Ulrich Beck  
**Born: 15 May 1944**  
German sociologist famous for proposing the idea of Risk Society (first published 1986). Risk is 'a systematic way of dealing with hazards and insecurities induced and introduced by modernisation'. Because modern living is characterised by decision-making, risk management also becomes part of everyday life. More recently, Beck has developed ideas about reflexivity, the self, and making 'a life of one's own' in modernity, alongside his friend Giddens.

**Selected Works:**  
Individualization (with E. Beck-Gernsheim, Sage, 2002)  
Ecological Politics in an Age of Risk (Polity Press, 1995)  
Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity (Sage, 1992)