

## **Military History Museum WWI Press Retrievable Online**

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From now, the Belgian War Press website includes the clandestine press of the First World War from the collection of the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and of Military History.

## **Hans Boers**

Hans Boers (1985) studied contemporary history at the university of Antwerp. His thesis is dedicated to the work of the Liège historian and intellectual Léon-Ernest Halkin (1906-1998). He then studied applied language studies (French-English) at the Lessius College in Antwerp.

He was assistant in the department Scientific Activities and Publications of Cegesoma in 2009. He was between December 2010 and September 2013 assistant-coordinator for the project European Holocaust Infrastructure Research (EHRI). Since October 2013, he is editor-in-chief of *De Oorlogskranten 1914-1918*, and later *De Oorlogskranten. Het interbellum 1918-1940*, a joint project of Cegesoma and the London publishing house Albertas Limited."

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Has left the Centre on 31 October 2016.

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## **A Conference by Kristof Smeyers**

### **Het gestolde land. Een eeuw Belgische economie**

On Wednesday 14 December 2016 (at 2.30 p.m.), CegeSoma will give the floor to Kristof Smeyers (University College of London). He will use a totally new perspective to talk about the economic history of Belgium since the First World War.

The conference will be held in Dutch.

## **Coming Soon – A New Unique Source Edition on Occupation and Daily Life in Europe during WWII**

The project "Societies under German Occupation – Experiences and Everyday Life in World War II" wants to publish source editions that make the impact of the occupation on daily life for the different levels of the population, from Norway to Greece, and from France to the Soviet Union more tangible.

This source edition offers a unique transnational perspective on a little studied topic. The hundreds of sources of the first series dedicated to supply and shortage have now been collected and commented in view of an imminent publication.

## **A conference by Luis Angel Bernardo y Garcia**

### **Le Ventre des Belges. Grandeur et misères d'un petit État nourricier en temps d'occupation et de sortie de guerre (1914-1948)**

On Wednesday 16 November 2016 (2.30 p.m.), CegeSoma will give the floor to Luis Angel Bernardo y Garcia (State Archives). He will address the role of the Belgian state in the economic recovery of post-war Belgium, in particular with regard to its food policy.

## **Conference by Gerlinda Swillen**

Tuesday 15 November 2016 (12.30), conference (in French) by Gerlinda Swillen (Associated Researcher AGR-CegeSoma) in the Musée juif de Belgique on a war hospital: "L'hôpital Brugmann en uniforme?".

Le 23 mai 1940, la Wehrmacht réquisitionne un des fleurons belges de la médecine et de l'architecture hospitalière bruxelloise: l'hôpital Brugmann. Dorénavant, il sera renommé *Kriegslazarett 2/614 (Kr.Laz. 2/614)*. Il semble avoir accueilli non seulement des militaires allemands, mais aussi des prisonniers de guerre, des patients d'autres institutions de l'occupant, ainsi que des civils.

## International colloquium 'Right to be Forgotten Versus Right to Remember'

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Following the new European privacy regulation which was approved by the European Parliament in May 2016, the General State Archives will organize, on 10 October 2016, an international symposium in the Academy Palace on the "Right to be Forgotten Versus Right to Remember".

## New leadership for CegeSoma

Rudi Van Doorslaer has left the institution on 31 August 2016 to enjoy his well-earned retirement. During the appointment procedure for a new director, management of CegeSoma, now Operational Directorate 4 of the State Archives, has been entrusted to our colleague Dirk Martin. Spotlight on two individual careers.

## Quand le patriotisme provoque une guerre des archives

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### Aux origines du NIOD

Trois jours après la libération des Pays-Bas, le *Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie* "l'actuel NIOD" est créé. Pourquoi cette décision rapide dans un contexte d'urgence ? Pourquoi l'occupation allemande a-t-elle entraîné une telle frénésie ?

Le 15 juin 2016, venez écouter Annemieke van Bockxmeer, chercheuse au NIOD de 1989 à 2012. Elle évoquera pour nous l'histoire tumultueuse des premières heures de la collection de cette institution.

## Tuer au nom d'Allah. Radicalisation ou subculture? Les combattants européens en Syrie

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Some 500 Belgians, mostly in their 20s, left their home country for Syria, where they joined the most brutal terrorist group IS, also known by its Arabic acronym *Daesh*. So did thousands of other Europeans. This phenomenon raises difficult questions. Rik Coolsaet (Ghent University & Egmont-Royal Institute for International Relations) will give a conference on the subject on Wednesday 25 May 2016 at CegeSoma.

## Deux siècles de justice. Encyclopédie historique de la justice belge

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During the shocking moments of the Dutroux affair, a commonplace remark was that Belgian justice ought to move on from the 19th to the 21st century. In reality, this judiciary system has developed continually on the frenetic pace of the ebb and flow of the priorities of Belgian society. A voluminous encyclopedia gathering the top experts in the field gives a full account of the question (to order it, click here).

## **The Cahiers d'histoire du temps présent and numerous other publications of CegeSoma at give-away prices**

For a modest sum, it is still possible to acquire the majority of the *CHTP-BEG* as well as several studies and work instruments on Belgian 20th century history.

## **War Enthusiasm: Europeans Attracted by the Dark Side**

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How could we explain the rapture that seized thousands when World War One broke out? How can we understand how sensitive, cultivated and smart people from different European backgrounds turned into enthusiastic and convinced warmongers?

â€œ*Oorlogsentousiasme. Europa 1900-1918*â€• by Ewoud Kieft, a Dutch historian, writer and musician, is centered on these questions. Kieft will give a conference on his book at CegeSoma on Wednesday 11 May 2016.

## **Workshop on Reconciliation in Post-War Contexts**

Woman prays at Potocari genocide memorial centre near Srebrenica.

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CegeSoma co-organises an international workshop on reconciliation in post-conflict situations. The discussion will focus on the tensions between international policies and the expectations and needs of local communities.

The workshop will take place in Den Haag on 18 May 2016 in English. All details are in the programme.

## **Children of War: Conflicts that Give Life**

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During the Second World War, Belgian women met German men in occupied Belgium and in Germany, and a number of births resulted from these encounters. These children would not have been born without the war. Gerlinda Swillen will come to CegeSoma on Wednesday 20 April 2016 to give a conference about what is both the subject of her PhD thesis and a personal experience: â€œ*Conçus par la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Enfants de guerre sur l'axe Bruxelles-Berlin*â€•.

## **Research ? Not Only for Academics !**

Associated Researchers Meeting Day on 23 May 2016

Scholarly research about 20th century conflicts has long ceased to be the exclusive domain of academic historians. Scholars from other disciplines, as well as non-academic researchers are now actively pulling their weight in the field. This yields results that are often as diverse as they are valuable. In order to bring this varied group of researchers together in one network, CegeSoma has created the statute of Associated Researcher. This statute replaces the old network of 'correspondents'.

## **Call for Applications : EHRI Seminar on Reference Services**

The international seminar *Reference Services: Best Practices and Innovative Use of Materials* will be held at Yad Vashem from 13 to 17 November 2016.

You can find the call for papers here.

### **Call for EHRI workshop and seminar**

The workshop *Holocaust Archival Film Footage as a Historical Source: Methodology and Ethics in the Digital Era* will be held at Yad Vashem from 19 to 21 September 2016. You can find more information and the call for papers here.

The methodological seminar *The Study of the Holocaust in Romania: Current State and Trends*, organised by the Elie Wiesel National Institute for Studying the Holocaust in Romania and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, will take place from 19 to 23 September 2016 at the Elie Wiesel National Institute in Bucharest. You can find more information and the call for applications here.

### **From Flemish Catholic Students Movement to Collaboration The Piet Meuwissen Archives are available**

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Piet Meuwissen's daughter has recently deposited her father's archives at CegeSoma. The archive is henceforth available for research and study. Meuwissen is best known for his controversial mandate as director of the National Corporation for Food and Agriculture between 1940 and 1944.

### **The Private Cold War in Western Europe**

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#### **International Conference at CegeSoma.arch, Brussels, on 22 March 2016**

On Tuesday 22 March 2016, CegeSoma.arch, in partnership with various institutes dedicated to the study of Intelligence services and members of the "Justice & Populations" PAI organises an international conference. The discussion will focus on the activities of private anti-communist networks during the Cold War, the clandestine collaboration between public and private entities and the issue of 'stay behind' networks.

### **Human Rights and Cold War: the Paradox of Virtue**

Human Rights NGOs have the fundamental characteristic of using their time and means for goals that do not bring up immediate profits. However, the strategies they implement unavoidably entails competition among the different groups. Bart De Sutter (*U Antwerpen*) will talk about these strategies during his conference on Wednesday 9 March 2016.

### **Call for Applications: EHRI Seminar on Languages, Cultures and Perspectives**

The international seminar *Languages, Cultures and Perspectives "How to read Holocaust Sources"* will be held at Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum Lithuania from 26 June to 1 July 2016.

You can find the call for papers here.

### **Take part in the MADDLAIN project !**

We want to improve the digital offerings of CegeSoma, the State Archives and the Royal Library. And for

this we need your help.

Do you have something to say about the digital collections ? Do you have a great idea regarding the digital catalogues? Or do you simply wish to contribute to this research project?

Give us your unvarnished opinion in our online survey! ! !

## **Elke Sleurs Visits Cegesoma**

On Wednesday 27 January 2016, an important conference took place at Cegesoma. Elke Sleurs, Secretary of State for science policy gave a speech about the integration of Cegesoma into the State Archives. Karel Velle, the Archive's general director, and Rudi Van Doorslaer, director of Cegesoma, were present at the conference, in which the Secretary retraced the context and underlined the importance of the integration. She also announced the different stages of the integration that will take place in the nearby future, but also its development on the longer term.

## **Workshop on Transitional Justice: Call for Paper**

On 17 May 2016, CegeSoma co-organizes a workshop with the Centre for Global Affairs (Leiden University). The overarching theme of the workshop is the tension that occurs in many Transitional Justice programs, between certain international expectations and local realities. These tensions are often connected to different or opposing perceptions of the notion 'reconciliation'. We hereby launch a Call for Papers, searching for concrete national cases that will help us discuss this issue.

## **Germany and International Scientific Relations After 1918**

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How did WWI disrupt international academic networks? This *Historikerdialog* will take place on Wednesday 17 February 2016 in Liège. The speakers are Peter Schöttler (CNRS/*Freie Universität Berlin*) and Christoph Brühl (FNRS/*Université de Liège*).

## **Terrorists and Perpetrators of Genocide : a Comparison**

Due to circumstances beyond our control, CegeSoma.arch and the Egmont institute are compelled to cancel the conference by Abram de Swaan scheduled for February 19th. Please receive our apologies for this situation, we hope to be able to welcome you at our future activities.

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Abram de Swaan will take the Floor at Cegesoma.arch's New Year conference

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Politicians and experts, academics included, often understand contemporary conflicts on a short-term basis. In the context of its mission as a centre of expertise on the history of 20th century conflicts, CegeSoma.arch wants to widen its horizon. For the New Year's conferences, it invites eminent researchers to establish a link between a contemporary question and its historical context. The first New Year Conference will take place on Friday 19 February 2016.

## **The Belgian War Press: Students Share their Experiences**

Since its launch in December 2012, *The Belgian War Press* website has had an increasing number of Belgian and foreign visitors. History students of the UCL have used it frequently for a seminar paper in the course of the past academic year. This can be considered a large-scale user test of the website. You can read their experiences and a reflection about the changes brought about by digital tools to the historical

profession here .

## **Lilian et le Roi – Un mythe – la preuve des archives**

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Ayant obtenu l'accès des archives totalement inédites, Olivier Defrance s'est attelé à une biographie de l'épouse de Léopold III. Il nous la présente sous un jour neuf dans une volonté d'impartialité. Il sera au CegeSoma le 3 février 2016 pour évoquer ses recherches.

## **Notice to the Visitors and Partners of CegeSoma and the State Archives of Belgium**

From 1 January, CegeSoma will be part of the State Archives

From 1 January 2016, CegeSoma will be integrated in the State Archives. From that date, CegeSoma will be the fourth Operational Directorate (OD4) of the State Archives.

The tasks of OD4 / CegeSoma remain unchanged. For now, the integration has no consequences for the researcher or the visitor of CegeSoma. There will be no changes at present with regard to the reading room (the regulations, tariffs, opening hours) and the online services (websites, search systems). In 2016, measures will be developed and implemented to harmonise public service in all Operational Directorates of the State Archives. We will inform you of these measures in due time. Also for the partners of CegeSoma and the State Archives, everything will remain the same, a few practical matters excepted.

You can follow these developments via the usual information channels: newsletters, websites and facebook pages.

Karel Velle & Rudi Van Doorslaer 17 December 2015

## **Unique Archives on the Defense of Resistance Fighters Before the German Military courts available for consultation**

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Fredric (or Freddy) Eickhoff was the counsel of some 2.500 resistance fighters who had to appear before the German military courts in occupied Belgium during the Second World War. Barrister Eickhoff and his collaborators Delhaize and Van Hecke kept the documents related to the trials of their cases. After important conservation measures, they are finally open for academic research via a digital name list.

## **Call for Applications : EHRI Seminar on Reference Services**

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The international seminar *Reference Services: New Methods of Utilizing Holocaust Documentation and Resources* will be held at Yad Vashem from 27-31 March 2016.

You can find the call here.À

## **The Battle after the War**

During the Battle of the Bulge (winter 1944-1945), several arrondissements of the Luxemburg province were heavily damaged. One out of three inhabitants was a victim of the disaster. The State being unable to adequately address their demands, a political battle broke out. Mathieu Billa, manager at the Bastogne War Museum, will give a lecture about these events at CegeSoma on 16 December 2015.

## **Brussels, a Safe Haven? A History of the Jews in the Capital, 1930-1950**

On the 75th anniversary of the raids of the summer of 1942, CegeSoma and the Musée juif de Belgique will co-organise an exhibition, dedicated to history of the Jews in Brussels during the period between 1930 and 1950. The exhibition will open in the autumn of 2017.

## **Vincent Scheltiens**

Vincent Scheltiens (1962) holds a PhD in history (Antwerp University). He wrote a dissertation on the subject of Flemish and Walloon identity construction based on alterity discourses, a cross-pollination between history, political sciences and linguistics. He publishes on nationalism and national identity construction, the historical left and Spanish contemporary history. Since November 2015, he works at CegeSoma on the project '*Bruxelles, terre d'accueil ? Juifs dans la capitale, 1939-1950*'.

Has left the Centre on 31 December 2016.

## **De Ontmoeting: WWI Heritage and Research**

The 'Ontmoeting' was scheduled to take place for the first time on 9 December 2015. The idea is to organise an interactive seminar which gathers history researchers with people from the Flemish cultural heritage sector. The central topic will be WWI. This seminar has been postponed until the first half of 2016. The exact date will be announced soon.

## **Conference "Doing Justice in Wartime"**

In the framework of the PAI 'Justice and Populations', CegeSoma organises an international conference on 3 and 4 December 2015. The conference is titled "Doing Justice in Wartime. Multiple Interplays Between Justice & Populations During the Two World Wars".

## **History from the Grave? Memorial Politics and Civil War Mass Grave Openings in Spain**

Lore Colaert has been observing how Spain literally and figuratively uncovers its war past. She inquired about the impact of this process on collective memory, and will be at CegeSoma on 13 January 2016 to talk about it.

## **"War & Fatherland" Conference: Last Registration Day 7 October**

On 14 and 15 October, outstanding Belgian and foreign historians will debate on nationalism and collective identities during and in the aftermath of WWI. Attend this exceptional inter-university event by subscribing before 7 October (included) on [www.warandfatherland2015.org](http://www.warandfatherland2015.org).

## **Historians Olympics : the International Congress of Historical Sciences in Jinan (China)**

From 22 to 29 August, more than 2000 historians from 90 countries have participated in the 22nd International Congress of Historical Sciences (ICHS) in Jinan, in the Chinese province of Shandong. It was the first time the Congress was held in Asia. It has taken place every five years since its creation in 1926 and aspires to reflect the debates related to the community of historians.

## **Jews Were not Only Killed in Gas Chambers**

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During the Holocaust, over 2 million Jews were brutally shot, not in camps but in thousands of 'killing sites' spread all over Europe. With a new book, IHRA, an international alliance for Holocaust education, sheds light on this relatively unknown phenomenon.

## **The Liberation of the Camps from a Belgian Perspective Two Exhibitions Open until 31 December 2015**

A nice way to forget the heat wave is to pay a visit to the double exhibition "Liberation ! Belgians in German camps 1945" at *Kazerne Dossin* and the National Memorial of the Fortress of Breendonk. Plan a visit and get immersed in the days of the liberation, a lesser-known period of the history of the concentration camps.

## **Report conference "Towards a New History of the Second World War?" available online**

Judith Keilbach, Chantal Kesteloot and Roel Vande Winkel during the Third Session. (Photograph by Milo van de Pol)

On the 21th of April 2015, Belgian and Dutch historians discussed the future historiography of the Second World War during the Spring conference of the Royal Netherlands Historical Society. This conference took place in The Hague and was organised in collaboration with CegeSoma and NIOD. Are you curious about the discussed statements and topics for further debate? In this report you will find an overview of the sessions, some conclusions and suggestions for topics to be discussed in following conferences or other academic activities. The report is written in English.

## **EHRI Continues Under Horizon 2020**

Kick-off for its Second Funding Period in Brussels on 29 and 30 June

The international Holocaust-project EHRI (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure) will be expanded. The EU has decided to support the next phase of EHRI work with 8 million euro of funding under Horizon 2020.

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## **We Acquire Valuable War & Television Archives**

Recently, Cegesoma acquired the documentary archives of two well-known RTBF journalists and programme makers. We also received some important private archives related to the Second World War.

## **The Mons Memorial Museum Open to the Public**

This Saturday 4 April 2015, the Mons Memorial Museum opens its doors. This is a place where we learn about the eventful history of the capital of the Hainaut province, and a place of reflection on the relation between civilians and soldiers during the two World Wars. CegeSoma has contributed to the wealth of documents on display.

## **The Nazi Concentration Camp System in our Collections**

On the occasion of the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, it seems appropriate to highlight the riches of the CegeSoma collections on the history and memory of the Nazi concentration and extermination camps during the Second World War.



## Press Release

### Censored Newspapers of the First World War Online

From 12 June 2014, it will be possible to read the censored newspapers of the First World War at home. They will be available on *The Belgian War Press* website, where the clandestine press of the two world wars is already accessible. This online publication, an initiative of CEGESOMA (Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society), will also enable new search methods.

### Ambar Geerts Zapien

Ambar Geerts Zapien (1983) has studied Modern Languages and Literatures at the Free University of Brussels. Her thesis is dedicated to American chamanism and spiritual search through entheogens in the 1960's.

She has worked as freelance translator, and collaborates at the CEGESOMA since 1 April 2014 for the organisation of the *Historikerdialog*, and as assistant to the departments of Public History and Academic Activities.

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Has left the Centre on 30 June 2016.

### 2009-2014: from the Bastogne Historical Center to the Bastogne War Museum

Some five year after its initiation, the project launched by the Bastogne authorities, local historians and the highly influential company IDELUX, is successfully completed. The already aging Bastogne Historical Center "the display of its collections decidedly marked by the 1970s" has been transformed in the ultra modern Bastogne War Museum, which has opened its doors to the public on 22 March 2014.

### Western Europe in crisis. An anatomy of extrajudicial detention (1914-1950)

This PhD project initiated in October 2012 thanks to the support of the Federal Science Policy. The project has a comparative aim. This has important consequences for both the focus and the selection of primary sources. Although research is more and more stimulated to have a comparative and/or transnational orientation, there is no blueprint to implement this in practice. The current stage of the project results from secondary literature readings and archival research. The description of the project below is the result of these steps to define the research question and methodology.

### Sophie Soukias

Sophie Soukias (1988) studied contemporary history at the ULB, where she graduated in 2011. Since then she specialised in the study of media, communication and transfer of knowledge. She obtained a master in socio-educational communication (UCL).

From June 2012 to March 2014, she has been working at Cegesoma at the elaboration of the Mons Memorial Museum. From April 2014, she is editor in chief of *Les Journaux de Guerre, 1914-1918 Belgique*, and later *Les Journaux de Guerre 1919-1939*, a cooperation project between CEGESOMA and the London editor Albert Limited.

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Has left the Centre on 31 March 2016.

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\* 'Ce sont les psychologues qui le disent'. Psychologisation et consommation du jouet dans la société (1950-1960), in *Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Nieuwste Geschiedenis*, XLIII, 2013, n° 2/3, p. 46-73.Â

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### National Reports published on EHRI website

A new tool for researchers is now available on the renewed website of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure: EHRI's national reports. The national reports are first and foremost a tool in the identification and investigation work of EHRI. Because the field of Holocaust studies relies on a huge variety of archives, one of EHRI's most important tasks is to create an inventory of Holocaust-related archival institutions and collections in order to share information about them and help provide access to the research community. The 47 reports provide EHRI's identification work with a structured framework.

## **Arlinda Rrustemi**

Arlinda Rrustemi (1988) holds a B.A. (cum laude) from the Roosevelt Academy and an LL.M. degree in Public International Law from Utrecht University.

She is a lecturer and researcher at Leiden University, and also a research assistant to Prof. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. She is involved in courses taught at the Advanced LL.M. programme in Public International Law and at Leiden University College. She is pursuing a doctoral degree in the interdisciplinary research of law and politics called "State-Building through Life Stories: Incorporating Local Perspectives", supported by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO). She has previously worked as a project intern at the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR) in Kosovo, as a legal intern at the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), as an external relations intern at the International Criminal Court (ICC) and as intern at various Ministries in the Republic of Kosovo.

She is an affiliated researcher with CEGESOMA since March 2013.

Her research interests are in post-conflict state building, the accountability of international organizations, international relations and diplomacy.

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Has left the Centre on 31 August 2016.

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## **Marianne Bost**

Marianne Bost (1974) has first studied modern history and non-European arts at the Université libre de Bruxelles. Since May 2013, she holds a PhD in history (UCL) for a thesis on the Belgian judiciary during the First World War.

From September 2007 until March 2012, she was employed at Cegesoma as a doctoral candidate with scholarship on the project 'Justice and Society. Sociopolitical History of Justice Administration in Belgium 1795-2005'. She returned to the institution (and went to the Royal Military Academy) on the 1st of February 2013, and she will be researching the influence of the First World War on the functioning of Belgian Justice as part of the IAP 'Justice and Populations'.

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Has left the Centre on 30th November 2016.

## **Laurence Petrone**

Laurence Petrone (1987) studied history at Ghent University and the Eberhard Karls University Tübingen and human rights at the European Inter-University Centre of Venice and the Irish Centre for Human Rights in Galway. She undertook a thesis on a study of an aspect of the biography of the head of the military occupation authorities in Belgium: Eggert Reeder (1940-1944). She then graduated within the research field transitional justice on the question how a past characterised by massive violence can be dealt with by the community involved (the case of South Africa).

After her studies she was a temporary researcher in the context of the project '*Zwangsmigration und Holocaust. Jüdische Flüchtlinge in Westeuropa 1938-1944*' (University of Oldenburg). In October 2012, she started her Ph D thesis at Cegesoma. The objective is to examine, from a comparative perspective, how a Western European state used the extrajudicial detention to come through a state of emergency between 1914 and 1950.

Has left the Centre on 11 December 2015.

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## Villes en guerre

La Wallonie sous l'Occupation, 1940-1945

After Brussels and Antwerp, a publication on Wallonia has now appeared in the series of photo books *Villes en guerre* produced by CEGESOMA (click here to order). Like the previous publications, this book wants to offer an original synthesis on the occupation by confronting 220 photographs with the existing works on this subject. Remarkable is that the urban landscape of a whole region is concerned, in other words the life of nearly half the population in this period of war.

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## Veerle Vanden Daelen

Veerle Vanden Daelen holds a BA and MA in History from Ghent University and a PhD (2006) from the University of Antwerp. Her MA thesis examined Maurice De Wilde's documentary series on the Second World War. Her PhD work concerned the return and reconstruction of Jewish life in Antwerp after the Second World War (1944-1960). Her post-doctoral research has enlarged the scope of this research on Antwerp Jewish History. She has held fellowships at the University of Michigan (Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, 2007-2008 fellowship "Jews and the City") and at the University of Pennsylvania (Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, 2008-2009 fellowship "Jews, Commerce, and Culture").

She coordinates the work package "Data Identification and Integration" for the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) at CegeSoma. She is also affiliated to the University of Antwerp, where she has taught courses on Migration History, Jewish history, and other topics. Since 2007, Karin Hofmeester and Veerle Vanden Daelen have organised the annual "Contact Day Jewish studies on the Low Countries" at the Institute of Jewish Studies at the University of Antwerp.

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Has left the Centre on 30 June 2016.

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## Karel Strobbe

Â Karel Strobbe (Â°1984)Â is Master in history. He graduated in 2006 at Ghent University with a thesis on the attitude of a number of catholic magazines towards Protestants and Protestantism (1884-1914). He subsequently took an academic teachers course at the KUL (Catholic University of Louvain). From 2007 to 2010 he worked at the KADOC (Louvain) at a research and publication project on the sisters Kindsheid Jesu, an apostolic congregation.

Since January 2011, he works as assistant to the Public History and Academic Activities department of CEGESOMA.Â In particular, he is responsible for the Facebook page of the institution and of the *Cegesoma Newsletter* which was launched in September 2013. In 2011-2012, he was also scientific collaborator of the project concerning the First and the Second World War in Limburg, alsoÂ atÂ CEGESOMA.

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Has left the Centre on 31 December 2015.

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## CegeSoma Info: the Bulletin's Second Life

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To better meet the readers' expectations and needs, this year we decided to transform the traditional *Bulletin* into *CegeSoma Info* (available here). Our yearly publication is henceforward a 12-pages long newspaper containing around 50 short and richly illustrated articles about our activities. But there's more!

## "Wehrmacht" children in Belgium

The German occupation during the Second World War inevitably led to relationships between the military of the occupying forces and Belgian women. According to the lowest estimates, 20,000 children were born from these relationships. This figure says nothing of course about those children who were not born as a result of abortions. In September 2007, Gerlinda Swillen began a study of those children. Here, the relationships, however brief they may have been, were desired by both parties. How did they come about? Who were the mothers and fathers involved? What was the course of the pregnancies and births? What was the fate of the children? To this end, Gerlinda Swillen studies archives and documents of the period in question. But she also needs witness accounts of mothers, children, medical staff, family members, neighbours, friends. After the years of silence in Belgium, the age of the witnesses now becomes problematic. It is crucial that they should be heard now. Cegesoma lends its support in this call for witnesses.

## **Rudi Van Doorslaer**

Rudi Van Doorslaer (°1951) studied contemporary history at the University of Gent and obtained his doctoral degree in 1990 with a thesis entitled 'Enfants du Ghetto. Révolutionnaires juifs en Belgique, 1925-1940?' / 'Kinderen van het getto. Joodse revolutionairen in België, 1925-1940?.'

From 1977 to 1980, he worked as a temporary attaché at Cegesoma (then the Centre for Research and Studies on the History of the Second World War). In 1985 he became a permanent researcher at the Centre. From 1999 to 2001, he directed the Research Commission on Jewish Assets (Prime Minister's Department). From 1996 to 2005, he was chef editor of the

*Cahiers d'histoire du temps présent/Bijdragen tot de Eigentijdse Geschiedenis.*

He published on the subjects of Jewish history, migration movements, Communism and anti-Communism, the Spanish Civil War and a variety of themes related to the history of the Second World War in Belgium.

From 1 September 2005, he is the Director of CEGESOMA.

Has left the Centre on 31 August 2016.