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is seen in relation to institutional contexts or social systems as major factors affecting social relations (Giddens 1991). They are also used in relation to time and space to refer to address a certain spatial and temporal constellation that has typically characterized migration studies.

Using a variety of field methods, the book compares the ethnic identities, integration pathways and transnational ties of Albanian migrants and Albanian citizens in three European cities: London, Thessaloniki and Florence. Germany and the UK are the three main European countries where Albanian migrants have settled during their short but intense migration experience of the past two decades, since Albania opened itself to the outside world after more than four decades of isolation under a communist regime. The research on which this book is based involved a 3–4-month period of field work in each of the above-named cities.

The research for this book builds on the above-mentioned observations and was furthermore informed by an international comparative research initiative, the Integration of the Second Generation (ISG), which shapes its overall approach (see prospectus). The ISG programme builds the broad concept of integration and focuses specifically on the second generation, using a cross-comparative approach. It specifies a comparative dimension for all the projects under its umbrella, to be implemented either by including two or more countries and comparing them along several dimensions, or by investigating the differences between two or more ethnic groups in one country. The ISG's project was funded by the Marie-Curie programme of the European Commission. It has comprised of a European survey—the ISG Survey—the construction of measures of integration of Vietnamese, Turkish and (the) Yugoslavians second-generation in eight countries, and a research training network (FES-SITN).