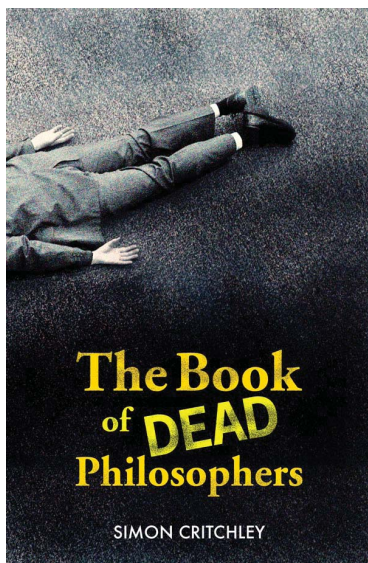


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Simon Critchley will be available for interview in May & June, and will be attending the Sydney Writer's Festival.

For more information please contact Nell O'Bryan at MUP on 03 9342 0322 or 0403 068 460, or email emobryan@unimelb.edu.au

THE BOOK OF DEAD PHILOSOPHERS

by Simon Critchley

Diogenes died by holding his breath. Plato allegedly died of a lice infestation. Diderot choked to death on an apricot. Nietzsche made a long, soft-brained and dribbling descent into oblivion after kissing a horse in Turin.

From the self-mocking haikus of Zen masters on their deathbeds to the last words (gasps) of modern-day sages, *The Book of Dead Philosophers* chronicles the deaths of almost 200 philosophers—tales of weirdness, madness, suicide, murder, pathos and bad luck.

In this elegant and amusing book, Simon Critchley argues that the question of what constitutes a 'good death' has been the central preoccupation of philosophy since ancient times. As he brilliantly demonstrates, looking at what the great thinkers have said about death inspires a life-affirming enquiry into the meaning and possibility of human happiness.

In learning how to die, we learn how to live.

Simon Critchley is an influential British philosopher now teaching in the United States. He is currently Professor of Philosophy at the New School for Social Research, New York, and at the University of Essex. *The Book of Dead Philosophers* is published by MUP in Australia and Vintage in the USA, and is being translated into five languages.