

# TRANSIT

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A Journal of Travel, Migration, and Multiculturalism in the German-speaking World

TRANSIT [ISSN 1551-9627], originating from the [Department of German](#) at the [University of California, Berkeley](#), is the first refereed, multidisciplinary online journal dedicated to the critical inquiry of travel, migration, and multiculturalism in the German-speaking world.

TRANSIT publishes one issue over the course of a year in several rounds of publication, allowing for new submissions throughout the year. Each issue also contains an open forum for experimental work and review essays on relevant books. This issue format utilizes the features of electronic publishing to rapidly increase the ability of scholars to respond to one another's work.



**[Our latest issue, Landscapes of Migration \(Vol. 12.1\)](#)** features academic articles on works of literature, literary translations, photo projects and a book review of *White Rebels in Black: German Appropriation of Black Popular Culture* by Priscilla Layne.

**TRANSIT accepts contributions at any time of the year from all disciplines investigating** cultural production: literature, history, theater, linguistics, social sciences, anthropology, political science, geography, cultural studies, art history, philosophy, religious studies, visual culture, and film studies and the arts. Timely publication and distribution are ensured by the University of California's [eScholarship Digital Information Repository](#).

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## CFP TRANSIT Journal: Volume 12.2

### Landscapes of Migration

According to the UNHCR's most recent, available data,[1] there are currently 70.8 million people around the world who have been forced from their homes. Of these, 25.9 million are refugees, over half of whom are under 18 years old. Thirty people per minute are forcibly displaced. At the same time, climate change is rapidly intensifying; rising sea levels, extreme weather, and natural catastrophes are slowly but surely becoming the norm. According to a 2018 special report by UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,[2] the world has 11 years left to keep global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius by curbing carbon emission by at least 45 percent (25 percent higher than current standards). The alternative increase of 2 degrees or higher would be disastrous for agricultural communities, biodiversity and societal infrastructures across the globe.

It is clear that crises of the environment and migration affect one another. As the world arounds us changes both physically and ideologically, it grows ever more urgent to consider the human relationship to landscapes and how our actions, perspectives, and interventions shape them. Within the interrelated discourses on climate, politics, and [migratory] spaces, the term "landscape" can have a variety of implications beyond the conventional connotation of fixed outdoor environment. Rather than affirm 'natural,' immutable characteristics, "landscape" can reflect the changing assemblage of geographical, physical, and imaginary entities. For instance, Georg Simmel intuits that to perceive a particular landscape is a creative and constitutive act that actualizes a viewer's subjective expression. Alternatively, "landscape" can take on a metaphorical dimension to describe the composition of a group or set of practices such as cultural landscapes, media landscapes, and, for our purposes, migration landscapes.

In this issue of TRANSIT, we further explore questions raised in [TRANSIT 12.1](#): How do different understandings of landscape interact and in turn shape each other? How might a landscape of migration affect and/or overlap with an ecological landscape? How does one represent changes in the environment, especially in light of the unprecedented magnitude, speed and intricacy of transnational movement and global-environmental transformation? How can we strive to make patterns of migration more intelligible and what are the limits of that intelligibility? What sort of ethical considerations are necessary in framing mobility and the environment with both images and words?

TRANSIT invites reflections on German Studies as an academic field in light of these questions. What are the implications for German Studies in analyzing global phenomena that call into question the very idea of national borders? How do concepts of nation persist or dissolve in the wake of so-called "refugee crises" or climate change? How do linguistic and cultural evolutions challenge or nuance conventional understandings of national arts and literatures?

This CFP encourages contributions from a range of disciplines including literary studies, language pedagogy, history, film and media studies, performance studies, geography, philosophy, translation, critical theory, and anthropology. Please see the contents of our previous issue on the reverse side. **Due to numerous requests, we have decided to extend the deadline for all English- or German-language papers or projects to September 21st, 2019.** Please see our [submission guidelines](#) and email [transitjournal@berkeley.edu](mailto:transitjournal@berkeley.edu) CC [misandberg@berkeley.edu](mailto:misandberg@berkeley.edu) (Michael Sandberg Managing Editor).