Editorial

At the start of the Journal of Migration History

Migration was and is an important topic of academic, societal and political debate. Historical migration research generates a wealth of articles. The *Journal of Migration History (JMH)* is the first to specialise in this field. So far, articles on migration history either appeared in journals specialising in current issues, or in more general historical journals. They also appear in journals that focus on certain areas (i.e. Asia, Europe, Africa) or in journals that focus on a particular time period (Ancient History, Medieval History). We felt there was a need for a journal that covers a long period (from Antiquity until now) and all parts of the world, enabling it to strengthen comparisons over time and space. This is a key goal of migration research and a key aspect of this journal.

The peer-reviewed *Journal of Migration History* publishes historical studies on migration that combine methods, theories and insights from the social sciences, archaeology, anthropology, genetics, linguistics, and economics. It publishes studies that emphasise connectivity, tying in with the vibrant field of global history. The journal publishes on how people move, but also on how goods and ideas move with them. *JMH* looks at movement and mobility (in the broadest sense of the word), at migration policies (and how and why they changed over time), and at the consequences of migration (for migrants and for those who were left behind, and for the societies they left or where they settled). It publishes on how geographical mobility is related to other forms of mobility (such as social mobility), and on how ethnicity intersects with gender, religion and class.

The nature of migration changes continuously, and so does the way in which migration and integration issues are described. Migration research looks at who moves, how many people move, why people move, what happens to them after they move, what happens to the people they leave behind and to the countries they move to or from, and how authorities (national, local, international and non-governmental) try to regulate migration and integration. The number of publications on migration, currently and in the past, is large. The
encyclopedia of migration and minorities in Europe and the five-volume The encyclopedia of global human migration, which cover over 2000 years of migration worldwide1 do give an overview of the field, as do the biannual European Social Science History Conferences, which for decades now are one of the main venues for historically minded migration researchers. All this requires a further outlet for migration history.

In the nineteenth century, aspirations to organise society and control mobility led to attempts to map migrations. In 1862, for instance, the French fourierist and economist Jules Duval described in a 500 page book the emigrations from 58 regions and countries in Europe, Asia and Africa, and included an overview of laws by country.2 Duval added a section on theories on emigration, in which he distinguished between free and contracted movements. According to Duval, people emigrated because there was not enough food, they were travellers, navigators and adventurers, they were attracted by opportunities and richness (gold, silver, and diamonds), driven by poverty and ignorance, they moved because they were part of armies, sought to develop their mind, they fled or were forced to leave. They travelled well-trodden routes, transplanted whole villages and kept in touch. Railways and faster ships stimulated emigration, Duval wrote.

In the nineteenth century, authorities needed statistics for their attempts to control movement or migration. Researchers followed up on this societal or political demand and compiled studies that mapped how many people moved, and recorded their nationalities (as far as was known). In the middle of the nineteenth century, migration and the presence of foreigners in western societies attracted growing attention from lawyers. They pointed out problems, the number of people on the move, and referred to the past to justify the introduction of rules and regulations. From this interest sprang the first initiatives by lawyers to organise or manage migration at an international level. The Institut de Droit International (IDI), described by Philippe Rygiel in this issue, was founded in 1873 in Ghent, and was awarded the Nobel Peace prize in 1904. IDI started to discuss issues which are now part of the vibrant field of international migration policy or migration management well before the League of Nations did.

1 K.J. Bade et al. (eds.), The encyclopedia of migration and minorities in Europe. From the seventeenth century to the present (Cambridge 2011); I. Ness et al., The encyclopedia of global human migration (Chichester 2013).