

From the Editors

With this issue on mobility in French history, we return to the collaborative Franco-Anglophonic approach to a special issue adopted for “New Perspectives on Modern Paris” (Winter 2004). In both cases, the collaboration originated in the guest editors’ desire to increase awareness among the journal’s mainly Anglophone readership of avenues of investigation recently opened by leading French scholars that may differ from those currently pursued in innovative Anglophonic scholarship. For this special issue, Carla Hesse and Peter Sahlins seek to further that objective by publishing the entire collection of articles in English. We would like to express our appreciation to the Department of History at the University of California, Berkeley, for funding the work on these translations by two graduate students, Chad Denton and David Beecher. We also want to thank the guest editors for their dedicated assistance with this time-consuming task. Sahlins and Beecher translated the articles by Stéphane Van Damme and Pierre-Yves Beaurepaire. Hesse and Denton translated those by Vincent Denis and Paul-André Rosental.

A second novelty of this collection is its inclusion of comments by three major historians, one American and two French, whose earlier contributions to the study of mobility foreshadowed the emergence of this theme in French historiography. We join our guest editors in thanking Natalie Zemon Davis, Daniel Roche, and Gérard Noiriel for their wide-ranging reflections stimulated by this rich collection of articles.

In an important introductory essay probing the connections among the diverse topics of these articles, Hesse and Sahlins seek to initiate a dialogue between historians of mobility who work in different subfields with discrete methodologies. Hesse and Sahlins’s ambitious purpose has produced another outstanding contribution to the collection of this journal’s special issues, for which we are most grateful.

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