

Moving the Social: Journal of Social History and the History of Social Movements

Vivian Strotmann

Moving the Social: Journal of Social History and the History of Social Movements (MTS) is an international and peer-reviewed journal, based at the Institute for Social Movements (ISB) of Ruhr-Universität Bochum (<http://www.isb.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/isb/index.html.en>) and dedicated to the historical study of social movements. *Moving the Social* is published by Klartext, one of the foremost academic publishers in Germany (<http://www.klartext-verlag.de/>). The journal is the continuation of the *Mitteilungsblatt des Instituts für soziale Bewegungen* which has been successfully published at the Institute for Social Movements since 1977.

The Institute for Social Movements is a research institute of Ruhr-Universität Bochum (http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/index_en.htm) and it cooperates closely with the Foundation History of the Ruhr (<http://isb.rub.de/sbr/index.html.en>). The latter incorporates the Library of the Ruhr (<http://isb.rub.de/bdr/index.html.en>) and the Archive for Social Movements (<http://isb.rub.de/afsb/index.html.en>). All these institutions are located within the House for the History of the Ruhr (<http://isb.rub.de/index.html.en>) at the heart of the city of Bochum in Europe's former foremost region of heavy industry, the Ruhr valley.

The institute grew from the Institute for the History of the German Labour Movement, founded by Hans Mommsen in 1977. It is multidisciplinary, focusing on both the past and present of social movements. It has a strong tradition in the regional history of the Ruhr as well as research on mining and working-class history, which was fostered under its previous directors, Siegfried Bahne, Werner Abelshausen, Helga Grebing and Klaus Tenfelde. The ISB's current director, Stefan Berger, holds the Chair of Social History at Ruhr-Universität Bochum and has extended the institute's research focus to the history of historiography, heritage, memory and identities. In recent years, the institute has undergone a notable process of internationalization which is reflected by the thematic and geographic scope of the journal and in the institute's publications overall (<http://isb.rub.de/publikationen/index.html.en>): apart from the English-language book series, the Institute publishes book series in German on the social history and social movements of the 19th and 20th century (*Schriftenreihe A*), on source documentations in the same field (*Schriftenreihe C*) and on forced labour during the two world wars (*Schriftenreihe C*).

Besides these book series, there is *Moving the Social*. It is concerned with the history of social movements, in a broader sense of the term. This encompasses

- the ‘old’ movement of labour,
- the so-called ‘new’ movements that mobilized after ‘1968’, including the women’s, peace, environmental and LGBTQI movements
- ‘lifestyle’ movements
- religious as well as right-wing movements of the past and the present.

MTS welcomes essays addressing contemporary global issues and collective responses, among them campaigns centered around climate change, urbanization, deindustrialization, neoliberalism, racism, sexism, and human rights. In contrast to other publications in the field, *Moving the Social* is distinctive, however, in its concern with the long-term trajectory of social movements and social problems, and in its commitment to the value of historical approaches for a better understanding of contemporary campaigns and processes of change.

The field of ‘social movement studies’ is marked by persistent and bold historical claims: that ‘the social movement’ as a distinctive political form emerged at a certain point in the development of modern societies; that it is possible to distinguish between different kinds of social movements (‘new’ and ‘old’) associated with particular social and economic contexts and forms of action and identity; that mobilization takes on certain typical patterns (‘cycles of protest’); that the era of ‘globalization’ and the spread of new information technology initiates new possibilities for political campaigning. Yet, although these historical claims are ubiquitous, they are only rarely based on developed historical analysis or comparison. Disciplined historical study provides an important means to test these claims, and to better comprehend the form, characteristics and varieties of ‘the social movement’. More than a quarry of information, it also provides the basis for compelling accounts of political and social processes, thus rendering the unfolding of social movements, and their effects more transparent in their developments and richer in description.

Convinced of the distinctive value of historical approaches to social movements, the journal particularly invites:

- examinations of the history of ‘social movements’ as a political form. This includes studies of the emergence of social movements; attempts to periodize; examinations of the relationships between allegedly ‘new’ and ‘old’ campaigns; and meditations on the novelties and continuities in contemporary campaigning. We would welcome historiographical explorations of these matters in addition to historical studies.
- attempts to connect social history with the history of social movements. The field of ‘social history’ has been marked by a concern with the collective experiences of ordinary people, and an attempt to link changing patterns of life with broader transformations. This offers a

potential point of connection with ‘social movement studies’, until now not fully exploited. Conceivably, the insights and approaches of social historians could enrich our understanding of the development and trajectory of social movements. Conversely, social movements should be recognized as an important aspect of social life, since their contribution to the history of societies merits further investigation.

- work that links historical study with research from other disciplines. The field of ‘social movement studies’ has so far been dominated by the work of sociologists and political scientists. Not simply committed to the value of history, *Moving the Social* aims to encourage a broader intellectual conversation, in which the insights of other disciplines can raise new questions and offer new approaches. Attention to spatial dynamics (a concern of geography), to culture and performance (evident in ethnography) and emotions (psychology), among other disciplines, is especially welcome.
- movements of the Global South. Although the social movement is conventionally depicted as a product of the Global North, ‘old’ and ‘new’ social movements have also been an important factor in the Global South. The histories of these movements have not always been fully documented. Their implications for existing theories and historical accounts have not been scrutinized to their full extent. *Moving the Social* particularly encourages investigation of past and the present social movements of the Global South. As one part of this effort, it welcomes comparative approaches to social movements, which seek to scrutinize differences and commonalities between the Global North and South.
- transnational and comparative perspectives on the history of social movements. The ‘transnational turn’ has been a major development in the last decade and a half of historical research. *Moving the Social* aims to encourage such scholarship, and especially aims to explore longer-term histories of transnational diffusion and exchange. At the same time, editors are conscious of the distinctiveness and the value of comparative history. The journal therefore welcomes comparative-historical research, as well as attempts at combining comparison with special attention to transnational ties.
- Historiographical and theoretical examinations of pertinent work in social history. Sociologists and political scientists have developed a ‘canon’ of work in ‘social movement studies’, evident in textbooks, survey courses, and in patterns of citation. However, despite many historians’ contribution to the examination of particular social movements, there is little sense of a developed historiography in the field. *Moving the Social* seeks to encourage the development of such a historiography. Editors also welcome submissions that draw upon recent social and political theory, and consider the relevance of such theory to the historical study of social movements.

Moving the Social has a diverse Editorial Team to fit its international and interdisciplinary outlook.

Its two Editors-in-Chief are

- **Stefan Berger** (Ruhr Universität Bochum, <http://www.isb.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/mitarbeiter/berger/index.html.en>) and
- **Sean Scalmer** (University of Melbourne, <http://findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/display/person174776>).

From 2012 to mid-2016, MTS's Managing editor was **Christian Wicke**. As of December 2016, the position of Managing Editor is taken by **Vivian Strotmann** (see contact information below).

The Editorial Board comprises a range of experts from around the world:

- **John Chalcraft** (London School of Economics and Political Science, <http://www.lse.ac.uk/government/whosWho/Academic%20profiles/jtchalcraft%40lse.ac.uk/home.aspx>),
- **Andreas Eckert** (Humboldt University Berlin, <https://www.iaaw.hu-berlin.de/en/africa/african-history/staff-history/1681578-en>),
- **Susan Eckstein** (Boston University, <http://www.bu.edu/sociology/faculty-staff/faculty/susan-eckstein/>),
- **Jie-Hyun Lim** (Hanyang University, Seoul),
- **Felicia Kornbluh** (University of Vermont, <https://www.uvm.edu/~wmst/?Page=Kornbluh.php>),
- **Rochana Majumdar** (University of Chicago, <http://salc.uchicago.edu/faculty/majumdar>),
- **Jürgen Mittag** (German Sport University Cologne, <https://www.dshs-koeln.de/en/visitenkarte/person/univ-prof-dr-juergen-mittag/>),
- **Walther Müller-Jentsch** (Ruhr University Bochum, <http://homepage.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/w.mueller-jentsch/>),
- **Holger Nehring** (University of Stirling, <https://www.stir.ac.uk/cehp/people/professorholgernehring/>),
- **Dieter Rucht** (Berlin Social Science Center, <https://www.wzb.eu/en/persons/dieter-rucht>),
- **Marcel van der Linden** (International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam, <https://socialhistory.org/de/staff/marcel-van-der-linden>),
- **Thomas Welskopp** (University of Bielefeld, <https://www.homes.uni-bielefeld.de/twelskopp/>)

Moving the Social is biannual, with one issue on a particular theme and one thematically mixed issue. Each issue includes a comprehensive review article, one of which each year is on recent publications in social movement studies. Back issues have been digitized and are freely available on MTS's website at: http://moving-the-social.ub.rub.de/index.php/Moving_the_social/issue/archive. Current issues are available only to subscribers. There are different subscription options to choose from:

- subscriptions for individuals: 25.00 (EUR) for two issues, including print and online access
- subscriptions for institutions: 150.00 (USD) for two issues, including print and online access

To subscribe please contact Kerstin Begher of Klartext-Verlag Essen at: begher@klartext-verlag.de.

The editors invite proposals for future special issues and welcome individual manuscripts!

Visit our website at <http://moving-the-social.ub.rub.de> to find out more and feel free to contact the Managing Editor with any questions at mts@rub.de.

About the author:

MTS's Managing Editor **Vivian Strotmann** holds a Ph.D. in Oriental Studies, with research mainly focussing on the history of sciences, Arabic lexicography and on the migration of knowledge between countries and cultures. From June 2014 to November 2016, she worked as Managing Editor of *Entangled Religions* at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg "Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe". In December 2016, she joined the University Library of Ruhr-Universität Bochum as a meta-data expert for the DFG-funded project "Historiography of Ottoman Europe" and became Managing Editor of *Moving the Social*. Vivian Strotmann takes a special interest in open access publishing and digital humanities. Contact: mts AT rub.de