



Pierre Dan, *Historie van Barbaryen, En des zelfs Zee-Roovers* (1684); fol. 80; »Algiers«.

The Boundaries of Fact and Fiction

Barbary Captivity Narratives (1530–1820)

Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

Stand-Alone Project

(P 34745-G – €403,220.90)

Project Duration

2022–2027

Principal Investigator

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Mario Klarer

Slavery: Between 1530 and 1820, up to one million Europeans from all over the continent were enslaved by pirates from the Barbary Coast, as the Maghreb was pejoratively called in the early modern period.

Narratives: After their escape or ransom from North Africa, numerous European and American returnees recorded their experiences in the form of highly popular Barbary captivity narratives, many of which oscillate between fact and fiction.

History from below: Barbary captivity narratives are largely neglected but crucial sources on early modern notions of slavery, Islam, and North Africa. At the same time, they were literary models for the modern novel, the autobiography, and the African American slave narrative.

Research: The project will establish Barbary captivity narratives as a cross-national and cross-disciplinary genre for the first time, thereby helping to revise substantial chapters of early modern history, literary history, and slavery studies.

