

Hans Blokland  
Talking Politics and Society Again

## Culture and Social Practice

**Hans Blokland** (Prof. Dr.) is director of the NGO Social Science Works in Potsdam. He taught political science, sociology and philosophy of science at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and held the Corelio-Chair for Media and Democracy at Free University Brussels, and the Alfred Grosser Chair in sociology at Sciences Po in France. He was a fellow of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and held visiting positions at Yale University and Manchester University.

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# **Talking Politics and Society Again**

Reengaging with Fellow Citizens

**[transcript]**

**Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek**

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available in the Internet at <https://dnb.dnb.de>

**2025 © transcript Verlag, Bielefeld**

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Cover design: Maria Arndt

Printing: Elanders Waiblingen GmbH, Waiblingen

<https://doi.org/10.14361/9783839476949>

Print-ISBN: 978-3-8376-7694-5 | PDF-ISBN: 978-3-8394-7694-9

ISSN of series: 2703-0024 | eISSN of series: 2703-0032

Printed on permanent acid-free text paper.

*The fact is that all the power in the world cannot transform someone who hates you into someone who likes you. It can turn a foe into a slave, but not into a friend. All the power in the world cannot transform a fanatic into an enlightened man. All the power in the world cannot transform someone thirsting for vengeance into a lover... Power has the power to prevent our annihilation for the time being. On condition that we always remember, at every moment, that in a situation like ours power can only prevent. It can't settle anything and it can't solve anything. It can only stave off disaster for a while.*

Amos Oz

*For Jesse M. B.*