Le Campus-monde: La Cité internationale universitaire de Paris de 1945 aux années 2000, sous la direction de Dzovinar Kévonian et Guillaume Tronchet. Préface de Christophe Charle, Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2022, 335 pp.

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It has already been for a while that university history is no longer limited to the history of great scholars and the history of successful institutions. This volume is part of a much broader recent trend to focus on the history of social and cultural practices related to university life and its a transnational setting. To this end, the subject matter of this collective study is virtually in the air, for the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris (hereinafter Cité) is a prime example and in many ways a model for the intentional and well-orchestrated internationalization of university campuses.

The Cité, with its various houses for students from different countries and world regions, emerged in the mid-1920s, but most of the contributions in this volume focus on the 1960s (having been preceded in 2013 by a first volume entitled *Le Babel étudiante* that focuses on the decades prior). This is consistent with the finding that no new buildings were erected after 1969 and that a colloquium held in 2001 to mark the 75th anniversary of the Cité

noted the waning momentum of the original idea, as the editors report in their introduction. The Cité lost its appeal in the last quarter of the twentieth century because of changes in higher education as a whole, caused whether by decolonization or by the enormous increase in student numbers, which made an elite project like the Cité seem out of date, even if the ideas of an educational mission of the French Republic and an interaction of students from all over the world continued to be guiding principles. But the vast majority of foreign students had long since been living in other neighbourhoods of Paris or had been pushed into the banlieues by the price revolution. This was driven in no small part by the splitting up of the University of Paris and the construction of large campuses, such as in Nanterre.

From this derives a second theme, already highlighted by Christophe Charle in his preface and running through numerous contributions to this anthology: the inability of those responsible for the Cité to translate the generous utopia of the 1920s into a new policy that responded to post-1968 conditions. Not least, the decision to massively expand automobile traffic (on the Boulevard Périphérique and on the southbound highways or their feeder roads) reduced the possibility of expanding the Cité and made life on the outskirts less and less attractive. Furthermore, neighbouring communities, faced with the pressing demand for housing, envied the generous parkland made available to foreign students.

At the same time, the Cité, like a magnifying glass, became a point of concentration for the intellectual and political conflicts of decolonization (especially in

the Arab region and sub-Saharan Africa) and for the Cold War (in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and with the violent convulsions in many Latin American countries between right-wing dictatorships and left-wing movements). Paris became the place of retreat after defeats and of preparation for the next rounds of confrontations – a real "capital of the Third World", as Michael Goebel elaborates for the years 1919–1939. However, much remains to be done to assess the effects of these study visits on the world of ideas of social movements.

Equally, however, it is possible to ask what role the Cité played in the ever-expanding and differentiating geography of the Parisian system of science and higher education. The old ideal of a campus university – in which living, studying, and visiting the library, theatre, and cinema were spatially close together – was rapidly collapsing. People who study in Paris today are constantly on the move, taking long trips on the various lines of the metro and the RER networks. Accordingly, the inhabitants of the Cité also seek satisfaction of their leisure needs elsewhere, while the theatre of the Cité has become a meeting place for the French and international avant-garde – possibly far removed from the tastes of a student-weary undergraduate. Added to this is the problem of language. Until a few years ago, it was taken for granted that the Cité was francophone (whether this was the case at all in the past remains to be investigated) and that official communication and cultural offerings functioned in French. Only recently has this changed: Paris is becoming a multilingual city, with the Cité following this pattern.

The new project "Cité 2025" envisages a thorough renewal that not only includes the renovation of the architecturally impressive pavilions but also the building of ten new houses that respond to the new geopolitics of the French globalization project. Overall, the number of residents – which has remained limited to about 10,000 – will be increased by about a third, thus also aiming at an opening to new social groups.

In addition to the preface and introduction, this anthology contains 13 case studies, many of which refer to detailed dissertations completed in parallel. They deal with not only individual houses in the Cité and the organization of sports, theatre, and health care but also the connection to the neighbouring parts of the Parisian region and the history of the French student movements, including the place the inhabitants of the Cité played in them. Empirically immensely rich and methodologically stimulating in many directions, this volume demonstrates a distinctive feature of French research funding. With the Agence Nationale de la Recherche, a funding agency has emerged that finances projects that usually last three to four years – a duration far from sufficient to write something as ambitious as the history of the Cité. By cleverly linking up with the research groups from the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), which are anchored at the universities and whose researchers have permanent positions, such comprehensive and long-term projects do succeed. However, this is on the condition that experts in networking can be found who relate the various logics as effectively as the editors of this volume.