

Foreword

This book combines personal experience and academic scholarship. We initiated the project in early 2020 for both individual and intellectual reasons. The *personal starting point* was our own generation- and gender-specific migration experience as German-born historians, who have lived and worked in the United States for many years: Konrad Jarausch since 1960 and Karen Hagemann since 2005. We both have had transatlantic careers and are still involved in the scholarly discussions of the discipline on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition, we have been or still are working on projects that focus on or include the autobiographical experiences of historians. Konrad H. Jarausch has recently published his own autobiography, *The Burden of German History: A Transatlantic Life*.¹ Karen Hagemann has begun work on a research project with the title “Broken Progress: Women, Men, and the Transformation of the East and West German Historical Professions since 1945.” Two of the questions we both have faced in our work on these projects are: What happened to the many German historians who left Germany in recent decades to make a career elsewhere? And what scholarly impact did they have in their new environment? With this book we want to start answering these questions.

The *academic starting point* for the project was the observation that the migration experiences of the German-Jewish or left-liberal historians who came to North America as refugees from Nazi Germany have already been well studied. Their influence on the scholarship of modern Germany, in particular German-Jewish history, as well as the history of the Third Reich and the Holocaust, is firmly established. But since we know far less about the comparatively large group of migrant historians who came to North America from the late 1950s onward, we decided to explore their particular experiences. We hope that others will follow and examine the careers of German migrant historians in other countries, especially in Austria, Britain, and Switzerland, all of which have large groups of German migrant scholars as well. We offer a narrative written from the perspective of the migrant historians and hope that others will find their self-reflection interesting and worthwhile. Future research will hopefully also explore how they were perceived by other scholars, not only in the country they left but also in the countries they migrated to and elsewhere around the globe.

This book is in part based on a panel at the German Studies Association Annual Conference in October 2021 and on a subsequent workshop on “German Historians in North America after 1945: Transatlantic Careers and Scholarly Contributions” of the North Carolina German Studies Workshop and Seminar Series (NCGS) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in March 2022.² We had remained hopeful during

the months and weeks before this event that it could take place in person, but this was unfortunately not feasible due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the online workshop made it possible for a larger audience to participate remotely. Our graduate workshop assistants kindly helped us with the Zoom technology.³

We also appreciate the support and encouragement of the members of the NCGS steering committee, who welcomed the conference to UNC–Chapel Hill. North Carolina has a strong academic tradition in German studies and central European history at several colleges and universities. Moreover, a number of scholars with German heritage resides here.⁴ We want to thank especially Thomas Pegelow Kaplan, who was at the time of the workshop the Levine Distinguished Professor of Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies at Appalachian State University; Andrea Sinn, associate professor of modern German and Jewish history at Elon University; and Teresa Walch, assistant professor of modern European history at University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Furthermore, we would like to express our thanks to Michael Thomanek, senior program officer of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) New York office, for his support with the collection of names for the database of German migrant historians that we built up for this book project, as well as the many colleagues who helped us with suggestions of names, or, if they were German migrants themselves, who provided their biographical information and filled out our questionnaire. Without their collaboration we would not have been able to do this project. With the help of this biographical information we built up a FileMaker database, which we used for our prosopographical analysis of the group of eighty-seven German migrant historians whom we were able to identify; all of them were born between the 1930s and 1980s and migrated mostly since the late 1950s to North America. Our thanks also go to Björn Hennings, Derek Holmgren, and Peter Gengler, who helped us with the development of the database.

Finally, we want to thank our sponsors for their financial support of the NCGS workshop and this book project: The German Academic Exchange Service, the Max Kade Foundation, the UNC–Chapel Hill Center for European Studies, the UNC–Chapel Hill Department of History, and the Carolina Seminar Series. Without their support we could not have published this book—itsself a transatlantic exercise. Last but not least, our thanks have to go to our very collaborative authors, without whom this volume would not have been possible, to our unknown reviewers for their positive and very constructive feedback on the manuscript, and to our copy editor and indexer David T. Fletcher for his careful work. It was a great pleasure for us to work together with all of them!

Chapel Hill, 24 June 2024

Karen Hagemann and Konrad H. Jarausch

Notes

1. Konrad H. Jarausch, *The Burden of German History: A Transatlantic Life* (New York: Berghahn Books, 2023).
2. The program of the NCGS workshop on 3–4 March 2022 is available at: <https://ncgsws.web.unc.edu/workshop-march-2022/> (accessed 27 July 2023).
3. We especially want to thank Kevin J. Hoeper, Maddie James, Kenneth Negy, Till Knobloch, and Pasuth Thothaveesansuk.
4. On the NCGS series, which we started in 2006, see: <https://ncgsws.web.unc.edu/> (accessed 27 July 2023).