

Finished Projects

Among the projects that have been successfully concluded in the last few years, three have led to the successful realisation of four doctoral theses.

We refer to the project on the 'Belgian Intelligence Services, 1940-1945', on 'Violence, Crime and War' and on the diamond industry. Others have resulted in publications and/or substantial research reports: the study on the *Haut Commissariat à la Sécurité de l'Etat*, the project on the Belgian administration and the one on the newsreels in Belgium.

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IAP Justice and Populations finalized with a rich selection of publications

On 20 December 2017, CegeSoma organized the last event in the context of the IAP 'Justice and Populations': an international workshop on the research of IAP-collaborator Dr. Jan Julia Zurna with regard to the 'liberation murders' in the court district of Brussels.

The Belgian judiciary and the resistance: moral dilemma™s during the Second World War

Jan Julia Zurn, researcher at the CegeSoma, recently defended her PhD thesis at Ghent University. She investigated how Belgian magistrates reacted when the German occupier demanded their collaboration in the repression of the resistance during the Second World War and how this effected both the magistrates and the resistance groups.

International colloquium " Minorities in/at War - 9 & 10 March 2017

On 9 and 10 March 2017, the Jewish Museum of Belgium in collaboration with CegeSoma organizes an international colloquium at the Royal Library of Belgium: "Minorities in/at War". The violence perpetrated against minorities is one key issue, while their legal protection, is another. The conference tackles the period from 1912 to 1923. Lectures by historians from Europe, North America and the Middle East will be alternated with discussions. Attention will also be given to contemporary issues related to these questions. Registration and info here.

Colloquium - Inside the User™s Mind

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On 22 February 2017, CegeSoma will organize, in cooperation with the partners of the MADDLAIN project, a colloquium on the digital practices and needs of the users of archive centres and libraries.

Whether you are an amateur or a professional researcher responsible for digitization in a heritage institution, an archivist or a collections curator, this study day entirely dedicated to the needs of the public may interest you !

Cities at war, 1914-1918 - Wallonia and Brussels

The authors of *La Wallonie dans la Grande Guerre* and *Bruxelles ville occupée* relate the experiences of Walloons and inhabitants of Brussels during the First World War through the medium of the image. They examine how the major challenges of this turbulent period are reflected by means of photographs, postcards or the illustrated press.

The books are for sale at CegeSoma at the price of 20 €,.-.

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Young historians with talent ! An 11th edition with multiple accents

On 14 October 2016, CegeSoma will once more give the floor to young and talented historians who graduated in 2015, authors of Master theses concerning the two World Wars and their aftermaths. The day will be organized around a number of key points: a series of debates with experts on the questions concerned; a focus on a selection of archive funds with promising research possibilities and, finally, an analysis of the subjects of contemporary history theses presented in Belgium over the last ten years.

The First World War in 2018, and then ?

What, in the next two years, can we still organize on the subject of the First World War ? Are there new themes that can be addressed? And, above all, what after 2018 ? How can we ensure that this enthusiasm continues after 2018 ?

CegeSoma Taking the Lead in Sustainable Digital Publishing Project

CegeSoma coordinates a project entitled "Open History" Workshops on sustainable digital publishing of archival catalogues of twentieth-century history archives in the context of the Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities (DARIAH-EU) Theme call 2015 on "Open Humanities". Together with four other initiative taking partner institutions, this project focusses on the current challenges of sustainable digital publishing of archival descriptions.

The State and forced agricultural labour in Congo during WWII

This study, carried out in the course of 18 months by the PAI "Justice and Populations" at CegeSoma, intends to shed light on the role played by the judicial apparatus in the labour policies applied to colonized populations. The theme is tackled through the issue of forced agricultural labour, which was established in the Belgian Congo to support the war effort between 1940 and 1945. The aim is to seize the different ways in which the State controlled, pacified, combed and regulated territories and their inhabitants.

"Those who hold Bastogne"

Peter Schrijvers is a historian and Senior Lecturer at the University of New South Wales, Sidney. He recently published his book on the Siege of Bastogne. The book was made possible with the help of Australian funds for research and a fellowship granted by CEGESOMA in 2012.

La justice de transition : l'issue des guerres et des dictatures. Un bilan

Les 23 et 24 mai 2012, le CEGESOMA co-organisait un symposium international au palais d'Egmont. Cet événement scientifique marquait l'aboutissement du projet *Transitional Justice after war and dictatorship*, initié en 2011 par le sociologue Luc Huyse et coordonné par le CEGESOMA grâce aux moyens financiers octroyés par le service Consolidation de la paix du SPF Affaires Etrangères. L'initiative a cependant encore connu d'importants prolongements sous la forme de la mise à disposition de rapports et de la publication d'un ouvrage.

Successful Collaboration with Limburg Partners in the Heritage Sector has Ended

CEGESOMA looks back with satisfaction on two years of close cooperation with the *Provinciaal Centrum voor Cultureel Erfgoed (PCCE)* and local partners in North Limburg. In 2011 and 2012, the Centre supported a regional heritage project on the Second World War in the Campine region of Limburg, contributing both in

terms of content and organisation. At the same time, it has contributed to a larger-scale provincial commemorative project on the First World War.

The Gender Question in the Belgian Congo. A Review of the Project "Women in the Colony"

The aim of the project "Women in the Colony" which was carried out from 2008 to 2011 at Cegesoma was to try to gain more insight into colonial history during the period 1885 - 1962 in Congo, Rwanda and Burundi from a gender perspective. The objective was to trace a collective image of western women in the Central African territories and to measure the impact of the presence of European women in the world of labour on colonial society, in day to day life as well as on the level of political orientations.

Justice in face of the enemy. Experiences of Belgian magistrates during 1914-1918

Judicial history has long been absent from historiography of the first German occupation. A PhD thesis recently defended at UCL by M^olanie Bost (researcher at Cegesoma) rediscovers the magistrates' roles during this period. This thesis, entitled "*Traverser l'Occupation 1914-1918. Du modus vivendi à la grève, la magistrature belge face aux occupants allemands*" ("Crossing the occupation 1914-1918. From modus vivendi to strike, the Belgian magistrates in face of the enemy") sheds new light on the relationship between occupant and occupier between 1914 and 1918. In this short interview below, the author tackles the initial starting points as well as main conclusions of her research.

State Building: Incorporating Local Perspectives through Life Stories

Focusing on state building in Kosovo, this research is funded by the Dutch Research Foundation (NWO) and carried out by Arlinda Rrustemi (currently affiliated researcher at CEGESOMA) from Leiden University. The research tries to bring a new, more local perspective to the established literature. State building will be analyzed by using the methodology of life stories, looking at the biographies of individuals whose life experiences reveal new aspects about the process of state building.

Transitional Justice: workshop report Cape Town available online

On 7-8 March 2013, The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation organized a workshop in Cape Town, South Africa, on the subject of justice and accountability after war and dictatorship. This workshop was the direct result of the larger Transitional Justice project coordinated between 2011-2012 by CEGESOMA and funded the Belgian ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the Cape Town workshop, Luc Huyse presented this project's final report. He also wrote the workshop-report, which is available here as freely downloadable pdf-file (Workshop Report).

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Proceedings of the conference "Justice in Wartime and Revolutions" have been published

In September 2011, Cegesoma collaborated with the *Centre d'histoire du droit et de la justice* at the UCL to organize an international conference on justice in times of war and revolution as a part of the Interuniversity Attraction Pole "Political and Social History of Belgian Justice since 1795". The proceedings of this conference have now been published. To obtain further details and to order the publication, click here.

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Transitional Justice after War and Dictatorship The final report (by Luc Huyse) is available online

During 2011-12, CEGESOMA coordinated the project "Transitional Justice after War and Dictatorship. Learning from European Experiences (1945-2010)". The project's final report, written by renowned sociologist Luc Huyse, is downloadable as a pdf file in three languages: in English (Final Report), in French (Rapport Final) and in Spanish (Informe Final).

Les d'Écombres de la guerre. Mémoires belges en conflit, 1945-2010

Why did the Belgians never succeed in coming to terms with the Second World War ?

The liberation in 1944 was not only the end of a war. It was also the beginning of a painful fight for its memory. More than other countries in Western Europe, Belgium is divided on the issue of the memory of the occupation. Resistance fighters and collaborators, political prisoners and victims of racial persecution created very divergent commemoration rituals. Imbued with the old Belgo-Belgian quarrels and with the new European antagonisms arisen in the Cold War period, these rivalling memories confront each other to the present day. In *Les d'Écombres de la guerre* (click here to order the book), the result of a research project carried out for two years at Cegesoma, Bruno Benvindo and Evert Peeters describe this confrontation.

Belgium and the international law of war

The study of Rik Verwaest, *Van Den Haag tot Genève: België en het internationale oorlogsrecht (1874-1950)* (click here to order it) is the result of a research project of Cegesoma and sheds light on the Belgian relations with the law of war from 1874 till today. This accessible book examines the Belgian application of the law of war during known and less known episodes from the Belgian war past: the jungle war in Africa, the terror during the occupation of the Ruhr, the German prisoners in the battle for coal...

Cegesoma-study "La Belgique docile" in Wikileaks

As is well-known, Cegesoma was entrusted in 2003 with a mission to make a study of the possible responsibility of the Belgian authorities concerning the persecution of the Jews. On 13 February 2007, the results of this study, a bulky report of more than one thousand pages, was presented in the Belgian Senate under the title *La Belgique docile*. The research results were published in the same year, in a French and a Dutch version (to order the French version, click here). However, the expected debate in Parliament has not yet taken place.

Violence and war. The rich harvest of a twofold Cegesoma project

The recent publication of Antoon Vrints on public violence in Antwerp during the first half of the 20th century proves once more the success of the project "Violence, criminality and wars: a comparative research of the two world conflicts" which has been carried out between 2001 and 2004 in our institute by Benoît Majerus and Toon Vrints. The opportunity par excellence to take another look at the conclusions of the two brilliant doctoral theses to which the project has led.

Congo-Belgique, 1955-1965. Entre propagande et réalitÉ.

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the independence of Congo, Cegesoma wants to contribute to the publications on the common past of Belgium and Congo, in the former metropole as well as in Central Africa, by publishing a volume in which the image occupies a central role. Indeed, the album *Congo-Belgique* (to order it, click here) proposes to approach the transition period of the colonial Congo towards an independent Congo through a critical analysis of the photographic production between 1955 and 1965.

Villes en guerre " Anvers 1940-1945

After the first and very successful volume (third edition!) of the series of photographic albums *Cities at War* on Brussels, the volume on Antwerp (click here to order) has been published. This album tries, by means of photography, to offer a better view on the history of (Greater-) Antwerp during the period 1940-1945.

La Belgique et la persécution des Juifs La Belgique docile for the general public

What was the responsibility of the Belgian authorities in the persecution of the Jews in Belgium during the Second World War? It is this crucial question that this book attempts to give a clear but nuanced answer to (click here to order).

Filmer à tout prix ? Henri Storck, le cinéma et la guerre

À l'été 2006. Dans la torpeur d'une actualité en sommeil estival, une polémique éclate dans les médias francophones du pays. Henri Storck, le «père du cinéma belge», y est accusé d'avoir été proche des autorités allemandes sous l'Occupation. Ce cas suppose de collaboration même d'autant plus le trouble que le réalisateur est systématiquement classé à gauche sur l'échiquier politique depuis *Misère au Borinage*, documentaire social qu'il tourna en 1933 pour dénoncer l'indigence dans laquelle vivaient les mineurs borains. La controverse qui s'en suit mêle simplismes, anathèmes et anachronismes, ne laissant que peu de place aux nuances, paradoxes et complexités du social. Dès lors, une enquête historique basée sur un travail d'archives approfondi et replaçant cette trajectoire individuelle dans un contexte historique plus large s'imposait. Elle fut rendue possible par une initiative commune à la Communauté française de Belgique et au CEGESOMA.

«La Belgique docile»™. Les autorités belges et la persécution des Juifs

At the request of the Belgian Senate, Cegesoma was entrusted with a study to look into the possible implication of the Belgian authorities in the identification, persecution and deportation of the Jewish population during the occupation period 1940-1944. The result is *La Belgique docile*, a reference work for everyone who wishes to have a better understanding of Belgium in the period 1930-1950.