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**Christian Fleck, *Etablierung in der Fremde. Vertriebene Wissenschaftler in den USA nach 1933.* Frankfurt am Main; New York: Campus Verlag, 2015. Pp. 475. €39.90. ISBN: 978-3-593-50173-4.**

**Reviewed by Paul J. Weindling, Oxford Brookes University**

This is a finely written and insightful overview of German-speaking émigré social scientists in the United Kingdom and the United States in the 1930s and 1940s. The book has two halves — the first is an overview, and the second three in-depth case studies of social scientists. Fleck gives a careful account of the founding of the Academic Assistance Council (AAC) in London, England, in 1933, including the preliminary informal meetings in Vienna. The question of whether the British social scientist and director of the London School of Economics, William Beveridge (1879–1963), or the mercurial Hungarian-American physicist Leo Szilard (1898–1964) first conceived the scheme is treated in parallel accounts. Other ingenious ventures are considered in some detail, such as the scheme for a university in exile, centred around the New School of Social Research in New York.

A comparison of the AAC (later the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning) and the Emergency Committee in the United States would have been of interest. Beveridge was profoundly and rightly disappointed by the limited support and contributions from American philanthropic foundations to aid émigré scientists and scholars. Fleck considers the practice of the Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars in the 1930s and 1940s, and the difficulties of dealing with elite and lingeringly racist universities such as Harvard in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

This is a well-documented account. Although much use is rightly made of the Rockefeller Foundation archives in Sleepy Hollow, New York, the various Rockefeller Foundation officers might have been investigated in greater detail to bring out differences between their personal views and the limited Rockefeller Foundation policies regarding refugees. The analysis of networks, based on foundations, sponsors, and academics, is of great interest. Comparison of social science support to the Rockefeller Foundation funding of the physical sciences and molecular biology might have been illuminating as well.

The case studies involve the tragic case of the Austrian-American historian and philosopher of science Edgar Zilsel (1891–1944), whose publications had ceased in 1935, although he clung to the dream of producing a great book. Zilsel unfortunately committed suicide in 1944. The second figure is the barely known Austrian psychologist Gustav Ichheiser (1897–1969), who was rescued by extensive efforts on the part of the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning, but then encountered the much narrower-minded stance of Americans, with their quotas and rejections of guarantors. When Ichheiser arrived in the United States, he remained rootless and unable to meet the requirements of American social scientists. The final case study is of the more adaptable and successful Paul Lazarsfeld (1901–1976), who achieved immense academic success with his sociological studies of modern media types and channels.

Migrants were not necessarily refugees, as shown by the case of the illustrious economist Joseph Schumpeter (1883–1950), who initially had a positive view of National Socialism. He treated many pleading letters from academics facing expulsion as no more than scrap notepaper to be scribbled on and cut up; yet he sporadically hunted for openings for those dismissed and distressed colleagues whom he valued, especially the Austrians. Some approaches came out of extreme distress, such as that of socialist politician Otto Leichter (1897–1973), whose wife Kaethe (1895–1942), an economist in her own right, was imprisoned (and murdered) in Ravensbrück.

The book concludes with reflections on what it meant to become established in a receiving academic and scientific culture. Fleck looks at chance structures, scientific capital, earlier predisposing factors such as previous visits, language skills, culture, personality and identity, and finally traumatization through persecution. These are deftly and insightfully sketched out as factors, rather than offered as a systematically based definitive theory of the refugee's efforts to transfer skills and adapt to a new and dynamic culture. Overall, this is an impeccably researched study, rich in original and insightful analysis.