

# Edition 4

## What We Make of the Children

### Editorial introduction to edition 4 of Het Open Vizier

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Edition 3 was about the child. How the primal sense develops, how it works, how we recognise it. And above all: how we systematically squeeze it out — first in the school benches, then in every selection step that follows. We called it the human being beneath the ice. The child who walks into a room and within ten seconds knows who is there, set against a society that no longer wants to see that instrument used.

Edition 4 is about what happens to that child once it becomes an adult.

Because the child does not disappear. It becomes a manager, a civil servant, a doctor, a teacher, a salesperson, an entrepreneur, a judge. It ends up inside institutions — banks, funds, companies, government departments, regulators — that have been built up over a century from the remains of people whose antenna was switched off. Generation after generation selected for the precise absence of the instrument by which real decisions are made.

The result surrounds us everywhere. We see it in banks that only extend credit to those who have no need of it. In subsidy channels that systematically direct money to whichever party has mastered the application form. In companies being hollowed out by professional administrators while the numbers continue to coast for a while on the inertia of what the founder built. In care that calls itself a care factory. In education that calls itself an education factory. In a state that measures rules and no longer sees people.

This is not a conspiracy. It is far worse than that. It is a pattern that reproduces itself with no one accountable for it. Everyone follows the procedure. Everyone fills in the form. Everyone delivers their KPIs. And yet society grows steadily worse while the reports grow steadily better.

In edition 4 we walk through these institutions one by one. We do not merely describe what goes wrong — many others already do that. We show what is happening underneath: how the top brain layer has everywhere displaced the bottom.

How rules, models and procedures have replaced judgement. How the instrument with which a village banker fifty years ago could take the measure of his customer — a glance, a conversation, a feeling — has become legally prohibited in every form of modern credit assessment. And how that same pattern repeats itself at every counter where people come asking for help.

We start with the granting of subsidies, because that is where the pattern is most perverse — public money flowing regressively to those who have no need of it, funded by everyone, administered by a paper industry that sustains itself. Then we move along the other positions: the hired-in CEO, the turnaround consultant, the banker, the insurer, the regulator, the judge, the youth care worker. Ten articles, one continuous story.

The tone remains that of Het Open Vizier: direct, honest, undiplomatic, personal. Those who wish to take issue are welcome to. That is what we built it to be — open to challenge. Otherwise it remains, in the words of our editorial team, no more than muttering in the bushes.

What edition 3 described as a problem at the level of the child, edition 4 describes as a system at the level of the adult. What we do to the children, we then do to ourselves. Until we realise it can be repaired — not by a new law, not by a new scheme, not by a new committee. But by restoring the instrument we have switched off.

The Het Open Vizier editorial team

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This edition appears in stages over the coming weeks on [openvizier.org](http://openvizier.org), in four languages, with audio and extensive reference materials.