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**Human Rights Speeches against Racism and Slavery?
German Literature und Journal Reporting (1770-1800)**

Abstract

Germans were directly or indirectly involved in the transatlantic triangular trade of the 18th century in many of ways: as merchants, investors, plantation owners, manufactory owners, and so on. Thus, it is not surprising that the debate about the abolition of the slave trade and slavery also found its way into German journal reporting and eventually literature. In my presentation, I would like to explore the question to what extent critical interventions against the transatlantic slave trade and the slave plantation system in the Caribbeans can be understood as human rights interventions, insofar as they are made in a specific form of speech that follows/anticipates the form of a declaration and insofar as they imply an international or global understanding of the rights of man.