

ON MANY ROUTES

Internal, European, and Transatlantic Migration
in the Late Habsburg Empire

Annemarie Steidl

On Many Routes is about the history of human migration. With a focus on the Habsburg Empire, this innovative work presents an integrated and creative study of spatial mobilities: from short to long term, and intranational and inter-European to transatlantic. Migration was not just relegated to city folk, but likewise was the reality for rural dwellers, and we gain a better understanding of how sending and receiving states and shipping companies worked together to regulate migration and shape populations.

Bringing historical census data, governmental statistics, and ship manifests into conversation with centuries-old migration patterns of servants, agricultural workers, seasonal laborers, peddlers, and artisans—both male and female—this research argues that Central Europeans have long been mobile, that this mobility has been driven by diverse motivations, and that post-1850 transatlantic migration was an obvious extension of earlier spatial mobility patterns. Demonstrating the complexity of human mobility via an exploration of the links between overseas, continental, and internal migrations, *On Many Routes* shows that migrations to the United States, to the nearest coalfield, and to the urban capitals are embedded within complicated patterns of movement. There is no good reason to study internal apart from transnational moves, and combining these fields brings ample possibility to make migration research more relevant for the much broader field of social and economic history. This work poses an invaluable resource to the understudied area of Habsburg Empire migration studies, which it relocates within its wider European context and provides a major methodological contribution to the history of human migration more broadly. The ubiquity and functionality of human movement sheds light on the relationship between human nature and society, and challenges simplistic notions of human mobility then and now.

“Mobility scholars know humans move over varied distances. Steidl’s *On Many Routes* is the rare, wonderful study that reveals linkages among local, regional, intracontinental, transcontinental, and international migrations. Suddenly, we see migration systems as both much larger and much smaller than individual nations or empires.”

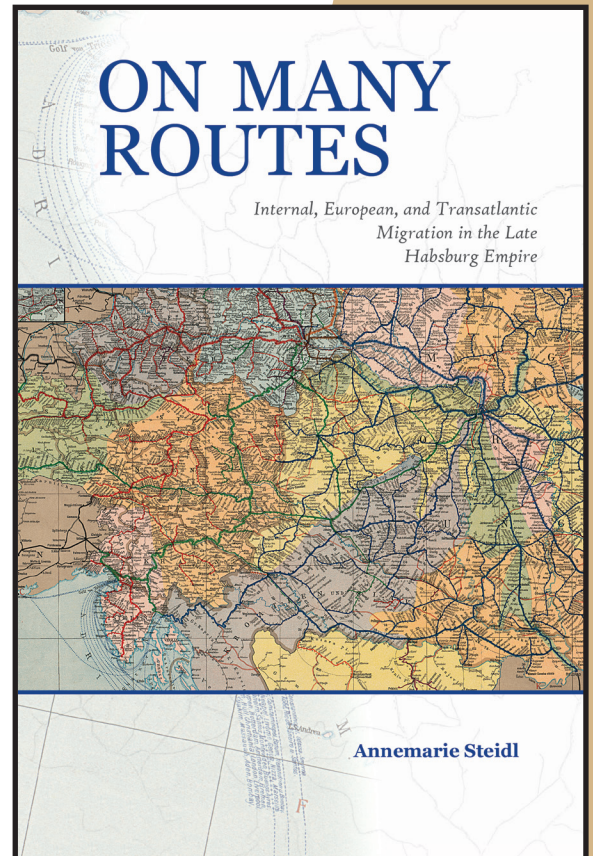
—DONNA R. GABACCIA, Professor Emerita, University of Toronto

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Purdue University Press



NOVEMBER 2020

Pb, 978-1-55753-981-6 • E-book available
392 Pages • 6x9 • \$59.99
Central European Studies

ANNEMARIE STEIDL is an associate professor in the Department of Economic and Social History at the University of Vienna. Her research interests include migration studies from the eighteenth century to the present, industrialization and urbanization, history of artisans, gender studies, and quantitative methods. She was awarded the international René Kuczynski Prize in 2005 for her monograph on the mobility of Viennese artisans in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.