

CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

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FELIX NUSSBAUM: THE POIGNANT LIFE OF A PAINTER

Mark Schaevers and Rudi Van Doorslaer share a passion for Felix Nussbaum (1904-1944). On Wednesday 11 March they will exchange views on the life and work of this Jewish artist. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2904

THE RECEPTION OF FRENCH WOMEN RESISTANCE FIGHTERS IN THE SUISSE ROMANDE REGION (1945-1947)

On Tuesday 17 March, the Friends of CegeSoma invite authors Brigitte Exchaquet-Monnier and Éric Monnier. They will present their book *Retour à la vie*, the story of more than 500 female deportees who lived together in the Swiss refugee centres after the war. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2889

FORCED AND COERCED LABOUR: COMPARING COLONIAL SPACES AND GLOBAL CONFLICTS

How was forced labour implemented in the colonial territories during the two World Wars? An answer to this question will be sought on Thursday 19 March during a study day organized in cooperation with the Centre d'histoire du droit de l'Université Saint-Louis and IUAP Justice & Populations. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2896

SEMINAR PHD STUDENTS WWI IN BELGIUM

On Monday 23 March, the present research projects on the First World War in Belgium will be presented. A unique opportunity to exchange views between young researchers and experts! [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2909

FINAL LAUNCH EVENT OF EUROPEAN HOLOCAUST RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

The Final Launch Event of EHRI, the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, will take place on Thursday March 26 in Berlin. CegeSoma was one of the nineteen Consortium partners participating in this European project. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2908

RADIO BROADCASTS IN WARTIME: EXPERIENCE THE ATMOSPHERE OF OCCUPATION IN FLAGEY

The radio was a mighty weapon during the Second World War. The occupier made use of it to send its propaganda to the Belgian homes. It also sent hopeful messages from the free zones to the occupied population. You are invited to Flagey on Thursday 21 March to listen to authentic broadcasts from

WWII. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2912

SPRING CONGRESS KNHG: TOWARDS A NEW HISTORY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR?

On Tuesday 21 April, NIOD and CegeSoma co-organise the spring congress *Towards a new history of the Second World War?* in The Hague. Influential historians will debate on the future of the historiography of the Second World War in Belgium and the Netherlands. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2901

Felix Nussbaum : The Poignant Life of a Painter

A conference of CegeSoma on March 11

Mark Schaevers and Rudi Van Doorslaer share a passion for Felix Nussbaum (1904-1944). The life of this artist has been marked by dramatic events. As an emigrated Jew and a talented painter, he was persecuted, deported, forgotten and rediscovered.

Osnabrück – Ostend – Brussels : a wandering life

The name Felix Nussbaum is practically unknown in Belgium. However, in his native town Osnabrück (Lower Saxony), a magnificent museum dedicated to his life was inaugurated in 1998. After a prolonged stay in Italy and Paris, Nussbaum arrived in Ostend in the 1930s. Here he stayed a short time before settling in Brussels. In 1944, he was arrested and put on the last convoy to Auschwitz. He would not return.

A captivating oeuvre

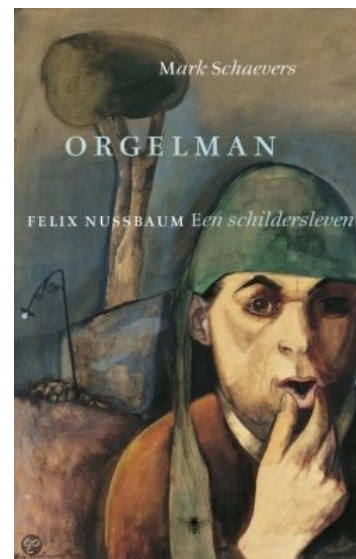
Felix Nussbaum is one of the most important Jewish painters of the 20th century. He painted the most important of his works of art while hidden in Brussels. His seven paintings representing scenes of the internment camp of Saint-Cyprien in the south of France show a great mastership and a particular pictorial sensitivity.

An open exchange between two inspired interlocutors

On Wednesday 11 March, Rudi Van Doorslaer will meet Mark Schaevers (author of *Orgelman – Felix Nussbaum : een schildersleven*) in the conference room of CegeSoma. The artist's life and work will be at the heart of the debate. The public will also be invited to take part in the discussion.

Practical details :

- Wednesday **11 March 2015** from 2.30 to 4 p.m.
- Venue : the conference room of CegeSoma, Square de l'Aviation 29, 1070 Brussels
- Language : Dutch
- Participation is free
- Registration before Monday 9 March via 02/5569211 or cegesoma@cegesoma.be



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L'accueil en Suisse romande d'anciennes déportées françaises de la Résistance (1945-1947)

Une conférence des Amis du CegeSoma

Le **17 mars 2015** nous accueillons **Brigitte Exchaquet-Monnier** et **Éric Monnier** pour la présentation de leur livre **Retour à la vie**. Au centre de leur enquête historique, plus de 500 femmes déportées dans des camps de concentration qui vont vivre une convalescence dans une dizaine de centres d'accueil suisses. Qui sont-elles ? Comment ont-elles été perçues ? Qui finance leur séjour ? Telles sont quelques-unes des questions auxquelles les auteurs du livre tenteront de répondre.

Tout a démarré par la découverte d'un livre d'Or du chalet 'La Gumfluh' à Château d'Oex... On y retrouve des dédicaces et des photographies de rescapées françaises des camps, pour la plupart résistantes, datant de l'été 1945 au printemps 1947....

Mais qui sont-elles ? Brigitte Exchaquet-Monnier et Éric Monnier vont mener une véritable enquête historique auprès des derniers témoins identifiés dans ce livre grâce à la découverte de documents inédits. Ils réalisent un ouvrage unique sur le sujet.

Après la Seconde Guerre mondiale, la Suisse romande, au travers d'une dizaine de 'centres d'accueil' va être un lieu de convalescence pour environ 500 femmes déportées notamment dans les camps de concentration nazis de Ravensbrück et d'Auschwitz.

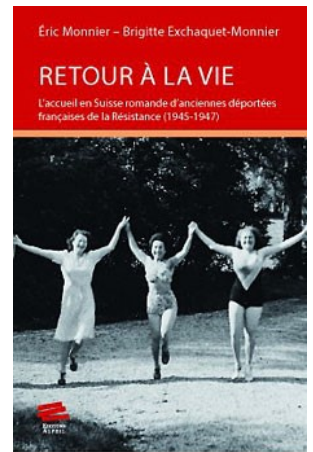
Quel est l'itinéraire de ces femmes ? Comment leur convalescence a-t-elle été organisée et par qui a-t-elle été financée ? Comment ont-elles été perçues par la population locale d'un pays épargné par la guerre ? Quelle a été l'attitude des autorités suisses à l'ouverture de ces centres ? Toutes ces questions mais aussi les parcours singuliers de ces femmes qui tentent de revenir à la vie sont au cœur de cette recherche.

Éric Monnier est licencié en histoire moderne et contemporaine (Université de Genève) et en sciences de la société (Paris VII-Jussieu). Il est aussi détenteur du diplôme supérieur de bibliothécaire (ENSB, Lyon-Villeurbanne). Très actif dans le milieu des bibliothécaires, il est également auteur de polars et de nouvelles.

Brigitte Exchaquet-Monnier, infirmière-anesthésiste, a eu l'occasion de voyager dans divers pays d'Europe et d'Asie. Elle a participé à la création d'une école supérieure d'ambulanciers en Suisse dans laquelle elle a enseigné pendant une vingtaine d'années. Elle est elle-même la fille d'un médecin qui, après la guerre, a accueilli des déportées en Suisse.

Le **mardi 17 mars 2015 à 14h.30**, ils présenteront leur livre *Retour à la vie. L'accueil en Suisse romande d'anciennes déportées françaises de la Résistance (1945-1947)* dans la salle de conférence du CegeSoma, 29, square de l'Aviation.

D'avance, nous vous remercions d'informer l'asbl Les Amis du CegeSoma de votre présence en téléphonant au 02/556.92.1102/556.92.11. ou en envoyant un mail à [Isabelle Ponteville](mailto:Isabelle.Ponteville@cegesoma.be). N'hésitez pas à vous faire accompagner !



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Forced and Coerced Labour: Comparing Colonial Spaces and Global Conflicts

On **19 March 2015**, CegeSoma, in cooperation with the *Centre d'histoire du droit de l'Université Saint-Louis* and the PAI Justice & Populations, organises a **conference** in English on the subject of forced labour. The specific aim of this seminar is to compare the implementation of this practice and how it was experienced in the colonial territories on the one hand, and during the two World Wars on the other.

Practical details of the conference:

- Date: **19 March 2015**.
- Venue: CegeSoma, 29, square de l'Aviation, 1070 Brussels.
- Programme: see [here](#); you can find a "[position paper](#)" here, that will serve as an outline for discussion.
- Participation is free, but registration is required via [this address](#) before 9 March.



Belgian forced labourers in Germany during the Second World War. The message, "Les privés d'amour. Souvenir de Laatzén", is a strong one. (Photo CegeSoma, fund J.B. Piraux, no. 5138)

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First WWI PhD Students seminar in Belgium

CegeSoma, 23 March 2015

On Monday **23 March**, the present research projects on the First World War in Belgium will be presented at CegeSoma. A unique opportunity to exchange views between young researchers and experts!

The WWI Centenary brought about a renewed interest for the period, be it among the general public or in academic circles. As a result, a great number of research is being done on the subject. The BRAIN project coordinators « Great War from Below » (Nico Wouters- GWB) and « Expériences et mémoires de la Grande Guerre en Belgique » (Laurence van Ypersele and Olivier Luminet - MEMEX) came up with the idea of organising a seminar which would gather all young researchers which are currently working on WWI-related subjects in Belgium.

This seminar aims at giving an overview of current research and new research trends, and at promoting contact between young researchers and experts. The day's programme is available [here](#).

[Florent Verfaillie](#) (GWB) & [Karla Vanraepenbusch](#) (MEMEX)

Date: **23 March 2015**

Place: CegeSoma,
Square de l'aviation 29 - 1070 Bruxelles



WWI Family Picture (Photo CegeSoma, fonds Nicole Ruys, n°283488)

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Final Launch Event of European Holocaust Research Infrastructure

The Final Launch Event of EHRI, *the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure*, will take place on Thursday **March 26** in Berlin. CegeSoma was one of the nineteen Consortium partners participating in this European project with [Dirk Luyten](#) and [Veerle Vanden Daelen](#) leading two of the twenty Work Packages.

One of the highlights of the day will be the presentation of the [EHRI online portal](#), that will give access to dispersed Holocaust sources. From then on the portal will be accessible to users around the world. The portal may be considered one of EHRI's greatest achievements, but the project has also supported the Holocaust research community in many other ways. EHRI has organised expert meetings, conferences, fellowships, summer schools and online courses. Several European politicians, renowned Holocaust researchers and digital infrastructure experts will attend the presentation to discuss EHRI's achievements and to reflect on the impact of EHRI on the future of Holocaust research and memory.

Read the [preliminary programme](#) .



Veerle Vanden Daelen presents (with Judith Levin) a test version of the EHRI portal at an EHRI-workshop in Prague in October 2014. (Photo by Irina Rebrova)

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La guerre des ondes

Experience the atmosphere of occupation in Flagey

The radio was a mighty weapon during the Second World War. The occupier made use of it to send its propaganda to the Belgian homes. It also sent hopeful messages from the free zones to the occupied population. You are invited to Flagey on Tuesday **31 March** to listen to authentic broadcasts from WWII. The event will be in French.

Debates on forgotten audio archives and radio propaganda during WWII

75 years after the liberation, [Sonuma](#) and CegeSoma organise an afternoon seminar on the audio collections from WWII and the history of the different war broadcasts. This includes the German propaganda radio but also the Belgian broadcasts from London, Congo and even New York.

An evening in times of war: live broadcast!

You can experience the atmosphere of wartime evenings at Studio 1 Flagey. Broadcasts were sent out from there during the war. You will hear authentic excerpts and pictures will be projected. Actor Philippe Drecq will play the speaker, and Delphine Gardin will sing songs from the 1940s. This will also be broadcasted live on la Première.

Programme

14:45 – 18:15 Debates with lectures by Florence Gillet (CegeSoma), Flore Plisnier (AGR), Céline Rase (U Namur/FNRS) and Bénédicte Rochet (U Namur/FNRS)

19:30: Evening broadcast with audio excerpts, live on la Première

Tickets for the evening broadcast (5 EUR, see [folder](#)) can be purchased in advance ([via the Flagey-website](#)) or at the entrance on 31 March (Place Sainte-Croix, 1050 Brussels). You can attend the afternoon-activity for free, but please confirm your presence in advance by sending an [e-mail](#).

All information [here](#) (in French).



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Spring Conference KNHG: Towards a New History of WWII ?

On **21 April 2015**, the Royal Netherlands Historical Society, together with *NIOD* and CegeSoma organise a **congress** titled "Towards a new history of the Second World War?". Influential historians will tackle the theme of Second World War historiography in Belgium and the Netherlands. The congress will open with a lecture by Martin Conway, who will place the topic in an international context, and end with another by Peter Romijn.

70 Years After the Liberation: a New Era?

The history of WWII has been being written for the last 70 years. Witnesses, historians, actors, writers and many others have constructed our representation of the event. How will the WWII historiography evolve in Belgium and the Netherlands? How should historians interact with memorial politics and new media? Is it still relevant to consider WWII as a separate topic for research? How do digital humanities play a role? The latter are but a small number among the many questions that will be discussed at this international congress.

Influential Historians will set the Tone

The speakers will gather their statements in a [position paper](#) before the congress. The event itself will include four thematic sessions, each headed by a Belgian or a Dutch expert: Hinke Piersma, Nico Wouters, Kees Ribbens and Rudi Van Doorslaer.

You are heartily invited to attend this inspiring congress.

For more information: <https://www.historici.nl/nieuws/knhg-spring-conference-towards-new-history-second-world-war>.

Practical details of the congress

- When: **21 April 2015**;
- Where: **Den Haag** Royal Library;
- Program: [click here](#) for the program of the Congress;
- Language: English;
- Subscriptions until 16 April via [e-mail](#).



Historians tracing WWII archives in postwar Germany shortly after the war. (Collection NIOD Amsterdam)

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