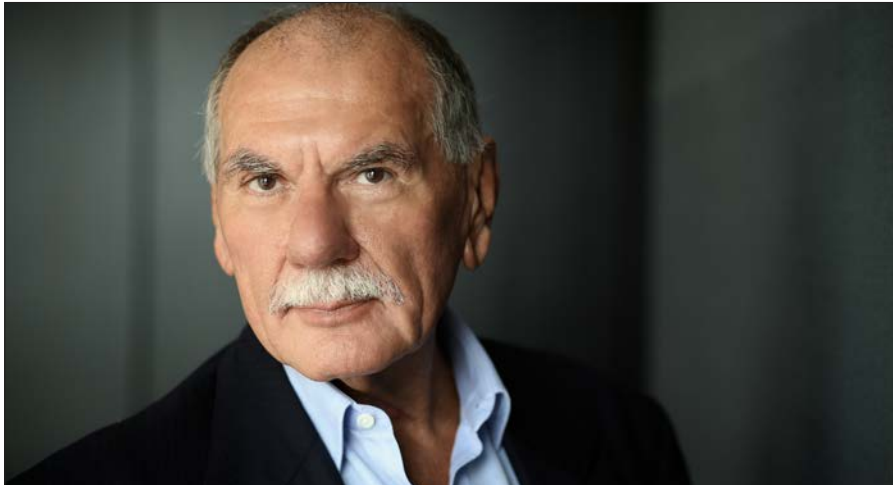


# CORONA IS PURE NATURE



*Kurt E. Becker, author and communications consultant, among others for JLL since 1988*

Just as we are in constant interaction with everything natural, so we are in interaction with Corona. For the virus is nothing hyper- or extra-natural. It is pure nature. Just like the human being. Both are subject to the law of becoming and passing away.

That is why we must learn to understand the virus for what it is. As a creation and part of nature, the laws of which we have been trying to unravel for thousands of years – in their beneficial effects as well as in those that are dangerous for us.

“Dangerous” or “beneficial” are usually human evaluations based on experience. Nature, on the other hand, does not eval-

uate. It is just as indifferent to humans as to everything else that was, is or will be. And we must realise, not least in this context, that the spread of the virus from animals to humans, with its pandemic consequences, is due to our specifically and naturally human way of life.

We may have tamed the predators, exterminated them or trivialised them in zoos and locked them away. Viruses, however, cannot simply be locked away.

The exploitation and rape of the natural was and is the result of our civilisation, which was always also to be understood as a protective function of the human

species against the risks of nature. For as natural beings, humans are characterised by deficiencies and capabilities in equal measure. Their abilities help them overcome their shortcomings, but also make them susceptible to exaggerations in their will. An example is the unchecked urbanisation of the planet, which is mixing the world of animals with the world of humans more and more and fostering the transmission of viruses.

A pandemic like Covid-19 is the result, due not least to another phenomenon of civilisation – globalisation and unlimited travel. The pandemic is precisely what the term implies, a global phenomenon, spread by the transnational cross-border transport of people and goods.

Because of this pandemic, nothing less than the nature of our existence as cultural beings is under scrutiny. For if culture is the very nature of human beings, then we are very likely to face an unprecedented challenge which surpasses anything that can be set before us as a task within the natural order surrounding us.

That this virus follows its natural “order” is as evident as the assumption that the current pandemic will be followed by another, and so on. And the constantly advancing human civilisation in its interaction with nature provokes and boosts the risks of viral reactions in an incalculable way.

## imprint

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