



# ESCAPE

European **S**laves: **C**hristians in **A**frican **P**irate **E**ncounters  
Barbary Coast Captivity Narratives (1550–1780)

**Austrian Science Fund**

**Stand-Alone Project**  
(P 26038 - € 275.623,00)

**Duration**  
2014–2019

**Project Leader**  
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Mario Klarer

**Piracy:** In the sixteenth century, privateering developed into a global economic factor. Barbary Coast corsairs from North Africa competed with European pirates for captives in the Mediterranean.

**Slavery:** Several hundred thousand Europeans and North Africans fell victim to corsairs, were sold in slave markets, put on galleys, or held for ransom.

**Narratives:** European slaves produced popular autobiographical accounts of their captivity in North Africa. These texts influenced the development of African-American slave narratives as well as the modern novel.

**Research:** Drawing on over one hundred texts from all major European languages, the team will transcribe, translate, and research these early modern captivity narratives.

**FWF**

Der Wissenschaftsfonds.

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