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# Introduction

Günter Bischof

“Austrian Studies” is not a very well defined field, because “Austria” as a territorial entity has changed its size dramatically over the course of a thousand-plus year history. Historians grapple with these changing concepts of “Austria” over time. Among many reinventions, there are the ancient “Duchy of Austria” – quasi core-Austria along the Danube; the medieval/early modern “Austria” of the Habsburg territories of the “House Austria”; the “Austrian Empire,” proclaimed in 1806 after the collapse of the Holy Roman Empire; “Cisleithanian” Austria of the Dual Monarchy (1867–1918); and there is the state of “Austria,” formed in 1918 after the collapse of the Habsburg Monarchy—today’s “Austria.” In other words, the territorial expanse of Austria has changed greatly over time and needs to be seen in its respective historical contexts.<sup>1</sup> Cultural, literary, music, architecture and art historians relate the extraordinary artistic production that has come out of the historical territories that have been Austria as “Austrian Studies.” Also, the lack of a well-developed Austrian identity until the second half of the twentieth century has not furthered the genesis of a field called “Austrian Studies” that is well-defined.<sup>2</sup>

The attempt to circumscribe what constitutes “Austrian Studies” might be helped by looking to the better-defined field of “American Studies.” When the United States developed into the world’s most powerful state after World War II, it also made the study of America (interdisciplinary “American Studies”) into an imperial project signaling the widespread American presence in the world. The American Studies Association defines American Studies as “a locus of interdisciplinary inquiry into the national

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1 There is considerable historical literature grappling with this problem, see Martin Scheutz and Arno Strohmeier, eds., *Was heißt “österreichische” Geschichte? Probleme, Perspektiven und Räume der Neuzzeitforschung* (Innsbruck: StudienVerlag, 2008); Richard G. Plaschka, Gerald Stourzh, and Jan Paul Niederkorn, eds., *Was heißt Österreich? Inhalt und Umfang des Österreichbegriffes vom 10. Jahrhundert bis heute* (Archiv für österreichische Geschichte, vol. 136) (Vienna: VÖAW, 1995).

2 Among many books on Austrian identity, see Ernst Bruckmüller, *The Austrian Nation: Cultural Consciousness and Socio-Political Processes*, transl. Lowell A Bangerter (Riverside, CA: Ariadne, 2003); Peter Thaler, *The Ambivalence of Identity: The Austrian Experience of Nation-Building in a Modern Society* (Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press, 2000); Lutz Musner, Gotthart Wunberg, and Eva Cescutti, eds., *Gestörte Identitäten: Ein Zwischenbilanz der Zweiten Republik* (Innsbruck: StudienVerlag, 2002).

cultures of the United States.”<sup>3</sup> The *interdisciplinarity* certainly is part and parcel of “Austrian Studies” too.

But what would be the “national cultures” of Austria? In the late Habsburg Monarchy, it may have been German Studies, Jewish Studies, Hungarian Studies, Czech Studies, etc. But “inquiry into its national cultures”? Given Austrian identity today, in Austria it would mean “German Studies,” yet Austrian Studies self-consciously sees itself separate from German Studies. Whereas most political camps saw the First Austrian Republic as a “German state,” the Second Republic reconstituted after the disasters of World War II quickly distanced itself from Hitler’s Third Reich and saw itself as the “Austrian nation,” far removed from Germany. In 1955, the conclusion of the State Treaty and the Austrian Parliament’s declaration of “permanent neutrality” came to enhance Austrian identity.<sup>4</sup> As Harold James has reminded us, identity is indeed a notoriously “fuzzy” concept.<sup>5</sup> In the Anglo-American academic tradition and practice, Austrian Studies is usually subsumed within German Studies.<sup>6</sup> But how much does “Austrian Studies” cover today’s minorities and their cultures? Slovenian and Croatian Studies? Romani Studies? Today, one might also have to add the study of Muslims in Austria. Are these separate fields, or along the definition of “American Studies,” part and parcel of Austrian Studies? Going back to the interwar period (1918–1938), most Austrians may have considered the study of Habsburg Austria and its glorious past as defining “Austrian Studies.” That changed after World War II when, as a result of the wartime experiences, Austrians began to distance themselves from all things related to Germany.

In the initial mission statement of *Contemporary Austrian Studies*, this serial publication was conceived of as pursuing the study of “contemporary Austria in its Central European context” (after 1918) from an interdisciplinary perspective, but particularly from the purview of the

3 See the White Paper “What Is American Studies,” in *American Studies Association*, April 2015 <[http://www.theasa.net/images/uploads/What\\_is\\_American\\_Studies.pdf](http://www.theasa.net/images/uploads/What_is_American_Studies.pdf)> (18 Feb. 2016).

4 Dieter A. Binder and Ernst Bruckmüller, *Essay über Österreich: Grundfragen von Identität und Geschichte 1918–2000* (Vienna: Verlag für Geschichte und Politik, 2005), 101–110; Gerald Stourzh, “Erschütterung und Konsolidierung des Österreichbewusstseins – vom Zusammenbruch der Monarchie zur Zweiten Republik,” in *Was heißt Österreich?*, ed. Plaschka/Stourzh/Niederlechner, 289–311.

5 Harold James in a special issue on German Identity in the *German Studies Review*, see “Reflections on German Identity: Introduction,” *German Studies Review* (Winter 1992): 1.

6 See the mission statement of the German Studies Association in the U.S.: “The German Studies Association is the multi- and interdisciplinary association of scholars in German, Austrian, and Swiss history, literature, culture studies, political science, and economics.” *German Studies Association* <<https://www.thegsa.org/index.html>> (19 Feb. 2016).

social sciences (history, political science, economics). We chose not to include the humanities then (literature, music, fine arts); in the 1980s and early 1990s, there was a flowering of studies on *fin de siècle* Vienna (at the time not yet called “cultural studies”). Part of the CAS mission as defined in the preface to the first volume has been to assert “Austrian Studies” in the global arena as a field separate from “German Studies,” “devoted to a self-confident assertion and promotion of a separate Austrian identity vis-à-vis Germany,” adding that “after the unification of Germany, such a program seems even more important.”<sup>7</sup> With the unification of Germany in 1990, some Austrians became anxious about new dangers of “Anschluss.”<sup>8</sup> That anxiety has dissipated since Austria has been moving more closely to Germany, especially economically, within the European Union. Moreover, Germans have been the largest immigrant group in Austria lately.

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This volume celebrates the study of Austria in the twentieth century by historians, political scientists and social scientists produced in the previous 24 volumes of *Contemporary Austrian Studies*. One contributor from each of the previous volumes has been asked to update the state of scholarship in the field addressed in the respective volume. The title *Austrian Studies Today*, then, attempts to reflect the state of the art of historical and social science related studies of Austria over the past century, without claiming to be comprehensive. The volume thus covers many important themes of Austrian contemporary history and politics following the collapse of the Habsburg Monarchy in 1918: from World War I and its legacies, to the rise of authoritarian regimes in the 1930s and 1940s, to the reconstruction of republican Austria after World War II, the years of Grand Coalition governments and the Kreisky era, all the way to Austria joining the European Union in 1995 and its impact on Austria’s international status and domestic politics. It does not claim to include the cultural studies approach to Austria.

The essays presented here are not in any chronological order, but reflect the respective volumes as they were published. Next to essays with a more traditional biographical (“great man”) approach to distinct political eras and their contexts (Dollfuss/Schuschnigg, Kreisky, Vranitzky, Schüssel), there are topical essays on specific socio-cultural phenomena (religion, sexuality,

7 Günter Bischof and Anton Pelinka, Introduction, in *Austria in the New Europe*, ed. idem (Contemporary Austrian Studies, vol. 1 [hereinafter cited as CAS 1]) (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction, 1993), 2–3.

8 Oliver Rathkolb, Georg Schmidt, and Gernot Heiss, eds., *Österreich und Deutschlands Größe: Ein schlampiges Verhältnis* (Salzburg: Otto Müller Verlag, 1990).

memory & identity, biographical studies), political/economic topics (political culture, social partnership, voting behavior), regional studies (federalism) as well as Austria's position in the international arena (foreign policy, neutrality, Americanization, Austria and the European Union). An introductory essay on representations of Austria in the museum (a hotly debated topic in Austria today) and a concluding essay on the state of the art of "*fin de siècle* Vienna studies" complete the Volume. Some of these later topics would fit the purview of a more culturally oriented approach to "Austrian Studies." Since CAS has claimed since its first volume that it would try to cover "the social and economic sciences" since 1918, we have never pretended to adhere to a more broad-minded inclusive approach to "Austrian Studies" that includes cultural studies. In fact, the highly fashionable field of "cultural studies" has only come into existence and full fruition after the genesis of this journal/yearbook.

Both in Volume 10 and Volume 20 of *Contemporary Austrian Studies* we have provided rough statistics of what fields and which time periods we have been covering in our pages.<sup>9</sup> Given that this is our 25th anniversary volume, we thought this was a good point in time to update this statistical analysis.

	History		Political Science							Reviews				Total				
	Political/Social	Diplomatic/International	Economic	Intellectual	Memory	Culture/Identity	Religion	Gender	Intelligence	Domestic/Political Culture	Foreign Relations/International	European Union	Roundtables/Forums	Review Essays	Book Reviews	Annual Review	Introductions	
CAS 1-10																		
1918-1938	2			1				1										
1938-1945	5					2		3	2		2							
1945-1983	5	11	11			1		3	3	11								
1984-2000		2	2		1					17	9	6	3	12	51	10	21	190
CAS 11-20																		
pre-1914	2	1		1				1										
1918-1938	11	5	8	2	2	2		1										
1938-1945	8		1										3					
1945-1983	8	8	4	1	2	6	3	7		3			2					
1984-2000		2								3								
2000-2010	2	2	4	2	1		5	2		10	3	2	3	15	51	10	9	218
CAS 21-24																		
pre-1914	3				2	1				1								
1914-1918					2	1												
1918-1938	5																	
1938-1945	2				1	2												
1945-1989	3	2			4	2				1								
1990-2015		2			2	1				5	2	4	2		30	4	3	87

<sup>9</sup> CAS 10, 3; CAS 20, 9.

CAS has always closely followed what related journals in Austrian and Central European Studies have been doing. Next to reading these quarterly or annual publications, one way of surveying their work is to look at their mission statements and see what they claim to be doing. What follows is a quick survey of these Austrian Studies organizations and their journals (in their own words):

The Austrian Studies Association (ASA, formerly the Modern Austrian Literature and Culture Association, MALCA) continues traditions started in 1961, as the only North American association devoted to scholarship on all aspects of Austrian, Austro-Hungarian, and Habsburg territory cultural life and history from the eighteenth century until today. These changes acknowledge what has long been the Association's identity: an interdisciplinary organization that welcomes all eras and disciplines of Austrian studies at its conferences and in its journal, including scholarship on the cultures of Austria's earlier political forms (the Holy Roman Empire, the Austrian Empire, and Austria-Hungary) and scholarship that acknowledges this region's historical multiethnic, multilingual, and transcultural identities and their legacies in the present.<sup>10</sup> ASA publishes *The Journal of Austrian Studies*, an interdisciplinary quarterly that publishes scholarly articles on all aspects of the history and culture of Austria, Austro-Hungary, and the Habsburg territory. The journal highlights scholarly work that draws on innovative methodologies and new ways of viewing Austrian history and culture. Although the journal was renamed in 2012 to reflect the increasing scope and diversity of its scholarship, it has a long lineage dating back over a half century as *Modern Austrian Literature* and, prior to that, *The Journal of the International Arthur Schnitzler Research Association*.<sup>11</sup>

Founded in 1965 by R. John Rath, the *Austrian History Yearbook* remains the only English-language journal devoted to the history of the territories in Central Europe that were formerly under Habsburg rule and now comprise the modern states of Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and parts of Italy, Poland, Ukraine, Romania and Serbia. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the search for stability in the former East bloc has brought an upsurge of interest in the region's Habsburg heritage.<sup>12</sup>

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10 *Austrian Studies Association* <<http://www.austrian-studies.org/associationinfo.html>> (18 Feb. 2016).

11 *The Journal of Austrian Studies* <<http://www.journal-of-austrian-studies.org/>> (18 Feb. 2016).

12 "Austrian History Yearbook," in *University of Minnesota* <<http://cas.umn.edu/publications/AHY.HTML>> (18 Feb. 2016).

*Austrian Studies*, published through the Modern Humanities Research Association in the United Kingdom, is a yearbook devoted to reflecting sustained interest in the distinctive cultural traditions of the Habsburg Empire, the Austrian Republics and the period of German annexation. Its focus is Austrian culture from 1750 to the present. Contributions are also encouraged on the culture of former areas of the Habsburg Empire and on the work of people of Austrian origin living abroad.<sup>13</sup> It has been published since 1992 and will have its 25th volume published in 2017.

The Central European History Society publishes the *Journal of Central European History*, which publishes articles, review articles, book reviews, and conference reports dealing with the history of German-speaking Central Europe, using all approaches to history and dealing with all historical periods.<sup>14</sup> In fact, while AHY and the JCEH concentrate on history, the JAS and AS are more literature and cultural studies oriented.

Of course, since the publication of the first volume of CAS in 1993, the Internet with its many digital platforms has added enormously to discourses of “Austrian Studies.” In fact, Habsburg was the first H-Net platform and has provided a steady stream of information, data, and book reviews related to Habsburg Studies.<sup>15</sup> H-German<sup>16</sup> and H-SozKult<sup>17</sup> are similar digital platforms that also cover Austrian issues. There are many more with more specific content. All of them have added vibrancy and immediacy to the study of Austria. In other words, Austrian Studies in the Anglo-American world today has many platforms for scholars to engage in—it can be seen as a field separate from “German Studies.”

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*Contemporary Austrian Studies* and its relative longevity is a testimony to the extraordinary university partnership between the Universities of

13 Modern Humanities Research Association <<http://www.mhra.org.uk/Publications/Journals/Austrian.html>> (18 Feb. 2016).

14 Central European History Society <<http://www.centraleuropeanhistory.org/central-european-history>> (18 Feb. 2016).

15 “HABSBURG is devoted to the history and culture of the former Habsburg lands and their peoples from 1500 to the present. Founded in October 1991, it was the first Internet discussion group dedicated to an historical theme,” see “HABSBURG—A H-Net Discussion Network,” in *H-Net: Humanities & Social Sciences Online* <<https://networks.h-net.org/habsburg>> (18 Feb. 2016).

16 “H-German is a daily Internet discussion forum focused on scholarly topics in German history. There are no chronological limits,” see “H-German,” in *H-Net: Humanities & Social Sciences Online* <<https://networks.h-net.org/node/35008/pages/39070/what-h-german>> (18 Feb. 2016).

17 *H-SozKult – Kommunikation und Fachinformation für die Geschichtswissenschaften* <<http://www.hsozkult.de/>> (18 Feb. 2016).

New Orleans (UNO) and Innsbruck, often called a “model transatlantic university partnership.” In 1976, Gordon “Nick” Mueller initiated the UNO International Summer School in Innsbruck, which in its 41st year is still going strong and has brought some 10,000 young Americans to study in Central Europe for six weeks in the summer. Formerly the University of Florida, now the University of Georgia, have been principal partners of the UNO Summer School. In 1983, the rectors/chancellors of the two universities signed a partnership treaty. This treaty has led to regular student and faculty exchanges, academic conferences and symposia, publication series, among them since 1993 *Contemporary Austrian Studies*. In 1997, CenterAustria was founded at UNO, now called “Center Austria: The Austrian Marshall Plan Center for European Studies,” to coordinate all these activities between the two universities (apart from the UNO Summer School). Center Austria has brought dozens of Innsbruck faculty and over 1,000 students to spend a semester or longer at UNO. Probably few university partnerships exist with more intense cross-fertilization across the Atlantic.

*Contemporary Austrian Studies* has become the flagship publication series of this university partnership. On the UNO side, Günter Bischof has served as editor from the beginning, (even before the initiation of CenterAustria), to this day. The Department of Political Science of the University of Innsbruck has been the institutional partner on the Austrian side. Anton Pelinka (1993–2008), Fritz Plasser (2009–2012), and Ferdinand Karlhofer (2013–2016) have served as editors on the Innsbruck side. While the first 17 volumes were published by Transaction Publishers of New Brunswick, NJ, volumes 18 to 25 have been published by UNO Press in conjunction with *innsbruck* university press. We are grateful to Irving Louis Horowitz and Mary Curtis at Transaction for their cooperation, and to Bill Lavender, Abram Himelstein, and G.K. Darby for theirs at UNO Press. At *innsbruck* university press, Birgit Holzner has been instrumental in making this unique publishing project work, where UNO Press cover the North American/global market, while *iup* takes care of the European market. Gordon “Nick” Mueller, Robert L. Dupont, Susan Krantz, and Kevin Graves served as Executive Editors on the UNO side, Erich Thöni, Franz Mathis, Klaus Frantz, and Christina Antenhofer/Gerhard Rampl on the Innsbruck side. UNO chancellors/presidents Gregory O’Brien, Timothy Ryan, Peter Fos, and Innsbruck *Rektors*, especially Manfred Gantner, Karlheinz Töchterle, and Tilman Märk, have been very supportive as well in keeping the project alive. Dozens of editorial board members and hundreds of contributors have helped fill CAS with content and have kept it going (see the table above).



A number of people have been instrumental in making the completion of this anniversary volume possible. The Innsbruck co-editor Ferdinand Karlhofer—with former editors Anton Pelinka and Fritz Plasser—have helped conceptualize the volume. We are sincerely thankful to all the contributing authors for submitting their essays on time, responding favorably to all editing suggestions from our production team. Vera Kropf, the 2015/16 Austrian Ministry of Science, Research and Economy Research Dissertation Fellow at UNO and PhD student in film studies at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts, has done a superb job in tracking every manuscript through both the copy-editing and proof-reading processes and towards final publication. She has also corrected footnotes and humored authors towards completion of their manuscripts. Daniel McCoy and Moritz Hackl helped with putting the statistics and the table together for this introduction. Hans Petschar, the 2015/16 Marshall Plan Chair at UNO, was very helpful with the illustration of the volume. We thank him and his team at the Picture Archives and Graphics Department of the Austrian National Library, as well as the Austria Press Agency, for providing us with pictures. Ella Pfalzgraff at UNO Press put her customary enthusiasm into the final round of copy-editing the individual manuscripts; Alex Dimeff skillfully type-set the final pdf of the volume and designed the cover. G.K. Darby and Abram Himmelstein, the leadership team at UNO Press, have been hugely supportive to spirit this volume through to final publication. At Center Austria: The Austrian Marshall Plan Center for European Studies, Gertraud Griessner and Moritz Hackl conducted the Center's daily business with superb efficiency thereby allowing the co-editor to work on managing the completion of this volume. Without the dedicated teams at Center Austria and UNO Press there would be no CAS series. At *innsbruck* university press, Birgit Holzner was helpful with the production of the cover and the final round of proof-reading and then producing the volume for the European market. Cooperating with her has become a big bonus in the production of these volumes.

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