens and Mary Kaldor), in France and Spain and in numerous articles and memorials in the global press.

During the last World Congress of the International Sociological Association in Yokohama in July 2014 he was awarded the first Lifetime Achievement Award – For Most Distinguished Contribution to Futures Research of the International Sociological Association. He received many other honorary doctorates and prizes around the globe. His advice was sought by both the German government and its opposition parties alike. He was both a member of the Ethical committee appointed by the Chancellor Angela Merkel but also a critic of her European policy, especially with regard to the Mediterranean countries during the European financial crisis. His independent and critical voice as a cosmopolitan public intellectual will be missed.

We were honoured to publish on the occasion of his 70th birthday in May 2014 one of his last books: *A Pioneer in Cosmopolitan Sociology and Risk Society* – Presented by John Urry in the

Springer Briefs on Pioneers in Science and Practice and his preface essay: “Living and Coping with World Risk Society” in: Hans Günter Brauch, Úrsula Oswald Spring, Czeslaw Mesjasz, John Grin, Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Béchir Chourou, Pal Dunay, Jörn Birkmann (Eds.): *Coping with Global Environmental Change, Disasters and Security – Threats, Challenges, Vulnerabilities and Risks* (Berlin – Heidelberg – New York: Springer-Verlag, 2011): 11-15. The preface essay will be published in February 2015 in Chinese.

We are both saddened about his sudden death and we loose with him one of our most distinguished authors. In these days of sorrow, our thoughts and personal sympathy are with his wife and co-author Elisabeth Beck-Gernsheim.

Heidelberg (Germany) and Cuernavaca (Mexico)

in January 2015

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