



INSTITUT FÜR  
EUROPÄISCHE  
GESCHICHTE

## TRANSFER UND TRANSFORMATION DER EUROPABILDER EVANGELISCHER MISSIONARE IM KONTAKT MIT DEM ANDEREN, 1700-1970

### Reading Dynamism and Diversity in the Representation of Europe in 19th Century West Africa (Oluwatoyin B. Oduntan)

Set against the background that European identity in West Africa was not a homogenous one, but comprised of a variety of conflicting doctrines, nationalities, convictions and interests, this study explores the images of Europe during the 19th century. European missionary encounters with Africans were not just predicated on the model of the bible but also on an undifferentiated Euro/Christian identity and culture, which they generally assumed, was different from the heathen peoples they tried to convert. Therefore, the conversation was not just about Christian conversion, it was in equal measure, a cultural encounter. What images of Europe did missionaries carry into the missions? How were initial images crafted, confirmed and reshaped when confronted with the African »Other« and how did these encounters affirm or adjust missionary and European self-conception? Such images are evident in the reports and diaries of missionaries, but they can also be read from their involvement in local society and politics, in the rivalry and collaborations among European agents and from the criss-crossing of alliances among the various identities. This project focuses on the Yoruba Mission of the CMS to uncover what Europe meant in 19th century West Africa.

