



## The Power of the Impossible

*On Community and the Creative Life*

Erik S. Roraback

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*The Power of the Impossible: On Community and the Creative Life* surveys cultural figures from Spinoza to popular culture icon Ivan Lendl, to illuminate the challenge and problem of instituting a future-oriented world community and its conceptual intersection with heterogeneous forms of the emancipatory creative life.

*'A spirited, luminous romp through theory, literature—and professional tennis! This original, unorthodox study illuminates our current crises of community formation and creativity in ways unexpected but necessary.'* **Robert Appelbaum**, Uppsala University, Sweden

*'Learned, exigent, original, and timely, Erik Roraback's Community and the Creative Life presents authoritative readings of what important theorists from Spinoza to Bataille, Blanchot, Nancy, Žižek, and others have had to say about community and the individual, with sections along the way on how those theorists might lead us to approach work by Henry James, James Joyce, Ralph Ellison, Dante Alighieri, and, surprisingly, the great tennis player, Ivan Lendl. Roraback also develops on the basis of his theorists his own persuasive concept of an impossible/possible global community yet to come that would facilitate individual creativity as well as contest the repressive hegemony of finance capitalism and technology, especially digital technology.'* **J. Hillis Miller**, The University of California at Irvine, USA

Erik S. Roraback teaches critical theory, international cinema, theoretical psychoanalysis and U.S. literature in Charles University (est. 1348) and in F.A.M.U. (Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts) in Prague. He is the author of *The Philosophical Baroque: On Autopoietic Modernities* (Brill, 2017), *The Dialectics of Late Capital and Power: James, Balzac and Critical Theory* (Cambridge Scholars, 2007) and of 100 scholarly journal articles, book chapters, conference papers and guest lectures in 15 countries. He holds degrees from the University of Oxford (D.Phil.) and from Pomona College (B.A.) and has been Visiting Professor in the Université de Provence. He has also been a Visiting Researcher at the Universität Konstanz, a Visiting Scholar in the University of Washington and holds a Five-Year University Visiting Research Fellowship at the University of Winchester.

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