

Technology and Urban History

In comparable contexts across the 19th-century world, state-led initiative on public works attracted local as well as foreign migrant labor. The improved transportation infrastructure, in turn, facilitated the movement of jobseekers and tourists alike. As they accelerated the mobility of some, however, these infrastructural projects became an obstacle in the life of others. Moreover, the companies in charge of the worksites often built “company towns” from scratch to house the cheap and temporary labor who preferably toiled hard and whined little. Born as the backdrop of massive infrastructural projects, such “company towns” embodied both company managers’ ideals and expectations about workers’ behavior as well as inhabitants’ transgressions and uses of the urban space.

- History of infrastructural projects (e.g. canals & railways)
- History of “company towns”
- Working-class history
- History of tourism