

A plea for ignorance

Informing Ourselves to Death

IGNAAS DEVISCH

Everyone knows it: you want to quickly look something up on the internet and two hours later you are still busy. This is not entirely within our control: attention and information are the currencies of a new era, infocracy. Never before could we learn so much about a wide range of topics as we do now. At the same time, our individual freedoms are at stake as political and economic forces try to influence us in all sorts of ways online. They regularly succeed in inciting people through organized disinformation.

In the midst of this information overload we need to develop a new attitude that requires a critical point of view that we have to keep on training to learn to ignore the information that does not deserve attention. Ignaas Devisch shows how such a well-balanced ignorance can reclaim a well-informed position in the world. It is high time to stop informing ourselves - and democracy - to death.

This book shows why we are better off if we know less.



AUTHOR



Ignaas Devisch (b. 1970) is professor of ethics, philosophy and medical philosophy at the University of Ghent and the Artevelde College. He publishes in the fields of social, medical and political philosophy. His critical essay about medicalization, 'Sick of Health', was published by De Bezige Bij in 2013. In his latest book 'Fire. A Forgotten Issue' (2021, De Bezige Bij), philosopher Ignaas Devisch demonstrates why the moment man gained control over fire is such an important tipping point in history. *Photo © Koen Broos*

ORIGINAL TITLE We informeren ons kapot.
De Bezige Bij 2024, 256 pp.

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