

Tuesday, 27 May 2025 – Votiv Saal

■ Panel 6: ‘Imagined Communities’: Recreating Group Identity

Chair: Mátyás Mervay, New York

- 9:00 **Jana Paseková Kasíková** (Czech Academy of Sciences)  
*The Czechoslovak Post-War Displaced Persons' Perception of the Displacement Experience*
- 9:20 **Sarah Grandke** (University of Regensburg)  
*“To Show our Existence!” - Eastern European Displaced Persons in Germany and Austria as Memory Activists (1945-1951)*
- 9:40 **Florian Kühner-Wielach** (Institute for German Culture and History of South-Eastern Europe at LMU Munich)  
*“Elegie des Flüchtlings”. Entangled Asymmetries Between Germany, Romania and Israel after World War II*

10:00 **Discussion**

10:30 **Coffee break**

■ Panel 7: Continuities of Transit

Chair: Rana Mitter, Harvard

- 11:00 **Jannis Panagiotidis** (University of Vienna)  
*Continuities of Transit: Ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe Between Wartime and Postwar Resettlement*
- 11:20 **Elisabeth Czerniak** (University of Vienna)  
*Odysseys of the Unwanted. Shanghai's Displaced Persons and the Struggle for Resettlement in the Aftermath of World War II*
- 11:40 **Helena F. S. Lopes** (Cardiff University)  
*Refugees in Macau: Connected Histories from World War Two to Cold War*

12:00 **Discussion**

12:30 **Lunch break**

■ Panel 8: Transit and Transition

Chair: Philipp Strobl, Vienna

- 14:00 **Pauli Aro** (University of Vienna)  
*The Germanness of Expellees. Refugees, Transatlantic Labour Migration, and National Attributes, 1945-1960*
- 14:20 **Ruth Balint** (University of New South Wales)  
*The Making and Remaking of Family after 1945*
- 14:40 **Peter Gatrell** (University of Manchester)  
*Social Transit/ion in the Post-1945 Era*

15:00 **Discussion**

15:30 **Closing remarks**

**Organiser:**

Kerstin von Lingen,  
Department of Contemporary History,  
PI of ERC group GLORE.

Seats for participants are limited:

**Please register via e-mail to**  
[glore.zeitgeschichte@univie.ac.at](mailto:glore.zeitgeschichte@univie.ac.at)

In cooperation with the Austrian Science Fund (FWF)  
and the Arolsen Archives.

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# Being in Transit

25 – 27 May 2025 | University of Vienna  
Hotel Regina, Rooseveltplatz 15, Vienna

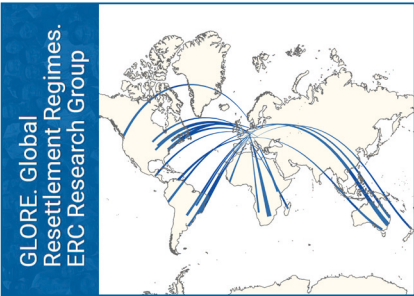


**International  
Conference**  
**ERC GLORE.**  
**Global Resettlement  
Regimes**

# Being in Transit

World War II and its immediate aftermath saw an unprecedented scale of population movement across the globe. Managing population flows thus became a core function of the successively emerging international organisations, UNRRA and IRO. For most wartime migrants in Asia, Europe and the Pacific, being in transit was a key feature of their wartime and post-war experience. It often meant months, or even years, of immobility and uncertainty. Collective identifications, too, were being reconstructed within and outside camps. Categorised as displaced persons (DPs), some sought to assert their nations' place on the political map of the postwar world, and some learned to reinvent group and individual identities to negotiate better futures. While refugees were in a state of transition, the world around them was also unstable. The Greater German Reich and the Japanese empire collapsed. European imperial powers found the old world gone. The civil war in China resumed and foreshadowed unceasing violences in the widely decolonising world. The unfolding global Cold War further redrew the political map. These changes profoundly shaped individuals' post-war experiences of being in transit and sometimes created opportunities.

The papers presented at the conference offer insights into vastly different yet often contemporaneous forms of “Being in Transit”. They analyse the spaces, networks and continuities of transit, ranging from specific localities to international trajectories along which people and ideas could travel, discussing refugeeedom in Europe, Asia, North and South America, Africa and Oceania. The papers discuss the agency of actors, groups and organisations to shape the sights and structures of transit, to flourish in them, or to use them for their own ends. They use a variety of sources, including oral history interviews, organisational files, and local and national-level governmental sources, to investigate the temporality of these histories, their dynamics and specific momentum in a world that was itself constantly in transition.



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# Sunday, 25 May 2025 – Salon Franz Josef

- 15:00 **Welcome café**
- 15:30 **Introduction and welcome** | Kerstin von Lingen, Vienna

■ **Panel 1: Managing Transit: Humanitarianism and Welfare**

Chair: Pauli Aro, Vienna
- 16:00 **Katarzyna Nowak** (University of Vienna)  
*Priests and Emigrants: Catholic Chaplains on Resettlement Ships and the Cooperation of the Vatican and the IRO in Refugee Assistance*
- 16:20 **Marina Perez de Arcos** (University of Oxford)  
*Aid in Transit: The Flow of Packages, People, and Ideas through CARE in post-war Austria*
- 16:40 **Xia Yun** (Shanghai University)  
*War, Refugees and Public Health: Caring for the Shanghai Jewish Refugees: 1939-1945*
- 17:00 **Discussion**
- 17:30 **Break**
- 18:00 **Book presentation:**  
**Peter Gatrell, Katarzyna Nowak**, A. Ghoshal, and L. Banko, *Reckoning with Refugeeedom. Refugee Voices in Modern History*, Oxford University Press (forthcoming 2025).
- 19:00 **Dinner**

# Monday, 26 May 2025 – Votiv Saal

- **Panel 2: Spaces and Places**

Chair: Christoph Rass, Osnabrück
- 9:00 **Michal Frankl** (Masaryk Institute and the Archives of the CAS, Prague)  
*Spatial Statelessness. No Man's Land for Refugees in East-Central Europe at the End of the 1930s*
- 9:20 **Konstantin Schischka** (University of Vienna)  
*Liminal Lives: Prolonged Transit, Protracted Displacement and Spatial Uncertainty after 1945*
- 9:40 **Jiayi Tao** (University of Vienna)  
*Making a “Model” Transit Camp in Post-War and Civil-War China: the Case of Wuhan*
- 10:00 **Discussion**

- 10:30 **Coffee break**

■ **Panel 3: Ideological Burdens on the Move**

Chair: Kerstin von Lingen, Vienna
- 11:00 **Jayne Persian** (University of Southern Queensland)  
*From War Criminals to Freedom Fighters: Re-Constructing Nationalist Identities in the Post-War Displaced Persons Camps*
- 11:20 **Linda Erker** (Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance, DÖW)  
*Collaborating with Displaced Nazis: Alois Hudal as an Escape Agent on the Way to South America*
- 11:40 **Cristian Cercel** (Institute of Danube Swabian History and Regional Studies, Tübingen)  
*The Act of Settling: The Postwar Danube Swabian Resettlement to Southern Brazil*
- 12:00 **Discussion**
- 12:30 **Lunch break**

■ **Panel 4: End of Empire: the Era of Cold War and Decolonization**

Chair: Marina Perez de Arcos, Oxford/Vienna
- 14:00 **Lena Christoph** (University of Vienna)  
*Navigating Transit. Post-World War II Journeys of Jewish Refugees in the Philippines*
- 14:20 **Jochen Lingelbach** (University of Bayreuth)  
*UNRRA in Africa. Humanitarians in Transit, European Refugees and Imperial Learning*
- 14:40 **Milinda Banerjee** (University of St Andrews)  
*Partition Refugees in Global Transit: Intellectual Histories of Decolonization and Cold War, 1947-90*
- 15:00 **Discussion**
- 15:30 **Coffee break**

■ **Panel 5: Transit with Limited Options**

Chair: Katarzyna Nowak, Vienna
- 16:00 **Raphaela Bollwein** (University of Vienna)  
*Bound by Displacement and Loss: A Welfare Workers Biographical Ramifications to Caring for Unaccompanied Children in Postwar Austria*
- 16:20 **Silvia Salvatici** (University of Florence)  
*Between Rehabilitation and Resettlement. Gendered Experiences of Labour*
- 16:40 **Johannes Glack** (University of Vienna)  
*Stuck in Transit: Jewish “Hard Core” Displaced Persons in Austria after the IRO*
- 17:00 **Discussion**
- 18:00 **Dinner**