

## **Escape to Lower Austria: Galician Jews 1914–1920**

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World War I initiated a great movement of peoples in the northeast of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. While the situation of Jews who arrived as refugees from Galicia in Vienna and the difficulties they faced have been at least rudimentarily researched, the refugee movement to Lower Austria had remained a desideratum in research. The Ministry of War created altogether ten camps for the refugees, of which three were located in Lower Austria (in Gmünd, Bruck an der Leitha, and Pottendorf). This sub-project addressed this desideratum, examining the reasons and imperatives of this escape from Galicia, the routes traveled (how refugees were transported and supplied en route), as well as potential return or other fates after fleeing. The project achieved a nuanced description of these refugees, who were all too homogeneously perceived as “Ostjuden”, the most salient characteristics in the description of which are class, age, and gender. Aside from addressing who was fleeing, the project was also concerned with the manner of escape and the routes chosen: Was the flight spontaneous or guided by civil authorities and military instances? How were the refugees supplied en route? To answer these questions, the project employed the approach of “*histoire croisée*” (entangled history).