“The Illustrated Slave: Antislavery Books and the Graphic Culture of the Transatlantic Abolition Movement, 1820-1852”

Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1852) is famous for its illustrations and the visual culture it engendered. Yet across diverse print modes antislavery illustrated books of various sorts—travelogues, memoirs, poems, and slave narratives—were first used as early as 1808. This talk explores the innovative ways that antislavery illustrated books published between 1820-1852 used a visual-verbal mode to cultivate empathy in the viewer, arguing that some of these texts present a radical reading protocol that moves between words and images to entwine the viewer’s own subjectivity with that of the enslaved.

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