Hilde Greefs and Anne Winter (eds.), *Migration Policies and Materialities of Identification in European Cities Papers and Gates, 1500–1930s*. [Routledge Advances in Urban History, No. 2.] (Abingdon: Routledge, 2018). 320 p. ISBN 9781138351783

In the recent academic debate surrounding migration, the focus has shifted towards the idea of the securitizing of migration and regulatory practices concerning migratory movements. The recent book; *Migration Policies and Materialities of Identification in European Cities Papers and Gates, 1500–1930s*, edited by Hilde Greefs, Associate Professor in History at the University of Antwerp, and Anne Winter, Associate Professor in History at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, fits well within the trend of researching regulatory practices of migration. The edited volume offers various case studies that examine the ways in which migrants were controlled by means of several regulation policies and identification practices within cities across time and space in Europe. To make the development of regulatory practices visible the book consists of twelve chapters of which six concern the early modern period and include the examination of regulation and identification practices from Stockholm to Istanbul. The other six chapters focus on the modern period and include case studies from Budapest to London. The book was the result of two international workshops relating to urban agency and is part of a larger book series named advances in urban history.

This volume aims to research the regulation of migrants from a local perspective. By placing the urban context at the centre of the research, the book strives to go beyond just researching regulatory practices from the level of the nation state. By focusing on migration policies in cities, regulatory practices can be traced back well before the formation of the nation state. Next to that, the essays in the book aim to innovate by not focussing on the regulation and control of specific migrant groups, but by taking a broad look at all regulatory practices. In doing this the book tries to identify similarities and differences in the evolution of migration regulation practises from the sixteenth century towards the twentieth century across Europe. In this sense it can also be established in which way migration control affected different migrant groups differently, according to origin, ethnicity, religion and gender. The volume also has the aim to review the interaction between various levels of governance when it comes to the formation of policies of identification and regulation. In the essaysregarding policy practices in Bourdeaux, Marseille, Budapest and Vienna, in the nineteenth century for example, the idea is disputed that the nation state was the only one that had influence on the way in which migrants were regulated. It is argued that local authorities had great influence in shaping national migration policies through the local implementation and enforcement of such policies. Finally, the book also strives to include migrant agency by focussing on the way that the local interactions with migrants shaped the practices of identification, but also by indicating the ways in which migrants tried to circumvent the various policies.

The edited volume is successful in providing a comprehensive look at the different policies, materialities and practices of migration regulation and control in various parts of Europe. The contributions are complimentary and form a cohesive story. In essence the book thus gives a good insight into the development of regulation practices and the way in which interactions with different institutional levels played a part in the development of regulatory practices. The volume lacks however, in pointing out the various parallels between the case studies. The book would have gained greater impact if the editors were able to connect the various case studies beyond the key themes introduced in the introduction. It is clear, for example, that there are strong similarities between the practices of control in early modern Venice, Turin and Frankfurt. The book nonetheless does not provide an overview of such similarities or an explanation for such connections in its conclusion.

The book would have also benefited from giving more detailed attention to the agency of migrants. Although the different contributions provide references to how migrants dealt with different migration policies and how they tried to circumvent them, see for example the chapters on migration policies in London, Berlin and Habsburg Austria, the reader is sometimes still left with questions as to how migration policies were formed from the bottom-up and whether migrants adapted different strategies to circumvent regulations. If given more detailed attention, the interaction between the migrants themselves and the development of migration policies would have become clearer.

The volume is successful in pushing the debate forward as it raises the question for future research about the connections between the regulatory practices of several cities in early modern and modern Europe. Next to that it raises questions about the strategies of migrants towards changing regulatory practices. All in all, the book is a valuable contribution to the debates surrounding urban history and migration control as it provides a comprehensive, long-ranging and cohesive overview of migration policies and materialities that have the aim to regulate and control migrants across time and space. It is therefore valuable within the recent trend of research that focusses on the securitization and regulation of migration.