

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The road to *Viapolitics* has been long and winding, and we have incurred many debts along the way. William Walters began reflecting on the absence of vehicles and routes in migration and border studies, and forging the concept of viapolitics to draw attention to them, in a series of lectures and articles starting in 2011. Charles Heller and Lorenzo Pezzani first encountered this concept in 2013, which helped them capture the ambivalent role of boats both as the means illegalized migrants use to contest exclusionary border policies by crossing the sea and as the object of border control. From then on, we began a dialogue around viapolitics and embarked on a voyage through which we expanded our understanding of this concept and its dimensions in different directions. Mat Coleman was engaged in early discussions about this book idea. We thank him for his insights and encouragement.

Because we felt viapolitics offered us a lens that allowed us to see new things in the world, we decided to invite a group of scholars we admire—and whose work already exemplified the attention to vehicles and routes we sought to foster—to travel with us and try this approach out collectively. We are profoundly grateful to all our contributors for their enthusiasm and readiness to explore this viapolitical gaze with us, which has led to inspiring chapters. We thank them for the commitment and patience they have shown throughout this book project.

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As editors working in three different countries and on two continents, we have done most of our work via digital platforms but occasionally in person at conferences and workshops. We are grateful for the opportunities that the 2014 Borders in Globalization opening conference in Ottawa and the 2016 conference on new materialities in migration and border studies at Ludwig-Maximilians Universität in Munich offered us to present our work as a team.

We developed many of the ideas that fed into this book project and in particular our introductory essay in various formats and settings. William Walters was fortunate to give presentations at the Heyman Center for the Humanities, Columbia University, a workshop on ethnographies of control at University of Stockholm, a workshop on migration routes at Brown University, the new borderlands conference at Carl von Ossietzky University, Oldenburg, the Flying University of Transnational Humanities summer school, Hanyang University, Seoul, and public lectures at the University of Zürich, University of Neuchâtel, and the Zolberg Institute of Migration and Mobility at the New School, New York. He thanks colleagues for those kind invitations and all who offered comments and suggestions that have helped to sharpen his thinking about vehicles and politics. He has also benefited greatly from working with some excellent graduate students who have shared his enthusiasm for this topic. In particular he thanks Leslie Muñoz, Amaha Senu, Victoria Simmons, Rhys Steckle, and Ugur Yildiz. Finally, he acknowledges the debt he owes to Christina Gabriel and Zoë Walters for their unfailing love and patience while he worked on *Viapolitics*. He also thanks Christina for being an indispensable interlocutor on migration topics over the years.

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of events associated with their traveling exhibition *It's Obvious from the Map* at the Istanbul Design Biennale, at Redcat in Los Angeles, and at the European Graduate School in Malta.

Charles Heller would like to thank several friends and colleagues with whom he has shared thoughts on vehicles, routes, and infrastructures and the geophysics of power over the years. In particular, he thanks Cristina Del Biaggio for sharing her knowledge of the Alpine frontier; Olivier Clochard, Philippe Rekacewicz, Lucie Bacon, and Davide Lagarde for their exchanges on the cartography of migrants' trajectories during the 2019 International Festival of Geography in Saint-Dié; Joris Schapendonk and Mehdi Aliouar for their thinking of and in movement; Emmanuel Mbolela (whom he met at a conference at the University of Geneva), and Mamadou Bah (whom he met during the KFDA festival in Brussels), for exemplifying the way the narration of trajectories allows us to cut through the boundaries of time and space and weave new political connections. He is grateful for the support of the Swiss National Science Foundation, which has supported several of his research projects during the time of writing.

Lorenzo Pezzani would also like to thank the organizers and participants of the April 2019 "Imaginative Mobilities" seminar at the New School in New York, where he presented a draft of the introduction to this volume. Some of the ideas that have informed this project have been developed in the frame of his "Hostile Environments" project, which has been supported by a Small Grant of the British Academy and has been presented at the Royal College of Art and at Birkbeck Law School in London; at Bard College and at Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation in New York; at the Oxford Migration Studies Society Conference; and at ar/ge Kunst in Bozen/Bolzano, Italy, and z33 in Hasselt, Belgium, as an exhibition and a series of events. He would also like to thank his colleagues and students at Goldsmiths, University of London, whose insights have greatly enriched this project.

Our thinking has been deeply inspired by the political imagination of those who are constantly forging new infrastructures of movement in the face of restrictive migration policies and violent borders. Their obstinacy and inventiveness, often exercised at the cost of their own lives, has shown us that viapolitics is not only an analytical category: for many, it is a daily practice of making and remaking the world, of drawing new connections where there only appeared to be walls.

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