



Vortrag im Rahmen des Afrikakolloquiums

**27. Juni 2012**

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## **African Slaves and the Dutch-Spanish relations with Suriname in the Eighteenth Century**

The colony of Surinam was, for over two centuries, part of the economic and geopolitical map of the “plantation complexes”; as such Surinam displayed many of the features that were common to all plantation areas in America. This colony was privately owned by certain corporate institutions based in the Dutch Republic which fell under the management of the *Societëit van Suriname*-Surinam Society-created in 1680. This stockholder society administered the colony and militarised its territories. Since 1680, Surinam was central to the slave-trade routes between Europe, Africa and America. These routes crossed the Atlantic, where the trading practices of the commercial nations met: In this space, slave-trade routes encountered those of the Spanish fleets and galleons.

This presentation will briefly describe the colony of Surinam as well as how it operated in relation to the European slave factories in West Africa. Also, a comparative analysis will be made on how the Dutch and the Spaniards undertook the slave trade in relation to a) the slave trade itself and its related shipping, and b) how both trading nations implemented the forced-labour, slave-based system in their respective colonies. The colony of Surinam offers an interesting perspective as to the way labour was treated, as there is a wealth of evidence showing that many slaves escaped from Dutch colonies in an attempt to obtain a better treatment in Spanish colonies. In this respect, it appears that Dutch mercantilism was more of a menace than its Spanish counterpart. My presentation will explore these differences from a “slave” perspective and will also take into account the “African experience”.

**Ort: Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften,  
Invalidenstr. 118, Raum 410**

**Zeit: 18.30 Uhr**

**Alle Interessierten sind herzlich eingeladen!**