

CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

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TERRORISTS AND PERPETRATORS OF GENOCIDE : A COMPARISON

For the New Year's conferences, Cegesoma.arch 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 [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3106&pag0nbr=27&pagofs=0)

GERMANY AND INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS AFTER 1918

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 Brüll (FNRS/Université de Liège). [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3109)

WORKSHOP ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE: CALL FOR PAPERS

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. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/docs/media/Activites_Scient/ActScient_Workshop_13mai2016_AppelContributions_CFPReconciliationLocalInternational.pdf)

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. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3115)

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.

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

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**.

What distinguishes yesterday's perpetrators of genocide from today's terrorists ? Both assume they have been assigned the mission to purge society in the name of their own values. To both, violence is their ultimate signature. There are however distinctions. Mass exterminations are generally the result of a long process of *compartmentalisation* of all levels of society . The victims have been targeted in advance, then isolated and left unprotected. This homicidal madness has killed more than 100 million victims since the end of the 19th century and is the main cause of death in the 20th century. Terrorism on the contrary strikes like a thunder bolt, mostly causing only a limited number of victims. The selection process of the perpetrators is also very different. Nevertheless, it remains true that both forms of violence confront us with many questions. How can we understand these types of violence? And how should societies tackle these phenomena?

To reflect on these important questions, CegeSoma and the Egmont Institute organise a lunchtime conference with Professor *Abram de Swaan*, who is a sociologist, a political scientist and a psychoanalyst. Using this threefold approach, he took an interest in the phenomenon of mass murders. Abram de Swaan is Professor Emeritus at Amsterdam University, Visiting Professor at the University of Columbia and the Sorbonne, member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and the Academia Europaea, and has recently published *Killing Compartments. The Mentality of Mass Murder*. The study was also published in Dutch (*Compartimenten van Vernietiging* (Prometheus/Bert Bakker 2014) and will appear in French on 1 February 2016 (*Diviser pour tuer*, le Seuil).

Practical information

CegeSoma.arch's New Year Conference, in partnership with the Egmont Institute

The Conference will be given in English

When?

Friday 19 February 2016, as from 12:00 p.m.

12:30 Sven Biscop (Egmont Institute) and Rudi Van Doorslaer (CegeSoma.arch): introduction and presentation

12:45 – 13:30 Conference by Abram de Swaan

13:45 – 14:45 Questions and debate

Where?

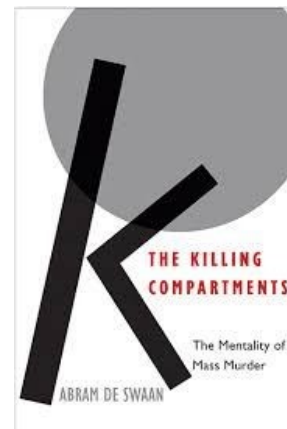
Egmont Palace, Salle des glaces, 8 bis Place du Petit Sablon, 1000 Brussels (access via n° 8 bis, <http://www.ccegmt.be/en/practical-information>)

Formula : Lunchtime conference, from 12:30 to 15:00

Fee: 65€, including lunch and drinks

Please transfer the fee to the following account: BE12 6792 0045 0092 (BIC PCHQBEBB), Royal Archives, CegeSoma, 29, Square de l'Aviation, 1070 Brussels before 8 February 2016.

Subscription and information: ambar.geerts@cegesoma.be



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Germany and International Scientific Relations After 1918

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 Brüll** (FNRS/*Université de Liège*).

A cleavage in the Intellectual Landscape

The European scientific world was deeply affected by the Great War. Most links between academics were disrupted, and scholars gathered in two opposing groups. "Cultural demobilization" was a difficult process. Until the middle of the 1920s, institutions would impose a "boycott" on the adversary camp, and few dared to transgress or ignore this. Taking the example of the historians, the conference will evoke the controversies caused by the renewal of scientific relations in Germany, in France and in Belgium. The efforts for the rebuilding of a common intellectual horizon were again frustrated by the rise of the Nazis in 1933.

Peter Schöttler is research director at the CNRS (retired since 2015), and honorary professor at the *Freie Universität Berlin*.

Christoph Brüll is qualified researcher at the FRS-FNRS and professor of contemporary history at the *Université de Liège*.

Info & contact: christoph.brull@ulg.ac.be



The sale académique at the Université de Liège.

Practical Information

When : Wednesday, 17 February 2016, 18 :00

Where : Université de Liège, Salle académique (Place du 20-aôut)

Attendance is free, please subscribe : www.historikerdialog.eu

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Problematizing Reconciliation in Local Contexts and the Role of the International Community

General Framework

Although often used, the term ‘reconciliation’ remains problematic. It lacks conceptual clarity and is always a very complex process in local realities. Verdeja even goes as far as calling reconciliation ‘fundamentally disjunctured and uneven’ (Verdeja, 2009, p. 182). Political reconciliation is understood as a complex process where two fragile goals coincide at the same moment. Former adversaries open up to each other but also question each other. This might be viewed as a never-ending process (Schaap, 2004). According to Lily Gardner Feldman (2012), the distinction between moral and instrumental reconciliation is that moral reconciliation deals with moral issues like values and friendship while instrumental reconciliation concerns business and economic relations and benefits derived from engaging in intrastate relations. On the other hand, Verdeja proposes a closer focus on discussion, deliberation and politics based on the democratic values of the ‘others’ to achieve reconciliation, rather than ‘deep acceptance, or willful embrace of the “other”’ understood as moral reconciliation (Verdeja, 2009, p. 181). Kelman argues that the ‘key is mutual acceptance of the other’s identity and humanity’ (Kelman, 2008, p. 16).

In any case, the importance of reconciliation in Transitional Justice processes is high since it is a process rather than a goal, and is thus ‘not linear, but a continuously evolving relationship between parties: at each stage a relapse into violence is possible’ (Rosoux, 2008). Conflict may entail massive amount of civilian killings, flows of refugees, internally displaced people, child soldiers, beheadings, grave abuses of women and other forms of violence. Since it is salient to prevent relapses to conflict, delicacy is ‘required’ at every step of reconciliation after the conflict (Verdeja, 2009).

A vast literature deals with the role, design and effectiveness of the transitional justice programs implemented by the international organizations (EU, UN), international and local NGO’s, and the states. However the mismatch between the transitional justice programs, imposed and in some cases implemented by the international community, and local responses has been insufficiently analyzed. Recent literature on criminal justice and peacebuilding sheds more light on the mismatch between the top down transitional justice programs and local responses.

However, reconciliation in local contexts has been insufficiently analyzed. The results of transitional justice programs on the ground in post and ongoing conflict zones reflect an absence of the desired outcomes, ie reconciliation between former enemies, by the international and local community.

Aims of the Workshop

This workshop attempts to deepen the meaning of reconciliation in the local contexts and trace the influence of the international community on reconciliation. The latter includes states represented through Embassies, IOs, NGOs, humanitarian organizations, universities, religious organizations and other groups in the respective case studies. While international community's role in conflict resolution, mediation, management, peacebuilding and nationbuilding has been analyzed in depth across Africa, Asia and the former Yugoslavia (Fisher & Keashly, 1991; Rudolph et al., 2013), it is necessary to problematize their involvement in promoting judicial and non-judicial transitional justice mechanisms. Therefore this workshop aims to analyze the role of the international community and the potential different or similar meanings of reconciliation between the local and international community in the transitional justice framework.

Furthermore, transitional justice is often criticized as a top-down approach to dealing with the past by adopting classical mechanisms such as criminal justice, reparations and semi-local/international mechanisms such as truth seeking. In many cases, there has been a backlash when the local community opposes the international community's promotion of these policies. As a response to the resistance of local communities, several approaches and theories developed in transitional justice. For instance, McEvoy & McGregor (2008) supports proposals towards transitional justice from below through grassroots activism (McEvoy & McGregor, 2008). Furthermore, a growing stream of research focuses on localizing transitional justice that prioritizes the local needs rather than international norms (Shaw, Waldorf, & Hazan, 2010). Based on an understanding of localities and culture through tracing how ordinary people respond and sometimes transform transitional justice mechanisms, more locally responsive approaches are suggested for implementation in transitional justice. For instance, theoretical frameworks emphasizing the role of identity to achieve reconciliation are promoted (Aiken, 2013). Aiken argues that

‘transitional justice interventions will be successful in promoting reconciliation and sustainable peace to the extent that they can help to catalyze those crucial processes of ‘social learning’ needed to transform the antagonistic relationships and identifications that divide post-conflict societies even after the signing of formal peace agreements.’ (Aiken, 2013)

Therefore the workshop wants to put the following *questions* to the fore

- What is the meaning of reconciliation for local communities? What types of reconciliation, moral, instrumental or other, do you see emerge in case studies? Which types are deeper or have a stronger impact and why?
- What is the role of the international community (Embassies, IO's, NGO's, and other groups) in reconciliation processes? Is the international community necessary for reconciliation to occur in practice from the perspective of ordinary local people? How and when are international policy calls for reconciliation contradictory to local perceptions and local needs? How does the memory of local people develop around international

community's engagement in reconciliation? What types of international community interventions are necessary, for how long and when?

We expect the *case studies* to at least partly address these (or similar) questions. The case studies are salient for understanding further the turn to instrumental, moral or other types reconciliation in local communities and how the local communities view the international community's engagement in transitional justice. The focus lies on case studies representing post (civil) war cases, ie Rwanda, Balkans and the cases that relapsed to conflict, ie Congo, Palestine/Israel, etc. Conflict cases are chosen since many states are still experiencing a fragile transitional period (ie Balkans, Palestine/Israel) and where dealing with the past has been neglected in the agenda of the local governments and international organizations.

Guidelines & practical info:

If interested, please submit an abstract of max 500 words and a short biography by **18th February 2016** at globalaffairs@fgga.leidenuniv.nl

You will receive information on the final selection and programme by the end of February.

Date and Location: 17 May, The Hague

The organizers will not be able to reimburse the costs for your travel and/or stay.

This workshop is organized by Centre for Global Affairs, Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs (Leiden University in the Hague) and co-organized by CegeSoma (Brussels). For more info: Arlinda Rrustemi (a.rrustemi@fgga.leidenuniv.nl)

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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.

The aim of the integration is to strengthen the scientific potential and the social importance of both the Archives and Cegesoma, and to increase the possibilities for doing research and for spreading the outcome of research projects by means of academic publications and projects aimed at the general public. Moreover, the aim is to unify both institutions in order to improve the access, notably the digital access, to their ever enriching public and private collections regarding the history of the 20th century.

If you wish to read Mrs. Sleurs' discourse, please click [here](#).

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From left to right: the Archive's general director Karel Velle, the Secretary of State for science policy Elke Sleurs, and the director of Cegesoma Rudi Van Doorslaer.

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