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Can M. Aybek, Johannes Huinink, Raya Muttarak (Eds): Spatial Mobility, Migration, and Living Arrangements

**Springer, Cham, Heidelberg, New York, Dordrecht, London,
2015, 246 pp, ISBN 978-3-319-10020-3, 978-3-319-10021-0
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This volume addresses various kinds of spatial mobility (commuting, residential mobility, migration) and their connections with living arrangements. The topics covered are quite diverse. Next to an introduction by the editors, there are chapters on marriage migration and transnational couples (Aybek, Strassburger and Yüksel-Kaptanoglu), partner choice of second-generation migrants (Topgül), fertility in marriages between natives and marriage migrants (Glowsky), intensive commuting (Viry and Vincent-Geslin), the impacts of spatial mobility on partnership quality (Feldhaus and Schlegel), and on union dissolution (Kley), living arrangements of immigrants (Arpino, Muttarak, and Vitali), the perceived consequences of leaving home for labor market prospects (Luetzelberger), post-separation families (Schier), and residential mobility in later life (Milewski and Loth). In terms of appeal to a readership, this diversity can be seen as both a strength and a weakness. My guess is that many researchers will find chapters in the book that fit their research interests, but only few will find many that do or will be tempted to read the book from the first to the last page.

To start with a critical note, I was surprised about the lack of both depth and broadness in the conceptualization of spatial mobility in the Introduction. The authors distinguish between circular mobility (by which they mean everyday life mobility and commuting) and relocation (residential mobility and migration). But they fail to acknowledge that these are only just a few of many more forms of spatial mobility. Most geographers would use a much wider definition of circular mobility that includes tourism, circular, temporary and seasonal migration. The Introduction

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would have benefitted from consultation of a much broader literature on spatial mobility from geography and demography, for example, using the work of the Australian geographers Martin Bell and the late Graeme Hugo. The authors agree with demographer Frans Willekens that spatial mobility is instrumental behavior rather than a goal in itself, but do not refer to his work. More generally, it becomes clear from the reference lists that most authors contributing to the book are sociologists who are less familiar with spatial mobility research done by geographers and demographers, let alone economists.

In further chapters, the terminology is not always consistent, which leads to some conceptual confusion. The term *overnighter* is used in Chapters 5 and 6, but with different meanings: In Chapter 5, it seems to be a synonym for what has been referred to elsewhere as *commuter marriages* or *commuter partnerships*, in which one partner lives away for work part of the time, but in Chapter 6 the meaning seems to be different in a subtle way. In Chapter 9, *residential mobility* is used for all residential relocations, not just short-distance moves.

That said, the book does bring together some very nice pieces of empirical research. Most of this research is original work not published elsewhere—the chapter by Topgl seems to have been derived from a not easily accessible Ph.D. thesis, the chapter by Feldhaus and Schlegel seems to be an extension of a 2013 article in *Comparative Population Studies*, the chapter by Kley seems to be an extension of a 2012 article in German in *Zeitschrift fr Soziologie*, and the other chapters seem to be new work (one might think this is self-evident, but too often have I been disappointed to see books containing chapters that were reproduced from articles published elsewhere). The book furthermore presents a nice mixture of quantitative and qualitative work, which adds to its attractiveness.

Although it might not seem immediately obvious where to find the common ground in these diverse chapters, one thing becomes very clear after reading all of them. By treating people as individuals possibly having a workplace elsewhere where they commute each day but living in one household at a time, and households as entities who live in one residence from which they might relocate, we miss out on a lot of complex forms of mobility and forms of sharing residences in different ways than as just one household. It would be incorrect to say that spatial mobility is growing—in fact, whereas commuting has grown, residential mobility and internal migration have decreased quite strongly in many countries in recent times (e.g. see work by Thomas J. Cooke on declining migration and secular rootedness in the USA). But my guess is that the more complex forms of mobility, and of sharing residences, have grown in the past and will continue to grow in the future. This book provides welcome examples of the type of research we need to understand this growing complexity.