

## Ni pédants, ni amateurs? Les journaux de psychologie dans l'Allemagne du dernier tiers du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle

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### Summary

Neither pedants nor amateurs? Psychological journals in Germany in the last three decades of the 18<sup>th</sup> century

The *Magazin zur Erfahrungsseelenkunde* introduced a new tone in the evolving field of psychology. For the first time, attention was paid not to the abstract relationships between body and soul, but to suffering individuals from the «common folk». The collection and systematic publication of accounts of readers should eventually allow the formulation of an empirical «science of the soul». The readers would eventually send accounts of personal and experienced «cases». By 1800, this conception of the science of psychology was called into question by educated philosophers who, in journals opened only to specialists, endeavored to develop a more professional psychology. They nevertheless failed in formulating general criteria of scientificity. The main argument of this article is that the distinction between amateurs and scientists was not an outcome of the inner evolution of the field of psychology, but that it developed through practices of communication in which periodicals play a major role.

*Keywords:* German Speaking Scholarly Journals, History of Psychology 1780–1800, Amateurship, History from Below