English Summaries

Luigi Lorenzetti, Anne-Marie Granet-Abisset, Back migrations. A disregarded chapter of Alpine history

The range of migratory movements and their periodical or temporary nature have been duly recorded, but little scholarly attention has been paid to the meaning and significance of return migrations in the Alpine regions. And yet there has certainly been no dearth of marks or vestiges in the life of many mountain communities, especially affecting their architecture, clothing, food, language, etc. Mediating as it does between two contexts – origin and destination environments – a *homecoming* also raises different questions concerning the single individuals and their interpersonal relations. A migrant's hard-won decision to come back (integral to many migrants' plans) may be seen to depend on various factors and yield distinct interpretations. It may be seen as a moment of personal redemption and achievement of social and economic success; but also as marginalisation induced by a sense of failure or the inability to settle back into the "old life" or to adjust to the loss of family and social ties existing before one's departure.

Annemarie Steidl, Customary communication between the Alps and Vienna. Regional mobility of chimney-sweepers in Vienna

The example of Italian-speaking chimney-sweepers who settled in Vienna shows a multitude of migratory relations. A migratory route is no one-way street: explanations that involve a single cause (for instance economic downturns or overpopulation) fail to produce an accurate representation of the numerous exchanges between the alpine regions and the plains. The steady contribution of

young people – some of whom did not return to their villages until they retired – created a lasting exchange system between the valleys of the Grisons and Ticino and the city of Vienna. Emigrants were used to an existence alternating between a tiny Swiss village and a European metropolis such as Vienna. These workers represented a link between two apparently incompatible worlds and acted as intercultural mediators. The chimney-sweepers from the Italian-speaking region of Switzerland who migrated to Vienna in the 18th century taking their families with them may be classified as transnational migrants.

Anne-Lise Head-König, Back migrations in the pre-Alpine and Alpine areas: towards a typology of ambivalences (17th–20th century)

The concept of *homecoming* must be defined more accurately in the Swiss context. The institutional provisions of the citizenship rights put a stop to numerous returns or repatriations, up to the middle of the 19th century: conversely from World War I onwards, these laws allowed many people to "return" who had neither been born in their home country nor ever lived there before then. The typology of migrations has a considerable impact on return opportunities: moreover, urban migration was utterly different from that (multi-formed) of rural populations. On the other hand, back migration is no less a mirror of the conditions prevailing at the start of the outward journey. Did it take place as a voluntary type of migration or was it dictated by necessity ("involuntary repatriation")? There was also a forced (or: enforced) home-coming. Bear in mind that the First World War meant a significant rift, as well as a notion per se, for migrant workers returning home.

Patrizia Audenino, Which return migration? Different timings and meanings of going back home in the Italian Alps, 1800–1900

Migration from the Alps is widely recognized as the prototype of circular migration. But in the past two centuries the timing of the return has changed so much that the same word is now denoting several different meanings. The paper intends to identify and describe different kinds of return, trying to place them in a chronological sequence. In order to better understand these differences, the

projects and expectations of emigrants are observed and discussed, to reveal change and permanence in their behaviour and relationship with the family and the community at home. The feelings and psychological reactions stirred up by the return are studied by comparing several cases based on the evidence gathered from surveys of Alpine migrants and other emigrant groups. The results show the variety and complexity of reactions to the "return", observed in emigrants and members of their families and the community waiting at home.

Casimira Grandi, The bitter return. Female occupational mobility between devaluation and "social diseases" (19th–20th centuries)

The *devaluation* of a female back-migrant on grounds of alleged "social diseases" ("social" because of the social use made of them) contracted in the destination country may be assimilated to a more general (regardless of gender) moral cleansing to which were subjected all returnees to the country of origin. A woman was not only found guilty by her people if she had been struck by a shameful venereal disease but, ultimately, she was also blamed for any pathology that restricted her ability to work. No doubt her moral recovery took on added value when achieved under the cloak of moral censorship. It was an "operation" undertaken jointly by the civil authorities, the religious institutions, and the family. The family, in particular, was concerned with pocketing the woman's remittances and restoring the "union" of family and work which she represented, by reintegrating her into the household without destabilizing effects.

Vanessa Giannò, Swiss citizens returning to their home country from Italy during World War II: between diplomatic negotiations and humanitarian aid

During the Second World War, Switzerland provided shelter for many refugees who were trying to escape political or racial persecution in neighbouring countries. What is less known is the homecoming of Swiss nationals who had emigrated all over Europe and who, for different reasons, decided to return to their native country: Swiss citizens of Jewish descent or religion persecuted by German and Italian racial laws, Swiss citizens running away from unemployment and bomb raids, former Swiss women who had surrendered their citizenship on

marrying a foreign national while maintaining strong ties with their family and country of origin. The dreaded mass return, because of the predictable accommodation difficulties and the determination to preserve their lives and estate, became therefore the focus of heated diplomatic discussions and correspondence between Switzerland and the countries involved. The present contribution deals initially with the situation of Swiss citizens in the Italian context, drawing attention to the agreements designed to safeguard and as far as possible shore up their repatriation; secondly, the paper examines the reception facilities built in Switzerland.

Frédéric Spagnoli, Return migrations to the Trentino. An overview and the case of the "French"

This article deals with return migrations to the Trentino, an Alpine province in the North-East of Italy. The first part provides an overview of this phenomenon, starting from *Ancien-Régime* temporary migration trends to the steadily growing return migration of migrants' descendants. In the second part, the focus shifts to the case of Trentino migrants and their descendants in France. The strength of the French assimilation and integration model, the difficult situation of Italy at the time of migration (1920–1960) partly explain the rapid adaptation to the French way of life and the low number of returns. The case of the so-called *francesi* ("the French") contrasts with other migration countries; and a comparative analysis could cast new light on a topic that has so far received little attention.

Anselm Zurfluh, Migrations. The influence of expatriates of old

From time immemorial, men have travelled and so carried with them not only their chattel but also, perhaps above all, ideas. This is the case of emigrants, who take with them knowledge and skills to their new workplace. It is even more so with back-migrants, namely those who return to their home country after a more or less long absence. It is hard to tell to what extent what they experienced in the "foreign country" impacts on what they experience back at home. It is equally hard to discern if single migrants who come back from abroad exert any genuine influence on their *local* social groups. Indeed, migrations are about

single individuals, who do have their personal life experience; nonetheless, in terms of history it is the statistical component that matters: it is the statistician who provides us with data quantification, and the scale is that of society as a whole. However, where no objective survey results are available, then one is entitled to adopt a more impressionistic, more qualitative approach, to map the route leading to possible future research projects on the subject.

Cinzia Lorandini, A family firm across the Alps.
Economic, human and social capital under the "Ancien Régime"

The experience of the Salvadori firm in Trento between the 17th and 18th centuries helps us define some of the mechanisms underpinning entrepreneurial activity during the *Ancien Régime*. In a matter of decades, the Salvadoris rose from running a few local shops to the status of entrepreneurs-merchants of international renown. Their activities ranged from long-distance trade, coordination of production activities (for example, unwinding of the cocoon, reeling and twisting in the silk manufacturing process), and conduct of financial transactions. Besides adopting strategic choices, from venturing into the tobacco sector to specialising in the manufacturing and commerce of silk, they also managed to gradually expand the capital endowment of the firm, develop a whole set of skills and roles in members of the family in a managerial capacity, and build a complex web of correspondents in an area stretching from central-northern Italy to central Europe. This firm's rise to success may therefore be interpreted as having been due to a successful accumulation of capital in its broadest sense – economic, human and social – in which the family played a leading role.

Konrad J. Kuhn, Hot spring and spa resorts.
Reflections on the history of Alpine tourism
in the Vorder Rhine Valley, Grisons

As the practice of spa cures took off, Alpine tourism enjoyed a new boom during the 19th century, especially in areas furthest removed from the busiest and most popular Alpine routes. The article tracks the expansion of some villages in the Grisons, such as Disentis, Tenigerbad, and Vals, after they had acquired water-cure facilities. It also follows the evolution since World War I of the role

played by hotels and spa facilities built on the site of hot springs, for the economy and local entrepreneurship. The paper suggests a reflection on the concrete circumstances of tourist resorts in the Alpine range other than the well-known and celebrated hot-spring centres. It is there indeed that we can find an accurate record of the exchanges between guests and the local populations, as well as the benefits of investments in the tourist industry and the historical-cultural dimension of hot springs.

Anne Montenach, Salt smuggling in the Haut-Dauphiné in the 18th century: between parallel economy and pluriactivity

This contribution sets out to provide an understanding of salt smuggling between different valleys of the Haut-Dauphiné in the 18th century. It examines court documents and rulings of the "tribunal des gabelles" [courts of settlement of salt-tax evasion] in Briançon. On this basis it looks into the logic and the behaviour of the protagonists of this phenomenon, encouraged by the fragmentation of fiscal jurisdictions from one valley to another. The article contends that, far from being exclusively an answer to poverty, smuggling also constituted a way for a good many villagers to cope with uncertainty and to fit into the market – albeit an illegal one. Smuggling can therefore be regarded as a component, among others, of multi-active strategies. It also raises the question of state control over frontier zones in the modern age.

Werner Drobesch, Surveying and reorganising landed estates: aspects of government reform. Marie-Theresa's fiscal reform and the land registries of Joseph II and Franz I

Land survey and reorganisation of estates played a major role in the process of modernisation of the State. Both were vital to the Government's designing a taxation system on land ownership. The first stage (with limited results) was undertaken under the aegis of Marie-Theresa. The subsequent (far more effective) stage was achieved on the basis of Joseph II's land registry. It was thanks to the latter that the State was able for the first time to form a more accurate picture of the country's ownership network and overall farming production. A further stage was reached based on Franz I's cadastre, which was set up between

1817 and 1861, and through which it was possible to compile a statistical and cartographic census of natural spaces and of the socio-economic conditions of the Habsburg monarchy in the first half of the 19th century.

Joëlle Rochas, The influences of German naturalists and cabinets of wonders on the genesis of the Cabinet of Natural History of Grenoble (1773–1839)

Research into history and botany has already highlighted the importance of Italy in the genesis of the Natural History Cabinet of Grenoble (France) during the 18th and 19th centuries. However, the influence of German countries on the predecessor of the current Natural History Museum of Grenoble is much less known. As a matter of fact, naturalists from the Dauphiné and German scientists were talking to each other from very early on. As a consequence, a lot of mutual influences can be observed in their works. Dominique Villars (1745–1814), the doctor and botanist who created from Grenoble a huge scientists' network throughout Europe, blended all these influences together. In 1786, he wrote the *History of plants of Dauphiné (Histoire des plantes de Dauphiné)*, the first description of the flora of Dauphiné.

Ingeborg Schmid-Mummert, Light and shadows. Risk management in alpine mountaineering in the 19th century

Since they were first founded in the middle of the 19th century (1854), Alpine associations and clubs contributed to boosting the development of the high Alps. As a result, an increasingly wider range of people were attracted to climbing, and so alpinism proper began. Concurrently, athletic alpine climbers sought further challenges, more and more difficult rock faces and ridges, steering away from the anonymity of mass tourism. This phenomenon kindled discussions and debates on the dangers and risks of alpinism, and on the meaning (reasonable and unreasonable) of the practice of alpine climbing. When accidents occur in the mountains, especially lethal ones, the public is alerted and sits up. While a disapproving or censuring attitude, not least expressed in the media, condemns them as unsafe leisure activities, another parallel mechanism also kicks in, which transforms the death of a mountain climber into a heroic, a mythical feat.

Andrej Studen, "We can smell a nasty odour, a wild stench …".
A history of drainage and air-purification processes
in Ljubljana before the First World War

The key to understanding today's culture of domestic living conditions and habits that are proper to our daily lives is distilled from the knowledge of the history of customs and lifestyles of the epochs or periods that preceded us. Certain living spaces, for instance the bathroom with its sanitary facilities and the lavatory, have become indispensable. And yet in Slovenian cities these hygienic standards did not appear until the end of the 19th and early 20th century. It took them a long time to acquire all the modern comforts that we enjoy in urban living today: it was through a lengthy civilising process that finally such standards were integrated into household culture.

Ursula Lüfter, Martha Verdorfer, Adelina Wallnöfer,
"German young lady required". South Tyrolean young women
as housemaids in Italian cities during the 1920–1945 period

Financial poverty and unemployment in their home country, higher wages, youthful curiosity and the desire to learn the Italian language were the reasons for many young South Tyrolean women to accept jobs in big Italian cities where, between the First and Second World War, female house servants were in great demand. There, mainly German convents took care of these young women in their leisure time and they also acted as employment agencies. Even though this labour migration took place at a time of big political tensions – as South Tyrol was confronted with the assimilation policies of Italy's Fascist government – most of these young women lived their spell in an Italian city as personal enrichment. After one or two years of domestic service in these distant cities most of them returned home; only a few stayed behind, for ever or until they were old.

**Elisabeth Rieder, Markus Schermer, Wolfgang Meixner,
The impact of farm tourism on the life and labour relations
of women farmers in Tyrol**

Agro-tourism marks the first broad wave of commercialisation of female work in agriculture. The paper describes the nature of the transformations affecting women farmers as a result of this new economic activity. Our analysis covers the successive periods in the evolution from its beginnings in the 1960s to the present day. The impact of change is observed in the relations between gender and generations, but also in innovation and decisions on investments, and in the value of farm products. Agro-tourism offers women an opportunity for independent activity. They do not only earn their own money, like women in non-farming households, but they can act as self-employed entrepreneurs. This does not only grant them more decision-making power on the farm but makes farm life more attractive for women from a non-agrarian background. Thus agro-tourism contributes to making mountain farming not only economically viable but also socially sustainable.

**Gudrun Hausegger, Vnà, Dachstein, Zermatt: Synthesis,
Corporate Identity, Musealisation. Three examples
of new "conserving" presentations in alpine regions**

The urbanisation of alpine regions, which occurs cyclically, has always been linked to certain principles. The most recent occupation of land in the Alps from the 1980s onwards reveals (despite numerous examples of continuity) a significant new orientation in certain projects: a responsible handling of the Alps as a natural and cultural landscape paves the way for appropriate, forward-looking developments. By now society's need for staged experiences calls for designs that are place-related. The response to such demands is provided by presentations that can be described as "conserving", in the positive sense of the word. Three current projects are used to examine this recourse to the strength of reality: The hotel-village Vnà in Unterengadin (opened in 2008) works with the local population in looking for a new development that takes as its starting point the particular qualities of the place. The initiative envisages interlocking old and new in a number of very different fields. The project "Dachstein Welterbe" (completed in 2008) offers a sensitive presentation of the mountain

in its entirety with the aim of enabling visitors to experience the Dachstein in a new way. With its new Matterhorn Museum (opened in 2006) and with the "Peak Gornergrat" project Zermatt concentrates on a presentation that focuses on experience, using a museum approach that recalls successful phases of the area's own history.