

CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

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PUBLICATION - A CLEAR AND ACCESSIBLE GUIDE ON THE SOURCES OF THE POST-WAR PURGES

Archives providing information on the post-war purges (the so-called 'repression') and its aftermath are not always very accessible to a layperson. On 13 September, a guide will be published, giving an overview of the archives that allow to reconstruct the individual trajectory of those who were confronted with the purges. The guide is an initiative of Ghent University, the ULB, the State Archives and CegeSoma and explains in a clear language how the different sources can be used. The guide will be presented the same day to the press at CegeSoma, in the presence of the Secretary of State of Science Policy, Zuhair Demir. The event is open to the public but spaces are limited. Registration by e-mail is mandatory : cegesoma@cegesoma.be (<mailto:cegesoma@cegesoma.be>). [\[MORE INFO\]](#) (http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/autres_publications_en.php?article=3424)

RESEARCH - A FESTIVE PRESENTATION OF TEN YEARS OF RESEARCH ON JUSTICE

On Friday the 22nd of September, the Interuniversity Attraction Pool (IAP) Justice & Populations will present the final results of ten years of research on the history of the Belgian judiciary and justice system in the Palace of Academies in Brussels (by invitation only). The CegeSoma is an active member of this IAP and has facilitated several projects, including Jan Julia Zurné's doctoral and postdoctoral research on the attitude of the Belgian judiciary towards violence perpetrated by resistance groups during and after the Second World War and the justice-themed branch of the virtual platform BELGIUM WW2, which will be online as from September the 28th. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) (http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/activ_scientific_en.php?article=3542&pagnbr=5&pagofs=0)

EXHIBITION - BRUSSELS, WELCOMING CITY ?

Starting October 13, the Jewish Museum of Belgium will host the exhibition Brussels: welcoming city? Co-organised by the Jewish Museum and the Belgian State Archives, this exhibition recalls nearly two centuries (from 1830 until today) of migration history, focusing on the life stories of newcomers who either passed through the Belgian capital, or settled there forever. The historical narrative is complemented by a presentation of recent work by immigrant artists, devoted to the cultural diversity of present-day Brussels. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) (http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/exposition_en.php?article=3536&pagnbr=2&pagofs=0)

PUBLICATION - a Clear and Accessible Guide on the Sources of the Post-War Purges

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Was Grandfather a Nazi?

Not a day goes by when CegeSoma (State Archives) does not receive a question of a descendant of a person who was confronted with the repression after the Second World War. The question can concern a conviction, a loss of rights as a consequence of the civil purge, an internment... Often, descendants have only a vague notion or even a completely wrong idea about what happened to (grand)father, (grand)mother, (grand)uncle and why this confrontation took place.

A Maze for the Layperson

In case of a conviction, the judicial files are the most appropriate source. As a rule however, they are not accessible to descendants. A lot of information on persons suspected of or convicted for collaboration after 1944 can also be found in other archives of government institutions (prisons, courts of first instance, consultative commissions, commissions responsible for administrative purges). These archives are kept in the repositories of the State Archives or in provincial or communal archives. To find one's way to (and in) these archives is not easy.

A Guide in a Clear Language for a Wide Public

At the initiative of Dr. Koen Aerts (Ghent University), experts of the State Archives, CegeSoma and Prof. Pieter Lagrou (ULB) have joined forces to write an easy-to-use guide which gives an overview of all relevant archives and which helps the layperson find the way to the right archive. Each source corresponds to a separate mention in which archivists and historians explain what information is available and how the source can be used for personal research.

Dealing with the Myths on Collaboration and Repression

The first part of the book proposes an introduction to the repression to the non-specialist reader, in which the different penalties are listed and the juridical procedures are explained in a clear language based on the most recent historical research. This synthesis will hopefully contribute to dispel a number of myths on collaboration and repression.

Presentation on 13 September

The book is published in Dutch and French by Lannoo/Racine and will be presented on 13 September at CegeSoma, in the presence of the State Secretary for Science Policy, Zuhair Demir.

The publication is for sale (24,99€ - postal charges offered) at [CegeSoma](http://cegesoma.be) or can be ordered via [CegeSoma](http://cegesoma.be).

Papy était-il un Nazi ? Sur les traces d'un passé de guerre [Koen Aerts, Dirk Luyten, Bart Willems, Paul Droossens & Pieter Lagrou], Racine, Bruxelles, 2017 (ISBN : 9789401445979).

To consult the list of our publications, [click here](#).

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RESEARCH - A festive presentation of ten years of research on justice

On Friday the 22nd of September, the final results of the Interuniversity Attraction Pools (IAP's) *Justice & Society* and *Justice & Populations* will be festively presented in the Palace of Academies in Brussels (by invitation only). At this event, the organisers want to show professionals in the judicial, police, journalist, political and academic world the products of ten years of research on justice. The book [*Les mots de la justice/Het verhaal van justitie*](#), published in late 2016, has similar aims, but speaks directly to the general public.



Fundamental research and public history at CegeSoma

The IAP *Justice and populations. The Belgian Experience in International Perspective 1795-2015* started in 2012. It is a collaboration between fourteen Belgian and non-Belgian universities and research centers, including CegeSoma. During the past few years, several IAP integrated projects were undertaken at the CegeSoma. Examples are Mélanie Bosts doctoral and postdoctoral research on the functioning of the judiciary during and after the First World War, Jan Julia Zurné's doctoral and postdoctoral research on the attitude of the judiciary toward resistance related violence during and after the Second World War and the judicial component of the virtual platform **Belgium WWII**, that will also be presented in late September.

A diverse collection of IAP-projects

Several other Belgian and non-Belgian research institutions and universities have also undertaken research on justice and legal history within the framework of the IAP. Some of the subjects on the agenda were international law, the relationship with the citizen, justice in situations of crisis and long-term (self)representations of justice.

More information of the publications, conferences and other results of the IAP is available on the program [website](#).



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EXHIBITION - Brussels, welcoming city?

Starting October 13, the Jewish Museum of Belgium will host **the exhibition 'Brussels: welcoming city?'**. Co-organised by the Jewish Museum and the Belgian State Archives, this exhibition recalls nearly two centuries (from 1830 until today) of migration history, focusing on the life stories of newcomers who either passed through the Belgian capital, or settled there forever. The historical narrative is complemented by a presentation of recent work by immigrant artists, devoted to the cultural diversity of present-day Brussels.

Today, more than 180 nationalities live together in Brussels. This number reflects the presence of numerous immigrants, who each carry their personal life story and hopes for the future.

Since the beginning of Belgian independence (1830), various waves of immigration have followed one another. Why did these newcomers leave their home countries? Was Brussels a welcoming refuge for them?

Brussels: Welcoming City? recalls how the Belgian capital gradually transformed itself into a multicultural microcosm. Through family photographs, testimonies, and a variety of objects brought by foreigners, the exhibition outlines two centuries of immigration history.

Next to this historical part, Brussels: Welcoming City? presents the work of Brussels-based emerging artists. Indeed, in recent years, photographers, street artists, sculptors, and video producers have (re)presented issues related to urban immigration and cultural diversity.

Films, interactive artistic performances, conferences, and workshops will take place within the framework of this exhibition, which is a co-production of the Jewish Museum of Belgium and the Belgian State Archives. The event, which has also benefitted from the assistance of the Judeo-Moroccan Cultural Centre, will be accompanied by a theme issue of Intercultural Agenda (edited by the Brussels Intercultural Action Centre).

Practical information

Where? At the Jewish Museum of Belgium (21 rue des Minimes, 1000 Brussels)

When? From October 13, 2017 to March 18, 2018

Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Information: 02 500 88 37; georgia@jmb.org

Optional guided tours in French, Dutch or English (max. 25 persons): 60 euros

Entrance fee: 10 euros (reduced rate: 7 euros)

More details: <http://www.mjb-jmb.org>



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