



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



CAMBRIDGE CENTRE FOR
CHRISTIANITY
WORLDWIDE



Seminar online and in-person

SLAVERY AND THE MORAVIAN MISSION

Speaker

Dr Heike Raphael-Hernandez

Heike Raphael-Hernandez is Associate Professor of American Studies at the University of Würzburg, Germany, and Adjunct Professor of English at the University of Maryland Global Campus. Among her research interests are Black Atlantic Studies, past and present; Global South Diasporas; German Involvement in Transatlantic Slavery; Migration and Visual Culture. Among her publications as co-editor are *Migrating the Black Body: The African Diaspora and Visual Culture* (2017), and *German Entanglements in Transatlantic Slavery* (2018). She is the author of *Contemporary African American Women Writers and Ernst Bloch's Principle of Hope* (Edwin Mellen Press 2008) and *Fear, Desire, and the Stranger Next Door: Global South Immigration in American Film* (University of Washington Press, forthcoming).

Tuesday 21 Nov, 4.00–5:30pm

Lightfoot Rm, Faculty of Divinity, 25 West Road, Cambridge. Followed by refreshments

Abstract

The talk will focus on the complex and at times contradictory encounters of Moravian missionaries, a Protestant group from Saxony, with enslaved Africans. The early period of Moravian missionary presence—between the 1730s and 1760s—differed from subsequent periods because later periods lost the original attempts to establish spiritual equality. A close reading of the various documents allows one to detect forms of active protest and creative agency on the part of enslaved people that were fostered, wittingly or unwittingly, by the Moravian missionaries. In their mission-related contacts during this specific period, both groups would receive glimpses of secular possibilities for future societies, which eventually would help bring changes to their own specific secular settings.

Register to join, please email:
centre@cccw.cam.ac.uk