Cultural Mobility

*Cultural Mobility* is a blueprint and a model for understanding the patterns of meaning that human societies create. Drawn from a wide range of disciplines, the essays collected here under the distinguished editorial guidance of Stephen Greenblatt share the conviction that cultures, even traditional cultures, are rarely stable or fixed. Radical mobility is not a phenomenon of the twenty-first century alone, but is a key constituent element of human life in virtually all periods. Yet academic accounts of culture tend to operate on exactly the opposite assumption and to celebrate what they imagine to be rooted or whole or undamaged. To grasp the shaping power of colonization, exile, emigration, wandering, contamination, and unexpected, random events, along with the fierce compulsions of greed, longing, and restlessness, cultural analysis needs to operate with a new set of principles. An international group of authors spells out these principles and puts them into practice. *Cultural Mobility* sets out a powerful intellectual agenda with which scholars across the humanities and social sciences will need to engage.

**Stephen Greenblatt** is Cogan University Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University. The author most recently of *Will in the World* (2004), Professor Greenblatt is one of the most distinguished and influential literary and cultural critics at work today, as well as the general editor of *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. His team of collaborators on *Cultural Mobility* all worked together at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin under Professor Greenblatt’s overall direction, and represent a suggestive and unique range of voices and approaches.
CULTURAL MOBILITY:
A MANIFESTO

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CONTENTS

List of authors  page [vii]
List of illustrations  [viii]
Acknowledgments  [ix]

1 Cultural mobility: an introduction
STEVEN GREENBLATT  [1]

2 “The Wheel of Torments”: mobility and redemption in Portuguese colonial India (sixteenth century)
INES G. ŽUPANOVIĆ  [24]

3 Theatrical mobility
STEVEN GREENBLATT  [75]

4 World literature beyond Goethe
REINHARD MEYER-KALKUS  [96]

5 Cultural mobility between Boston and Berlin: how Germans have read and reread narratives of American slavery
HEIKE PAUL  [122]

6 Struggling for mobility: migration, tourism, and cultural authority in contemporary China
PÁL NYÍRI  [172]
CONTENTS

7 Performativity and mobility: Middle Eastern traditions on the move
   FRIEDERIKE PANNEWICK [215]

8 A mobility studies manifesto
   STEPHEN GREENBLATT [250]

Index [254]
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ILLUSTRATIONS

1 São Pedro, Church in Ribandar (Goa). Pulpit decorated with the wooden statues of nages or naginis or nagayakshis (seventeenth century). page [55]

2 Santa Monica, the church of the first monastery for women in Asia, Old Goa. A detail of the decorated pulpit of the church. [58]

3 Front page of the German daily Die Tageszeitung. [123]

4 Excerpt from a map of Berlin (with kind permission of Falk Verlag Ostfildern). [137]

5 Postcard of a Berlin beer garden. [138]

6 Collector’s card of Liebig’s Meat Extract. [139]

7 Frontispiece of the GDR edition of The White Slave. [155]

8 A phone card from East Broadway. [174]

9 & 10 The first pages of the Sichuan Tourism Administration’s brochure Travel Sichuan China. [179]

11 A Chinese tourist drapes a hada around a Tibetan performer’s shoulders. [181]

12 & 13 Two magazines, from Budapest and London. [184]

14 & 15 Songpan’s North Gate before and after the makeover. [188]

16 A languid maiden set against a Budapest landmark: the cover of a novel about Chinese in Hungary. [194]

17 The cover of a Shanghai-based magazine. [204]
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