



#### WHEN LITERATURE ISN'T LITERATURE!

*Sylvia Arthur*

#### WOLLEN SIE, DASS IHRE KINDER SOWAS LESEN?

*Ralf Hutter*

#### 1. Exchange Partners

	Partner 1	Partner 2
Name and Surname	<b>Sylvia ARTHUR</b>	<b>Ralf HUTTER</b>
Job title	<i>Journalist</i>	<i>Journalist</i>
Organisation / Media	<b>Freelance</b> United Kingdom	<b>Freelance</b> Germany

#### 2. Summary

Sylvia Arthur has covered issues of race and culture over many years. In 1999, she published an article in the industry journal, British Journalism Review, about the lack of media diversity in the UK following the publication of the McPherson report, which branded the police, specifically, and certain other institutions as "institutionally racist." Investigating the story of how racist children's and comic books are perceived in Germany and how individuals and organisations are working to counter the negative images they perpetrate and, more importantly, the effect they have on the communities they denigrate, was something that interested me. This is the basis of my output and the feature article / comment piece I'm working on.

Ralf Hutter did research about the public debate in the UK about the racist comic "Tintin in the Congo". He wrote a reportage of visiting a father who had launched a campaign in 2007 against the book, big bookshops and comic shops and also a representative from the Media Diversity Institute. Ralf found out that after a relatively big media interest in the case in 2007 and a withdrawal of that book from the children's sections of many big bookstores (and libraries throughout the country), that book is again to be found in the children's shelves of big stores, presumably because the shop clerks are not aware of the debate around the book

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and the shop managements have not given strict orders about it. But the publishing house will cease to publish this book, because, as they say, they can not control its distribution all over the country.

### **3. Dissemination of the Output**

*SA: I am working on a print only feature and/or comment piece. I still need to do more research and interviews in order to produce a fully rounded, publishable piece. When this has been completed, I will contact several print publications including the national dailies, The Guardian and The Independent, as well as publications specifically aimed at ethnic minority communities including the long established Black British weekly newspaper, The Voice and the monthly black women's magazine, Pride. There is also the potential to publish in various online media outlets, websites and blogs.*

*RH: Ralf's reportage is supposed to appear in the daily Taz. The size is not clear, as the agreement was about a text that covers pretty much one page, but the material compiled by Ralf would easily fill two pages. Apart from that, Ralf has proposed the topic to the public radio station, Deutschlandradio Kultur, for whom he sometimes works.*

### **4. Biographies of the authors**

**Sylvia Arthur** has a BA in Philosophy, a Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Journalism and an MA in Narrative Non-Fiction Writing. She worked as a runner for Sky News before becoming a reporter at News Africa magazine. She has freelanced for The Guardian, the BBC and the British Journalism Review and has worked as an assistant producer for the BBC, ITV and Sky.

**Ralf Hutter** received a diploma in sociology in 2009 and has since worked as a full-time journalist for dailies, weeklies, magazines, public radio and online media. From 2011 to 2013 he held a position at the Berlin based daily Neues Deutschland which involved working in all departments and journalistic training. Since 2013 he has been a freelancer again.