

Abstract: Exhibiting non-European humans in early 19th century Vienna: Between Voyeurism and early race theories

Putting people of non-European descent commercially on public display was a standard practice throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This study concentrates on a distinct period of Austrian history in the first half of this époque – the Vormärz – and on the capital city, Vienna. In researching ten different human exhibitions, it turns out that typical elements of the later „Völkerschauen“ were nascent already in that early phase. Furthermore, an impact of censorship on presentations and re-presentations of „exotic“ persons has to be considered. Thirdly it is argued that in commenting on these exhibitions, natural science played a big role in articulating cultural prejudices and shaping them systematically into pre-Darwin theories of race.

Keywords: Gaze; human exhibitions; Freak Show; media; anthropology; censorship; colonialism; racism; South Africa; Australia; New Zealand; Angola; Brazil; Canada, North America; Greenland; Ghana; Papua; India; Antigua; Austria; Vienna

Schlagwörter: Schaulust; Schaustellungen; Freak Show; Medien; Anthropologie; Zensur; Kolonialismus; Rasse; Südafrika; Australien; Neuseeland; Angola; Brasilien; Kanada; Nordamerika; Grönland; Ghana; Papua; Indien; Antigua; Österreich; Wien