

# CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

## NO 45 - MARCH 2019

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### INVITATION

You are cordially invited at CegeSoma on 23 April 2019 from 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm for an 'Encounter in Public History' with this time a conference-debate (in Dutch) about the use of violence in war with Frank Seberechts, Bruno De Wever and Bart Willems. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) (<http://www.cegesoma.be>

[/cms/index\\_en.php?article=3875](/cms/index_en.php?article=3875))

### DOUBLE EVENT

Do you feel like finally discovering the meaning of Crowdsourcing and to participate to an editathon about photographs of Brussels during the Second World War ? Join the team of CegeSoma at CIVA on 25 April 2019 (1.00 pm : conference – 5.30 pm : the editathon). [\[MORE INFO\]](#) (<http://www.cegesoma.be>

[/cms/index\\_en.php?article=3874](/cms/index_en.php?article=3874))

### PUBLICATION

A new issue of the Journal of Belgian History has been published (2018/4). It contains diverse contributions on among others new diplomatic history, poverty and the Belgian politics of agricultural colonization, ... [\[MORE INFO\]](#) ([http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index\\_en.php?article=3860&pag0nbr=86&pagofs=0](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3860&pag0nbr=86&pagofs=0))

### ARCHIVAL VALORIZATION

Launch of an operation to digitize sources in the framework of a research project about civil purges after the Second World War in the judicial district of Brussels, thanks to a funding by the *Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO)*. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) ([http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index\\_en.php?article=3871&](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3871&pag0nbr=86&pagofs=0)

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### COMMEMORATIONS AND HISTORY

How do we find the right balance between a duty to remember and the writing of history ? [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

([http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index\\_en.php?article=3868](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3868))

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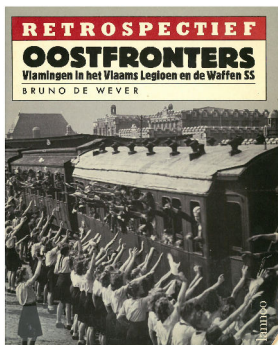
## Third Public History Encounter at the CegeSoma

on 23 April 2019 (12.30 pm – 2.00 pm)

### *The use of Violence in Times of War*

A conference-debate (in Dutch) with guest speakers **Frank Seberechts** and **Bruno De Wever** moderated by **Bart Willems**

1984



In 1984, Lannoo published the work of Bruno De Wever entitled '*Oostfronters. Vlamingen in het Vlaams Legioen en de Waffen SS*'.

In 2019, the book by Frank Seberechts entitled '*Drang naar het Oosten. Vlaamse soldaten en kolonisten aan het oostfront*' is published.

These two seminal works are thirty-five years apart...

The work of Frank Seberechts deals with war crimes and crimes against humanity that Flemish volunteers have committed or that they have witnessed while deployed at the Eastern Front' during the Second World War.

This is the first time that this issue is addressed so thoroughly.

2019



For a long time, the volunteers of the Flemish Legion and the *SS regiment Westland*, the Flemish members of the *NSKK-Vervoerkorps* and the Todt Organisation were represented as idealists engaged in the battle against Communism, as though they had nothing to do with the murder of civilians, of partisans and Jews from Poland, Ukraine and Russia between 1939 and 1945.

This fight against partisans is certainly addressed in the book by Bruno De Wever, but it is only one aspect of his research. The context of publication and the approach were different. Knowledge and susceptibility was different as well.

But why exactly? Which archives were available at the time?

What has changed since 1984 ? How did historiography change?

On 23 April, CegeSoma will give the floor to the authors, Frank Seberechts and Bruno De Wever. They will be interviewed by Bart Willems (scientific collaborator at the State Archives in Antwerp). Together they will address the delicate issue of violence in times of war.

#### Guests:



**Frank Seberechts** (PhD) holds degrees of history of the universities of Antwerp and Ghent.

He has worked at CegeSoma and at *ADVN*, where he led research about the history of the Flemish movement, Flemish nationalism, the Second World War and the persecution of the Jews in Belgium.

Today, he is a researcher at *Vredescentrum Provincie en Stad Antwerpen* and associated researcher at CegeSoma.

He has published, among others, about Flemish nationalism, the Second World War, the port of Antwerp and local history.



**Bruno De Wever** is a professor at Ghent University.

He is expert in the history of the Second World War.

His other fields of interest are the history of Flemish nationalism and of fascism.

He is the author of numerous articles and books about various topics. He is vice-chairman of the Scientific Committee of CegeSoma.

**Bart Willems** is a historian and archivist at the State Archives in Antwerp where his main occupation is the authoring of inventories for the archives about the Second World War.

He is the co-author of the book '*Papy était-il un nazi ? Sur les traces d'un passé de guerre*' published in 2017.



The book of Frank Seberechts will be on sale at CegeSoma at the day of the conference and can be autographed by the author.

The conference will take place at the conference room of CegeSoma (Square de l'Aviation 29 – 1070 Brussels) and will be followed by a debate.

Please register by mail to [isabelle.ponteville@arch.be](mailto:isabelle.ponteville@arch.be) or by phone 02.556.92.11 **and indicate if you would like to have a snack\* and if yes, which one (5 Euros to be wired before the event to CegeSoma: IBAN: BE12 6792 0045 0092 - BIC: PCHQBEBB + communication: name and surname).**

\* Snack choice 1: organic baguette, raisins, nuts, Brie cheese (+ still water, sparkling water or orange juice);

\* Snack choice 2: organic brioche bread, ham, egg, salad (+ still water, sparkling water or orange juice).

Feel free to bring someone along !

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## Double invitation CegeSoma by CIVA

Within the framework of the UGESCO project (Upscaling the Geo-temporal Enrichment, exploration and exploitation of Scientific Collection), the CegeSoma/State Archives organise a conference afternoon on **25 April** (from 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm) about crowdsourcing, followed by a practical application of the concept during the editathon evening (editing marathon/contributive event) from 5.30 pm to 9.00 pm.

**Seats are limited, please register: [Click here to register for the conference afternoon and/or the editathon evening.](#)**

# Double invitation

by CIVA, 25 april 2019



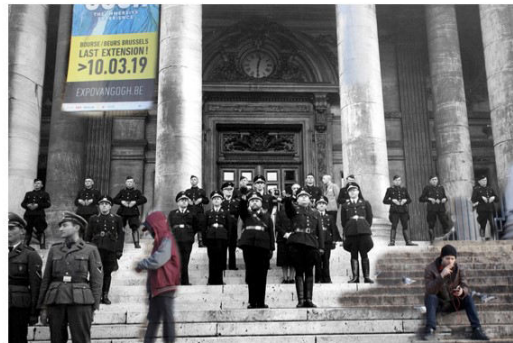
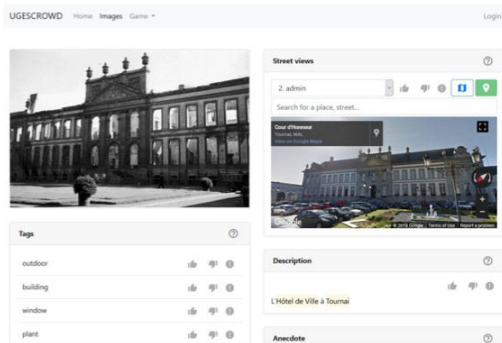
Are you interested in crowdsourcing? Do you want to explore the concept of content crowdsourcing? Then come join us at CegeSoma on Thursday 25 April for the very first event of this kind at our institution!

## Crowdsourcing conferences

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

## Editathon about photographic archives of Brussels during war

5.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.



Content crowdsourcing is on the rise in our society, be it through tools such as Wikipedia or in the trading sector with multinationals such as Amazon or Google. The cultural and heritage sector has also developed platforms to this end, among which is Ugescrowd, the application of the UGESCO project (CegeSoma partner project), a tool for extracting and enriching spatial and temporal metadata for photographic collections.

In order to further reflection about the topic, CegeSoma gathers representatives of three crowdsourcing projects that have proved their worth: *Europeana 1914-1918*, *Testaments de Poilus* and *PhotosNormandie*. On this occasion, we will delve into the practical aspect of implementing crowdsourcing and into a broader and more theoretical reflection with three main questions: which are the advantages and inconveniences of such projects? Which costs arise? And finally, we ponder whether workforce replacement by volunteer workers is an ethical issue when it takes place in the scientific and cultural sectors?

At the end of the day, the participants will be invited to take part in a practical editathon around the subject "Brussels during war".

Are you interested in the cultural heritage of Brussels? The streets of the capital hold no secrets for you? Do you want to make Brussels known to the world by enriching the CegeSoma photographic collections? Do you want to support research and make the collections available to the broad public?

As an expert or enthusiast about Brussels cultural heritage, we invite you to find any material illustrating the capital during the Second World War. For one evening, let us bring together knowledge about Brussels history and cultural heritage in order to make research progress.

What is an editathon ?

It is an editing marathon (or contributive event) during which you are invited to create, modify, and improve data on photographic archives about Brussels during the Second World War. This collaborative project is based on the UGESCO research project that gave birth to a platform for visual recognition of photographic samples from CegeSoma. Feel free to try it out before the event.

### Practical information

**1.00 p.m.** : Welcome

**1.30 p.m.** : **Florence Gillet**, Introduction

**2.00 p.m.** : **Ad Pollé**, *Europeana 1914-1918* project

**Where ?** CIVA (Centre International pour la Ville, l'Architecture et le Paysage)  
Rue de l'Ermitage, 55 in 1050 Brussels

**How ?** Bus line 54 stop Bailli.

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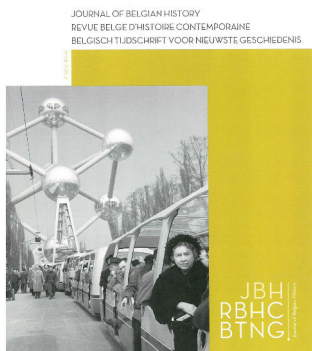
## Issue 4 of the JBH (2018) now available

The fourth issue of the *Journal of Belgian History* contains four articles and a contribution to the debate section.

Jeroen Barrez (*KU Leuven*) investigates the use of the concept of poverty during the 1960s, Charlotte Vekemans and Yves Segers (*KU Leuven*) tackle the Belgian state policy of so-called agricultural colonisation in Katanga between 1910 and 1920, the trio of Elke Brems, Reine Meylaerts and Myrthel Van Etterbeeck (*KU Leuven*) offer a case-study of the novel '*Mes cloîtres dans la tempête*' of Martial Lekeux from 1922 and Martin Schoups (*UGent*) presents his research on Belgian food policy after WW I.

The position paper (in English) in the debate section from the young researchers Houssine Alloul and Michael Auwers (*PoHis* - University of Antwerp) offers a critical look on new diplomatic history.

For all additional information: <http://www.journalbelgianhistory.be/>



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## FWO – ‘Research Grant’ for research about the civic purge

The Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) has given Dirk Luyten (CeGeSoma) a research grant for research into the civic purge after the Second World War in the judicial district of Brussels.

The civic purge, better known as the 'list of the military prosecutor', was a key element of punishment of collaboration after the Second World War in Belgium. It was aimed at less grave and mainly political collaboration. Due to this measure, over 20,000 people lost their political and civil rights.



Little research has been carried out about this phenomenon so far, although it is a very interesting one for various reasons. The military prosecutor could revoke rights without interference of the military tribunal, but opposition to his decision was possible. In this case, the court of first instance was competent for rendering a judgement and thereby served as a contact point between the military justice system and the 'common' judicial powers.

The present research project focusses on these contacts and on the judicial protagonists: how did military prosecutors, judges and lawyers use this new tool? Which influence did the civil judicial powers have on the manner in which the military prosecutor acted? How did he use this new tool?

### Case study Brussels

The project bears on the judicial district of Brussels. This district has a variety of characteristics (Dutch and French-speaking population, city and countryside) which allows for research into how the tool was used with regard to Flemish and French-speaking collaboration movements and whether or not it was applied to specifically target local collaboration phenomena. As the actors of the judicial system take a central role, the focus is on cases in which the decisions of the military prosecutor are opposed.

### A corpus of sources

The sources that will be used for this research project were produced by two different archive creators: the court of first instance and the office of the military prosecutor. Both were directly linked by the judgements, which will be digitised at the State Archives in Forest/Vorst. The digitisation of these documents has two purposes: analysing the juridical arguments put forward, and having a tool to make a representative selection of the most relevant case files of the office of the military prosecutor. Digitisation of these files will take place at the National Archives 2 - Joseph Cuvelier repository.

This corpus of sources forms the basis for the research. By combining them with other archives, such as the Instructions générales of the chief military prosecutor, we gain better insight into the mode of operation of the civic purge and the attitude of the different juridical protagonists, especially the military prosecutors, and into the internal corrective mechanisms of the judiciary.

Digitisation will be carried out by job students who are employed thanks to the research grant. For standards and metadata, the internal rules of the State Archives are applied, complemented by metadata to answer specific research questions. In order to enable international comparisons, there are contacts with an ongoing project of the digitisation of files produced in the context of the post-war purges in the Netherlands.

The present project is not only of importance for the scientific valorisation of the archives of the military justice system, transferred to the State Archives, it also contributes – although modestly – to solving the issue of permanent conservation of this kind of very fragile archive documents. Furthermore, the project provides opportunities for cooperation between different repositories of the State Archives.

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## Which sense should we give to commemorations?

In 2019, we will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Belgium as well as the 50th anniversary of CegeSoma. This is the perfect occasion for our institution to reflect on the relationship between 'history' and 'commemoration' or public memories.



Commemoration at the Congress Column, 1948 or 1949, Fund R. Demeyer, Rights reserved/CegeSoma photo nr 624895.

We will launch several events and initiatives with regard to this question, among others a new CegeSoma-website and an anniversary-conference during which a special edition of the Journal of Belgian History will be presented.

For now, we invite you to continue to check our blog on 'Belgium WWII': <https://www.belgiumwwii.be/nl/blog.html> and also to discover [the recently published interview with Nico Wouters, head of the Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Society \(CegeSoma\)](#), and [Pierre-Alain Tallier, head the contemporary archives section at the National Archives; questions were asked by Pierre Havaux](#) (in LE VIF, no. 11, 14.03.2019).

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