

## **Close to the action! The perception and impact of the peace conference in Basel's foreign environs**

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In the areas of Baden and Alsace close to Basel, the 1912 Peace Congress of the Second International met with considerable interest. Not only was the venue close enough to be reached on a day trip, but there were also close cross-border contacts at that time. In the preceding decades, Basel had developed into a trans-border industrial region. Factories had been built on either side of the borders, particularly in the textile industry, and the unionised working classes had made cross-border connections correspondingly. Lörrach labour union representatives took part in demonstrations in Basel and Saint-Louis, and Basel representatives likewise attended events and election campaigns in South Baden and Upper Alsace. Nevertheless, in August 1914 international solidarity failed even in the border region of Basel. This paper explores these developments and, in its first section, discusses the various perceptions of the Peace Congress in the foreign environs of Basel, which at the time were entirely German. In a second step, the paper considers the numerous peace declarations and demonstrations that took place in the border region following the congress. Finally, it goes on to demonstrate that in August 1914, the local patriotic sentiments already in evidence in 1912 prevailed even in this closely interconnected trans-border region.