



The Research Center Cultures in Contact, the American Corner Innsbruck and the Department of American Studies at the University of Innsbruck cordially invite you to a talk by

Dr. Magnus RESSEL

The Image of the Barbary Corsairs in European Scholarly Literature from 1600 to 1800

Monday, March 24, 2014, 10.15am

Room 40130, Humanities Building

Many different sides shaped the European discourse on the North African corsairs. Supplications of captives and their relatives can be counted among these as well as large books, travel-literature, newspaper-articles and many more. The history of the discourse was not linear; e.g. changed from the image of cruel enemies of Christian faith (a rather Catholic discourse of the 17th century) into the image of respectable enemies (a rather Protestant discourse of the 18th century) and was, in fact, multidimensional and changed on many levels into different directions at many different times. One of the most important levels of this discourse can certainly be found within the non-fictional European printed literature. In Europe we find already very early in the 17th century in the works of a few Catholic scholars some respect towards the regencies. By contrast, in some works of the 18th century, a few Protestant scholars did their utmost to depict the Barbary corsairs in an even more cruel language than the most partisan Catholic priests of the 17th century had. Despite the heterogeneous nature of the discourse it is possible to outline a distinctly European “trajectory” of the printed works on the Barbary corsairs, one that closely mirrors the political and ideological developments on both sides of the Mediterranean.



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