

PREFACE

This issue's opening feature article presents the German Historical Institute's 34th Annual Lecture, delivered last November by the distinguished historian Roland Wenzlhuemer (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München). In his lecture, "Shipping Rocks and Sand: Ballast in Global History," Wenzlhuemer uses the history of ships' ballast to challenge established narratives of globalization. His examination of the economic, social, and environmental history of ships' ballast – the heavy material used to weigh ships down when they are light on cargo – calls attention to the "unwanted byproducts and unloved necessities" of globalization and thus reveals the "problems, detours, and unexpected consequences" that were an integral part of the globalization process.

The history of mobility and transportation infrastructure is also a theme in the next two feature articles, which shift the focus from shipping to automobile tourism and air travel. Both present the current research projects of GHI Research Fellows who joined the Institute last fall. Mario Peters's article examines early automobile tourism, road building, and the creation of "car-friendly nature" in the United States and Brazil in the early twentieth century. Comparing the creation of mobility infrastructures and the promotion of automobile tourism in these two countries, Peters analyzes the images of nature and recreation that were deployed to justify the construction of tourist routes as well as the critical reactions, especially from an environmental point of view, to the transformation of nature into car-centered landscapes.

The following article, by GHI Research Fellow Carolin Liebisch-Gümüş, investigates the implications that the postwar rise of commercial air travel had for migration. Using West Germany's Frankfurt airport as a case study, Liebisch-Gümüş examines how, by the 1980s, the increase of asylum-seekers arriving by air and the ensuing conflicts between immigration authorities, asylum-seekers, and airport social service agencies seeking to assist them led the West German state to develop an "air migration regime" designed to limit airborne access to the asylum process.

In this issue's final feature article, GHI Research Fellow Jana Keck, who also recently joined the Institute, presents her research in digital history, one of the GHI's research foci. Keck introduces her Ph.D. project, which applies digital text-mining tools to examine the

reprinting practices (republishing material from other publications, often without attribution) of nineteenth-century U.S. German-language newspapers in order to analyze transnational text production and circulation. Combining the history of publishing and data feminism, Keck's analysis of the portrayal of women in newspaper advertisements sheds new light on the role of women as writers and readers in the German immigrant communities of the United States.

Although the GHI's conference program continues to be curtailed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Institute has organized an increasing number of virtual events. We are very pleased that this issue can report on two of the larger virtual events that took place last fall: the Fourth Annual Bucerius Young Scholars Forum, which was dedicated to the topic "Histories of Migration: Transatlantic and Global Perspectives," and the panel series "Racism in History and Context," which examined the "historical relationship between crisis and racism."

Please turn to our news section for recent GHI news. For up-to-date information on upcoming events (still virtual at this time, but we hope that this will change in the fall), publications, fellowships, and calls for papers, please consult the GHI website (<http://www.ghi-dc.org>), Facebook page, and twitter account. We look forward to the day when we can welcome you again in both Washington and Berkeley.

Simone Lässig (Director) and Richard F. Wetzell (Editor)