The post-war histories of Paris and Amsterdam have been significantly defined by the notion of the ‘underground’ as both a material and metaphorical space. Examining the underground traffic between the two cities, this book interrogates the counter-cultural histories of Paris and Amsterdam in the mid- to late-twentieth century. It also casts those histories forward to twenty-first-century realities, where the notion of the underground has also come to include the problems of violence and integration in the Parisian banlieues and Amsterdam suburbs, the sex and drugs trade in both cities, the re-imagining of city limits, globalized boundaries, and, in the most literal sense, the impact of the Paris and Amsterdam metros on urban mobility and the heterogeneity of city life. Shuttling between Paris and Amsterdam, as well as between post-war avant-gardism and twenty-first-century global urbanism, this interdisciplinary book seeks to create a mirroring effect over the notion of the underground as a driving force in the making of the contemporary European city.

Christoph Lindner is professor of media studies and director of the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis at the University of Amsterdam. Professor Andrew Hussey is dean of the University of London Institute in Paris and author of Paris: The Secret History.

“Paris-Amsterdam Underground is clearly a timely book. Taking the underground as material object, as artistic institution, and as a conceptual metaphor, it rereads modernity from the standpoint of the abyss.”

– ISABEL GIL, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF PORTUGAL

“The book is a veritable tour of the subject. It demonstrates the relevance of bringing together urban studies, art studies, cultural history, sociology, and geography to understand important social and cultural urgencies in the present.”

– FREDERIK TYGSTRUP, UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

“This book is a landmark in the development of a perspective ‘from below’ on the cultural history of Amsterdam and Paris.”

– JEROEN DEWULF, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

“A fascinating, expansive, and illuminating book on global cities and counter-cultural practices.”

– PATRICE PETRO, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE