

Part of the World: Fractals of Ethics - A Drama in Three Acts

By Heinz Von Foerster, Monika Silvia Broecker

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Part of the World is the most extensive biographical account of Heinz von Foerster, the “Socrates of Cybernetics.” The book reflects the significance of von Foerster’s over-ninety-year-long life against the background of world and scientific history. In a fascinating dialog with Monika Broecker, who asks smart and empathic questions, von Foerster relates his life story and his most important thoughts. Many photographs are reproduced, some of them published here for the first time. This American edition is translated from German by Barbara Anger-Díaz and contains a forward by Ernst von Glasersfeld.

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Editorial Review

About the Author
Heinz von Foerster (1911–2002) studied physics and worked in various research laboratories in Austria and Germany before emigrating in 1948 to the USA, where he founded the now legendary Biological Computer Laboratory at the University of Illinois. He is the author of many books and one of the founders of the theory of knowledge that now goes by the name "constructivism." Monika Silvia Broecker holds a master's degree in science of communication from the University of Arts, Berlin, Germany. From 1998 to 2002, she worked closely with Heinz von Foerster in Pescadero, California. She trained in brief therapy at the Mental Research Institute in Palo Alto, California, with Paul Watzlawick and Richard Fisch, and at the Brief Family Therapy Institute in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with Insoo Kim Berg and Steve de Shazer. She has had an extensive career in learning and leadership development. She built and led People Management Development and the School of Personal Growth at Google, Inc., in Mountain View, California. Monika is the founder of the Center for Personal Growth (http://center4personalgrowth.com) and the author and editor of numerous publications. She has served on the editorial board of the scientific journal Kybernetes and has edited two special double issues of the journal: one on Heinz von Foerster and the other on Gregory Bateson.

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