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English Summaries

Kristina Schulz

Exile Research and Migration History: Meeting Points and Perspectives

Exile Research and Migration History address similar research topics. Their epistemological interest, their methods and perspectives, however, vary widely and their paths have so far seldom intersected. This article sheds light on the relationship between the two sub-disciplines against the backdrop of more recent research on Switzerland. It details the potentially fertile meeting points of wider and reconceptualized exile research with migration history and the perspectives they open up for a history of modern societies.

Audrey Kichelewski

«Sitting on Suitcases»: the Exiled Jews of Poland, 1945–1968

While post-WW2 Poland became a country from which people could no longer get out, Jewish survivors constituted an exception. Their population was divided by ten over a period of thirty years. «Sitting on suitcases», never really sure about their place in the new Poland, Jewish citizens were constantly torn between leaving and staying. Was theirs merely an exodus or is the term «exile» appropriate to designate the migratory movements of Polish Jews after 1945? Moreover, if we consider that the conditions of departure may influence the rearrangement of an immigrant's identity and his or her perception of the country of origin, we should address the social and cultural dimensions of the migrations under study through a cross-examination of official and community sources along with the testimonies of the immigrants themselves.

Guszt Kecsk D.

*The Welcoming of Hungarian Refugees in Switzerland in 1956
in International Perspective*

Following the defeat of the Hungarian uprising in 1956 by Soviet troops, around 200000 Hungarians found refuge in the West. Compared to its size and population, Switzerland received the largest quota of refugees. In the first part of this study, the author outlines the historical context of their welcoming. The second part focuses on the role of Switzerland and gives a synopsis of the measures taken by the Swiss

government with regard to incoming refugees, and of the reaction of the public to the arrival of the latter. In the third part the author concludes that the Swiss answer to the refugee challenge matched the policies of other Western countries, albeit with some Swiss specificities. The study is based on documents of international organizations such as the UNO, NATO, the ICRC, as well as on archival material from Swiss, Hungarian, French, and British archives.

Justine Faure

*Cold War and the mobilisation of the knowledge of exiles on Eastern Europe.
The case of the United States*

After entering the Cold War at the end of the 1940s, the US government faced a considerable obstacle: American universities had no specialists of the Soviet block who could lend their expertise to the diplomatic task at hand. If the circumstances led to a rapid expansion of Sovietology, in a first stage Eastern Europe remained in the shadow of its powerful neighbour. In order to palliate the lack of interest in the region shown by US scholars, at the beginning of the 1950s the government mobilised the knowledge of exiles. Such a solution, however, became increasingly problematic, particularly due to the exiles' supposed lack of objectivity. Nevertheless, Eastern European studies remained partly dependent on the knowledge of exiles, and academics from those regions served as essential mediators between their former motherlands and the United States.

David Tréfás

The access of the Hungarian diaspora to the public sphere in Switzerland

The article explores the composition of the Hungarian diaspora between World War Two and the 1970s in Switzerland. It examines the relationship between the diaspora and the host society especially with regard to the problematic process of a transfer of identity. As the article argues, the place where this transfer happens is the public sphere where speakers can emerge from the diaspora and pars pro toto bring in their voice into the public sphere of the host society. Given that the diaspora has to be understood as an assemblage of very different groups with many differing collective identities this process does not remain uncontested. As an example, the article discusses the negative reactions of members of the diaspora with regard to a 1976 Swiss television film that dealt with the integration of former Hungarian refugees.

Gergely Fejérdy

A crucial Hungarian political exile who made frequent stays in Switzerland:

Paul de Auer

During the Cold War, several tens of thousands of people from Central and Eastern Europe took refuge in the West. Their reasons were as manifold as the circumstances of their escape, the choices of their host country and their lives in exile. Few could exert any real influence on the political deciders of the time. The present paper re-examines the life of Hungarian politician Paul de Auer (1885–1978), a crucial figure among the political exiles who came from beyond the Iron Curtain. His network of acquaintances, developed well before 1945, his political commitment and his reflections on major international issues ensured his reputation. His experience illustrates the case of a specific kind of political refugee. By analysing his departure, his life in exile, his particular ties with specific countries – including Switzerland – as well as his expectations about the future, we can question the history of international relations.

Tiphaine Robert

The return from Switzerland of Hungarian exiles after 1956:

cited reasons and instrumentalized ones

The present contribution aims to identify the main aspects of a little-known phenomenon: the return from Switzerland of Hungarian refugees to Kadarist Hungary. Who are the people who made that choice – hard to understand a priori – and what are their reasons? Whether real or assumed, the reasons of these returns carry an important ideological value and call into question various aspects of the Cold War: the exile from and return to Central Europe; the resulting propaganda; the attitudes toward exiles of the governments of the host countries and of the countries of origin; but also the everyday life of these people, torn between two countries and two situations. Even if it remains a minority phenomenon, the analysis of the reasons behind this return may shed new light on the history of the 1956 refugees.

Eva Maurer

Traces of Eastern Europe:

the Swiss Library of Eastern Europe as place of exil and exil research

This contribution reflects on the traces that exile and migration from Central Europe have left in Switzerland's largest specialized library, the Swiss Library of Eastern Europe (Schweizerische Osteuropabibliothek SOEB) during and after the

Cold War. It contextualizes the founding of the library in the aftermath of the Hungarian refugee influx, and shows how the paths of political emigrants have crossed in the library, both as users and as staff who played an important part in building up the library's large collections. In a third section, the contribution focuses on the collection and possible topics that the library makes accessible to researchers. The contribution gives an overview of other memory institutions in Switzerland that also hold pertinent material and it closes with a few thoughts on the future challenges of preserving source material for the study of exile and emigration in Switzerland and internationally.