

CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

NO 53 - FEBRUARY 2020

[nl](#) [fr](#) [en](#)

JOB OPENINGS

Five new job advertisements, two of which are about research projects soon to be launched at CegeSoma. [\[MORE INFO\]](https://new.cegesoma.be/en/vacancies)

SATISFACTION SURVEY

Your opinion counts! Two months after the launch of the new website of CegeSoma, we would like to hear your opinion to help us improve it... [\[MORE INFO\]](https://new.cegesoma.be/en/news/satisfaction-survey)

INVITATION

Welcome in CegeSoma on 23 March 2020 from 12.30 pm to 14.00 pm for a 'Public History Meetings' in the form of a conference-debate (in French) about 'Commemorating the Rwandan genocide of 1994: A retrospection on the emergence of a culture of public commemoration in Rwanda' with Florence Rasmont and Ornella Rovetta. [\[MORE INFO\]](https://new.cegesoma.be/en/event/commemorating-rwandan-genocide-1994-retrospection-emergence-culture-public-commemoration)

PROJECT

A new research project was launched at CegeSoma, titled 'People @ War. A social history of the Second World War and its Remembrance in Belgium', in order to study the manner in which "ordinary people" experienced the Second World War and its aftermath. [\[MORE INFO\]](https://new.cegesoma.be/en/project/project-peoplewar-social-history-second-war-and-its-remembrance-belgium)

ARCHIVES

Discover or re-discover the archives of Radio Bruxelles - Zender Brussel 1940-1945 now available in digital format in the reading room of CegeSoma. They contain both radio program recordings broadcast by the occupying forces from the premises of the 'National Institute of Radio Broadcasting' (INR) during the Second World War as well as transcripts and other preparatory files of these same programs.

[\[MORE INFO\]](https://new.cegesoma.be/en/radio-bruxelles-zender-brussel-archives)

EHRI

Report about the official launch of the 'preparatory phase funding' for EHRI (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure) that took place in Munich from 11 to 13 February 2020. [\[MORE INFO\]](https://new.cegesoma.be/en/news/kick-ehri-pp-munich-11-13-february-2020)

[\[MORE INFO\]](https://new.cegesoma.be/en/news/kick-ehri-pp-munich-11-13-february-2020)



Vacancies

The State Archives are currently recruiting:

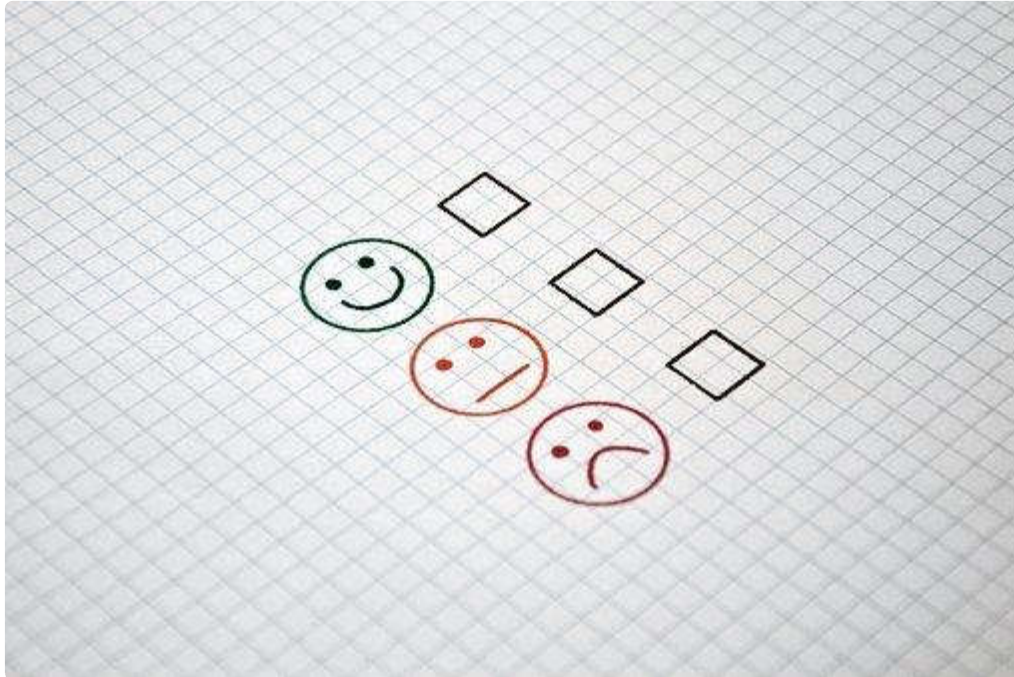
- **2 historians** (m/f/x) (FR/NL) for the projects BRAIN 'DIGICOLJUST' (Colonial Violence, Subaltern Agency and Shared Archival Heritage: A Digital Platform of Colonial Judiciary Sources) and 'NAPOL-INTEL' (Nationalisation de l'information policière en Belgique (1918-1961) : Processus de démocratisation et gestion bureaucratique des connaissances / Nationalisering van de politie informatie in België (1918-1961): Democratiseringsprocessen en bureaucratisch kennisbeheer) - fixed-term employment of 2 years – service grade SW1. In order to come into consideration, applications must be filed **before 1 April 2020** by e-mail to recruit@arch.be (reference: LAST NAME_FIRST NAME_DIGICOLJUST or LAST NAME_FIRST NAME_NAPOLINTEL). Please send an individual application for each job opening. For further information [click here](#).

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[Home](#) » [News](#) » Satisfaction survey

Satisfaction survey

New CegeSoma website



The new thematic website of CegeSoma was launched in December last year. The information contained in the previous version were fully revised and rearranged. The new website is still in its early stages and requires further updating (among others about previous projects or activities). Thanks to [the answers you provide in the survey](#), you help us improve our new website. The survey takes about five minutes to complete.

Thank you very much for your participation!

Other news

[CegeSoma in times of telework...](#)

[Resistance in Belgium - partial history or history in parts?](#)

[CANCELLATION - Public History Meeting of CegeSoma - Conference-debate: Commemorating the Rwandan genocide of 1994.](#)

[VACANCIES](#)

[Kick-off EHRI-PP in Munich 11-13 February 2020](#)

[75 years after the beginning of the regency...](#)

[Belgium WWII: New content on our blog and our website](#)

[Focus on the Resistance](#)

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[Home](#) » [Event](#) » Commemorating the Rwandan genocide of 1994: A retrospection on the emergence of a culture of public commemoration in Rwanda

Commemorating the Rwandan genocide of 1994: A retrospection on the emergence of a culture of public commemoration in Rwanda

Public History Meeting of CegeSoma (2020 - 7)

[War and Society](#) [Conference](#)



Conference-debate (in French) with guest speaker Florence Rasmont

Hosted by Ornella Rovetta

Today, Rwanda has hundreds of memorial sites all across the country, ranging from simple tombs to extensive memorial complexes such as the Kigali Genocide Memorial at the heart of the capital. Each year in April, millions of Rwandans attend the commemoration of the genocide organised in schools, parishes, businesses, prisons and public administrations. The whole country honors the memory of the victims of the genocide of the Tutsi in 1994 - a massacre that cost the lives of 800,000 people between April and June 1994.

In Rwanda, public and official commemoration of the events of 1994 took some time to develop. It is the fruit

of very early government initiatives rooted in the immediate aftermath of the genocide. However, this public policy was either supported or contested by many initiatives from private individuals or associations, which caused tensions and required negotiations about the manner in which the events ought to be commemorated. In the 7th Public History Meeting of CegeSoma, historian Florence Rasmont will speak about the origins of this culture of public commemoration, the subject of her doctoral thesis in contemporary history.

She will present her own research process in Rwanda that led to her thesis and she will talk about this public commemoration and its first key figures. This will also give us the opportunity to touch upon the current situation in contemporary Rwanda.

The discussion will be hosted by historian Ornella Rovetta, author of a doctoral thesis (*ULB*) about the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

Guest speaker and host :

Florence Rasmont holds a PhD in contemporary history from *ULB*. Her thesis: '*Commémorer sur les collines. Lieux et acteurs de la mémoire locale du génocide tutsi au Rwanda (1990-2001)*'. Since 1 November 2017, she has been working at CegeSoma/State Archives on the TRANSMEMO project (memory of collaboration and resistance during the Second World War).



Ornella Rovetta holds a PhD in contemporary history and is a lecturer at *ULB* and *Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles*. Her research is focused on the history of international criminal justice and Rwanda. In 2019, she published '*Un génocide au tribunal. Le Rwanda et la justice internationale*' (Belin).



23/03/2020 - 12:30 to 14:00

Practical information :

Where : Conference room at CegeSoma, Square de l'Aviation 29 – 1070 Brussels;

When : on Monday 23 March 2020 (12.30 pm – 2.00 pm);

Please register beforehand : isabelle.ponteville@arch.be or 02.556.92.11;

Possibility of light catering : (5 Euros to be paid in advance, CegeSoma bank account: IBAN: BE12 6792 0045 0092 - BIC: PCHQBEBB + communication: last name and first name + PHM7 + choice).

* Choice 1: organic bread with cheese + vegetables (+ still water, sparkling water or orange juice)

* Choice 2: organic bread with ham + vegetables (+ still water, sparkling water or orange juice)

Feel free to come accompanied !

Main language

French

TAGS

[Genocide](#) [Commemorations](#)

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[Home](#) » [Project](#) » Project People@War. A social history of the Second War and its Remembrance in Belgium.

Project People@War. A social history of the Second War and its Remembrance in Belgium.

War and Society World War II



People @ War. A social history of the Second World War and its Remembrance in Belgium is a joint initiative by the State Archives / CegeSoma and Ghent university within the framework of the FEDTWIN program of the Belgian Science Policy Office. Thanks to the funding a long-term research project, the expertise of a federal scientific institution and of a university is combined and deepened.

People @ War is aimed at studying the manner in which "ordinary people" have experienced the Second World War and its aftermath. The project addresses an increasing social demand for information and will provide digital tools and other instruments to help bring scientific research and the results it yields closer to the large public.

The individual files held by the judicial and administrative authorities form the basis for the analysis of four groups of the Belgian population whose lives are directly affected by the war and occupation from 1940 to decades afterwards: 1. collaborators, 2. war victims and labour in Germany, 3. resisters and 4. soldiers. Together, they made up about 15% of the population at the time.

The key issue that is examined bears on people's capability of action during the social crisis of the years of war and on the post-war struggle for recognition. The analysis measures how the 1940s impacted people's individual curriculum, their families and social environment. How did people cope with war and occupation, and with its legacy? Which interactions took place with agents of administrative and judicial authorities?

Based on this bottom-up research strategy, from individuals to society, People @ War is geared to writing a new all-encompassing social history of the Second World War in Belgium, thereby spurring the societal and political debate about the long-term impact of the Second World War, with a view to the eightieth anniversary of the Second World War (2025). Furthermore, the extensive and systematic prospection and exploration of sources contributes to improving their accessibility and interpretation. Finally, by developing customised digital tools, access to sources becomes more user-friendly for relatives, researchers and the large public.



01/02/2020 to 31/01/2030

Project manager(s)



Project member(s)



Partners



TAGS

[Resistance](#) [Collaboration](#) [Social history](#) [Military history](#) [Forced labour](#)

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The Radio Bruxelles - Zender Brussel archives

On 13 February, UNESCO celebrated the 9th edition of the World Radio Day. This was the occasion for CegeSoma to highlight its radio archives, in particular those produced by the German radio institution Radio Bruxelles-Zender Brussel between 1940 and 1945. They can now be accessed online and in our reading room.

- **Access and consultation** : The collection can be consulted in digital form on the computers of the [reading room](#) or via [Pallas](#). Its content is freely available.
- **Reproduction** : The content of the collection can be freely reproduced in the reading room. For any reproduction request by the CegeSoma teams, practical information is available [here](#).
- **Research tools** : 1) Inventory of audio archives, classification by date ([French-language broadcast](#), [Dutch-language broadcast](#), [German-language broadcast](#)) 2) [Transcription of the broadcast \(AA 1321\)](#) 3) [Transcription of the broadcast \(AA 33\)](#)

Collection description :

The archives of Radio Bruxelles - Zender Brussel were part of the evidence requisitioned by the military prosecutor during the post-war trials for acts of collaboration. These archives were entrusted to CegeSoma when it was founded in the late 1960s. They contain both radio program recordings broadcast by the occupying forces from the premises of the "National Institute of Radio Broadcasting" (INR) during the Second World War as well as transcripts and other preparatory files of these same programs.

The radio constituted a particularly efficient means of communication during the war. News from the front, official and clandestine speeches, encrypted messages and propaganda broadcasts were transmitted daily to Belgian citizens. Many families have memories of evenings spent together around the radio. The radio served as a real tool of information and persuasion, used by both the allied forces and the German occupiers.

During the Second World War, the Belgian authorities produced their broadcasts mainly from London and Léopoldville. From the first hours of German invasion onwards, the programs of the National Radio Institute (INR) focused on immediate news in order to inform the population in real time about the course of events.

The second aspect of propaganda was developed by the Germans in occupied territory. From May 28, 1940, they requisitioned INR buildings. The technical equipment having been destroyed by Belgian authorities prior to their departure to London, the German forces had to operate with mobile transmitters for the duration of the conflict.

On July 31, an order from the *Militärverwaltung* officially gave birth to *Radio Brussels* and *Zender Brussels*. These two new entities could rely on almost 500 Belgian civilians to ensure their operation, most of them being former members of the INR. The type of propaganda diffused depended first and foremost on the military administration, but was also overseen by Goebbels in Berlin.

Unfortunately, a large proportion of the radio archives of the Second World War has disappeared but not all. This is the case, at least partially, for the programs transmitted by the occupier from inside the INR facilities. These facilities, which had been requisitioned by the General Prosecutor upon liberation, were then administered by the National Archives of Belgium and later by CegeSoma after its foundation in the late 1960s as the Center of Research on the Second World War.

The collection of 78-rpm discs of the programs *Radio Bruxelles* and *Zender Brussel* kept by CegeSoma is made up of one thousand discs for the francophone program and of about 2,000 discs for the Flemish one, as well as approximately 500 discs in German. First held at the premises of Centre Place de Louvain, then at the Residence Palace and Square de l'Aviation, the discs are currently in an air-conditioned room of the CegeSoma depot located at Rue de Belgrade in Forest, a suburb of Brussels. In addition to the audio archives of *Radio Bruxelles* and *Zender Brussel*, CegeSoma also holds the transcripts of the broadcasts as well as several administrative files (documents AA33, AA1321 and AA1522), briefly described in the corresponding inventories.

Thanks to the digitization program digit03 funded by the Ministry of Science, all audio broadcasts are now available in digital form in the reading room of CegeSoma. The digitization of paper archives has already begun but this project, in part carried out by our in-house teams, is expected to be completed within the next two or three years. However, transcripts of the programs produced between July 1940 and March 1942 are already available in the reading room, as well as all the programs of *l'Echo du Jour*. It is important to note, however, that these are the transcripts which were kept after the war. They do not cover all the programs produced by *Radio Bruxelles* and *Zender Brussel*. They do not always necessarily correspond to the audio formats we keep either.

For more information :

- Rase, Céline. *Les ondes en uniforme : la propagande de Radio Bruxelles en Belgique occupée (1940-1944)*. Namur : Presses Universitaires de Namur, 2011.
- Dujardin, Jean. "Belgique." Edited by Hélène Eck. *La Guerre Des Ondes : Histoire Des Radios de Langue Française Pendant La Deuxième Guerre Mondiale*. Paris: Armand Colin, 1985.
- Thys, Pierre. *La collaboration intellectuelle en Belgique francophone pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale : le cas de Radio-Bruxelles et de son personnel directeur*. Bruxelles : ULB, 1994.
- Lhoir, Ghislain. *La mission Samoyède : les maquisards de la Radio Nationale Belge, 1940-1944*. Bruxelles : Didier Hatier, 1984.
- [Rase, Céline & Gillet, Florence. *Propagande radiophonique in Belgium WWII*](#)
- [Gillet, Florence. *"Le Fantôme de la radio", une mise à l'honneur des archives radiophoniques et télévisuelles on Belgium WWII \(B\)*](#)

Interesting links

[Pallas : main catalogue of the library and the archives of CegeSoma >](#)

[Search : the State Archives search engine >](#)

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[Home](#) » [News](#) » Kick-off EHRI-PP in Munich 11-13 February 2020

Kick-off EHRI-PP in Munich 11-13 February 2020



From 11 to 13 February 2020, the partners of EHRI (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure) gathered at the *Institut für Zeitgeschichte* in Munich for the official kick-off of the 'preparatory phase funding'.

This preparatory phase funding began in December 2019 and is a three-year project funding by the European Commission aimed at making the transition from a project, such as the two first phases of existence of EHRI, towards a permanent research infrastructure. This implies that the funding also changes, from a project-based funding, which is temporary by definition, towards a permanent and sustainable funding.

Setting up a research infrastructure is a long-winded process that requires rigorous preparation, as juridical, financial, and policy issues must be addressed and a research strategy must be fleshed out. Getting preparations started is precisely what the preparatory phase funding is all about.

The kick-off was an opportunity for the different partners – for Belgium: State Archives/CegeSoma and Kazerne Dossin - to get to know each other within the framework of the meetings about the different work packages, to get a better overview of the priority tasks and to especially to get a better understanding of the relationships between the different work packages.

A panel discussion with 'experience experts' about 'how to set up a research infrastructure', hosted by our collega Adina Babesh, made this still rather abstract project a little more tangible.

In any case, it has become clear that the new phase that EHRI has now entered will certainly be different from a classic research project, which has a very content-oriented and scientific focus. Now has come the time to create the framework conditions in order to further (transnational) research, improve international co-operation between researchers, make collections more accessible to researchers and more user-friendly.

Other news

[CegeSoma in times of telework...](#)

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[VACANCIES](#)

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