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Constructing an European Network of True Believers – The Moravian Diaspora Conferences 1760–1765
Focus: Moravian transnational networks past and present

Diaspora work among Christian denominations, alongside worldwide missionary work, was the most significant branch of the Moravian Church's outward-facing activities in the 18th and 19th centuries. It appears to be a very important factor in the high regard in which the Moravians are still held among Christian denominations in Europe today.

In recent decades, the development and organization of the Moravian Church's diaspora work in various regions of the German Empire and in Europe has received increased attention in numerous smaller contributions (cf. the overview by Wolfgang Breul, *Pietismus Handbuch* 2021, 610-614), and the fundamental reorientation of this work has been examined on the basis of the important instruction of 1767 (Christoph T. Beck, *Unitas Fratrum* 76 (2018), 101-153).

Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf himself provided the impetus for this fundamental reorganization of the work in several sermons shortly before his death. Between Zinzendorf's impetus in 1760 and the instruction of 1767, the theological foundations and organization of the diaspora work were developed. During this period, periodic diaspora conferences were held in Herrnhut (1760-1765), where experiences from the work on the ground were discussed and reflected upon theologically. These conferences, which have received little attention from researchers to date, will be presented and examined in my lecture.