Abstract
This paper examines medical writing in Karl Philipp Moritz’ *Journal of Empirical Psychology* by looking at the alterations Moritz made to his sources. It shows how he rearranged the data in order to introduce a new type of text into psychology: the case or case study. He did so by altering the main parts of a report that had been published a few years earlier. In rewriting the report, Moritz introduced not only a new type of text but also a style of reasoning; i.e. the casuistic form of thinking that became more widely acknowledged only later in the course of experiential psychology (*Erfahrungsseelenkunde*). The paper thus links writing techniques in psychology to the rise of a type of text and a new style of reasoning.

Keywords
writing cases, case studies, history of psychology, epistemic genre, observation, report, experiential psychology, styles of reasoning, casuistic approach

Karl Philipp Moritz’ *Magazin zur Erfahrungsseelenkunde* (Journal of Empirical Psychology) is one of the best known and arguably most important psychological journals of the Enlightenment.¹ First published in

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¹) *GNOTHI SAUTON oder Magazin zur Erfahrungsseelenkunde als ein Lesebuch für Gelehrte und Ungelehrte*, ed., Karl Philipp Moritz, 10 vols (Berlin, 1783–1793; reprint...
1783, it brings together various articles dealing with particular incidents under headings such as *Seelenkrankheitskunde* (the ‘study of diseases of the soul’, or psychopathology) and *Seelenzeichenkunde* (the ‘study of the signs of the soul’, or psychosemiotics). The range of subjects covered is extremely broad and includes popular issues such as the question of ghosts. However, unlike the *Berlinische Monatsschrift* (Berlin monthly periodical), the Enlightenment project of Johann Erich Biester and Friedrich Gedike which likewise first appeared in 1783, this journal is not a vehicle for a critique of superstition or religion. Its aim is rather to make a valuable contribution to experiential psychology. In addition to its thematic diversity, the journal brings together very different types of text. In his proposal, *Vorschlag zu einem Magazin einer Erfahrungs-Seelenkunde*, which was published in 1782 in *Deutsches Museum*, Moritz in fact explicitly named the kinds of text he was looking for. He called for ‘reports’, ‘observations’, ‘experimental descriptions’, ‘news from former pedagogues’, ‘biographies’, ‘diaries’, ‘stories of recovery’, the ‘story of lunatics and fanatics’, ‘plays’ (Shakespeare), ‘good novels’ and ‘observations from the real world’. The list includes medical as well as literary genres and is, however, very revealing with regard to the history of knowledge. Genre categories, as historian Gianna Pomata has noted, are by no means mere notes in the margins of the history of knowledge. Rather, they reflect modes of thought and reasoning and thus have an important cognitive dimension. They can be understood as systems of knowledge which provide an underlying structure, allowing material to be sorted and integrated into a given framework. Moreover, it is possible to derive from


