

Susan Gross Solomon, Lion Murard and Patrick Zylberman (eds), *Shifting boundaries of public health: Europe in the twentieth century*, Rochester Studies in Medical History, vol. 12, Rochester, NY, University of Rochester Press, 2008, pp. viii, 338, £50.00, \$90.00 (hardback 978-1-58046-283-9).

This volume is a collection of ten papers written by eminent scholars within the field of public health history. Through the introduction's analysis of twentieth-century public health historiography, the editors present the book's agenda as an investigation into "the shifting boundaries between [the international, national and local] levels in the making of policy, the design of structures and instruments, and the refinement of expertise in European public health" (p. vii). These "levels" may be geographical or administrative. However, they also refer to the "porous boundaries" between government and private agencies, as well as those separating knowledge claims of a general, global validity from those referring to the health challenges of a local setting—e.g., a particular field, a social group, or an individual state. Interestingly, several papers address fluctuations and changes in the meaning of the basic concepts "international", "national" and "local" in relation to health policy throughout the century.

The papers are organized into four parts: in the first part, 'Place as politics', papers by Peter Baldwin and Dorothy Porter discuss collective and individual responsibilities in the light of recent debates on preventive health care. Baldwin analyses the diverging strategies chosen by democratic societies during the early phase of the AIDS epidemic, as a transmittable disease caused "in some measure by our own voluntary habits" (p. 29). The second part, 'Carving out the international', includes papers by Paul Weindling and Iris Borowy on the internationalization of public health in the interwar period, as well as a paper by James A Gillespie on post-war international agencies in the field. Here, the "shifting borders" move between the

international and the local, as well as between the different American agencies of philanthropic support and their benefactors (Weindling), between the League of Nations Health Organization's lack of operational space during the Second World War and the manoeuvres preserving some of its key features in the World Health Organization (Borowy); and between sets of meaning attached to the concept of international health (Gillespie). In the third part, 'Preserving the local', papers by Lion Murard, Sabine Schleiermacher and Graham Mooney further elaborate on how "the local" has been intimately connected to both national and international levels. Schleiermacher's comparison on health polices in the occupation zones of post-war Germany presents an intriguing story of continuation and discontinuities of past policies. In the last part, 'Navigating between international and local', Susan Gross Solomon delivers a strong paper, comparing strategies for cross-border "fact-finding" by Soviet and American public health experts in the inter-war period. Patrick Zylberman elaborates on malaria prevention in southern Europe, arguing that "American malariology was profoundly different from social malariology of a European ilk" (p. 269).

Most papers appear to be based on original research, quoting contemporary printed sources as well as archival documents. The book gives no pretence to be a general reader of European public health history, with the slight exception of its sub-title. Rather, this can be seen as a collection of papers with a shared agenda to investigate a range of "border-crossings". Seven out of the ten papers concentrate on the years 1920 to 1950. As all the four parts contain papers addressing the local or individual as opposed to more general entities, the organization of papers may appear somewhat random. Therefore, it is unfortunate that even obvious connections and explicit contrasts between papers are not discussed, or, at least, noted in cross-references. For example, Weindling and Murard present quite diverging interpretations

on the basis of a similar range of sources, but are placed in different parts of the book.

As the contributions, in general, follow up the aim of investigating the “shifting boundaries” and not the “shifting manifestations” of public health, the collection presents itself as a consistent whole. Combined with the thought-provoking introduction and the excellent quality of several papers, this makes the book a valuable contribution both to public health history, and to the history of “shifting boundaries” within other knowledge and policy fields.

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Engin F Isin and Greg M Nielsen (eds), *Acts of citizenship*, London and New York, Zed Books, 2008, pp. xii, 308, £70.00, \$126.00 (hardback 978-1-84277-951-4), £18.99, \$34.00 (paperback 978-1-84277-952-1).

Since the 1980s, citizenship in many Western democracies has become, throughout the political spectrum, a fashionable concept to articulate dissatisfaction with specific developments in society as well as to put forward solutions. Several social and political issues have been articulated in terms of citizenship: the crisis of the welfare state; the consequences of individualization and economic liberalization, especially the presumed loss of social cohesion and the growing social divide between well-off and deprived groups; mass immigration and growing cultural and ethnic diversity; increasing voter apathy and the declining trust in parliamentary democracy; the demise of communism; and European unification, and globalization. Discussion focuses on the (supposedly disturbed) balance between rights and obligations. Various solutions are proposed, but they all tend towards a revitalization of civic virtues. Neo-liberals, neo-conservatives, and communitarians, as

well as political theorists and commentators have argued that civic, political and social rights have largely been materialized as passive entitlements while the other side of democratic citizenship has been neglected: the capacity and willingness actively to participate in public life and take on social responsibilities. The highly politicized manner in which citizenship has been raised as an urgent public issue is for a large part entwined with a (rightist) rejection of the cultural and political legacy of the liberation movements in the 1960s and 1970s.

This collection of essays is part of the contemporary discussion on citizenship, but at the same time it is an attempt to criticize and surpass it, as the general introductory chapters by Engin Isin, Melanie White and Bettina Bergo make clear. They question current notions of citizenship as a formal and enduring legal and political status within the boundaries of representative democracy and the (nation) state. Advancing the concept of “acts of citizenship”, they shift the emphasis to active, creative and innovative deeds, concrete practices of individual and collective engagement, which rupture the normality of everyday life, challenge the existing social and political order, and also cross the boundaries of states and nations. In this—undeniably leftist—view, the latter substantive form of citizenship is in fact the condition which gives individuals the possibility to constitute themselves as true democratic citizens, who, as activist and recalcitrant agents, demand to be heard in public and who may provoke public dialogues on a wide range of issues. This approach of citizenship implies an argument in favour of diversity and reflexivity, that is, of a consideration of the world from different viewpoints as opposed to a one-dimensional perspective. Bryan Turner, Peter Nyers, and William Walters discuss the significance of such diversity and reflexivity with respect to global migration, increasing cultural pluralism, and the salience of ethnic identity and (Muslim) religion in the public sphere. The chapters by Fred Evans, Greg Nielsen, and Kieran Bonner throw light on the