

## **Abstract**

The present thesis examines the media representation of Haitian men and women in the context of environmental disasters from a postcolonial perspective. The work builds on the work of postcolonial authors such as Edward Said, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Walter D. Mignolo, Aníbal Quijano and Gurminder K. Bhambra, according to whom the system of power formed during the colonial period did not end with the formal independence of the former colonies, but transcends this imaginary boundary and materializes to this day through various pathways and processes, termed coloniality. It is precisely the possible continuity of contemporary forms of representation with colonial narratives that the thesis traces in three media discourses – the British media outlet *The Guardian*, the Czech server *iDNES.cz* and the Qatari media outlet *Al Jazeera*. Through a combination of social semiotic analysis applied to selected photographs and a discursive historical approach to critical discourse analysis used to deconstruct meanings in media texts, representations were analysed in the context of two Haitian natural disasters: the 2016 Hurricane Matthew and the 2021 earthquake. The research showed that modes of representation change in relation to the location from which they are formed and subsequently articulated, and are thus conditioned by the geohistorical and geopolitical context of the media in question. There are several studies examining media representations in the context of environmental disasters, but the postcolonial perspective has so far been left aside in this context. However, at a time of intensifying climate crisis, it will be all the more crucial to reflect on the reinscription of global power distribution in media imagery that has the power to maintain, or conversely transform, the status quo – potentially in its equal and just form.