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## CEGESOMA - State Archives

# NEWSLETTER

No 68 - September 2021



## NEWS

### MARIE CURIE SCHOLARSHIP

A prestigious scholarship for Adina Babeş (EHRI/CegeSoma) to conduct research on the fate of Jewish refugees in the 1930s up to the period of mass extermination.

► [Read more](#)



### MOVING ARCHIVES

Follow the progress of the relocation of our collections.

► [Read more](#)

### FEDTWIN BELCOWAR

Approval of a new research project of CegeSoma/National Archives and *KULeuven*, on the economic aspects of the Cold War in Belgium.

► [Read more](#)



## AGENDA



### PUBLIC HISTORY MEETING

Join us on October 13 for a conference-debate about the new source guide on the history of Belgian colonization with authors Pierre-Alain Tallier and Marie Van Eeckenrode. Discover a new essential tool for a scientific, societal and memorial approach of colonization.

► [Read more](#)

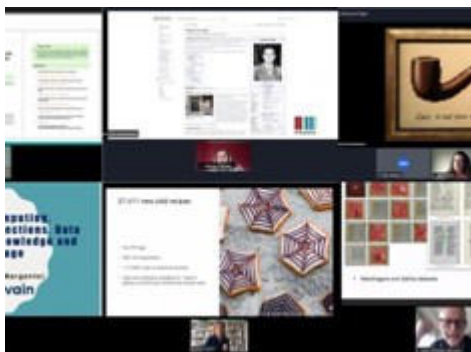
## SAVE THE DATE AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers can be sent until 31 October 2021 for an international conference on occupations during WWI that will take place at CegeSoma from 23-25 June 2022.

► [Read more](#)



## PUBLICATIONS



### THE ADOCHS PROJECT

Discover the 'Digitization & Quality Guide', with organisational and methodological recommendations for improving digital data.

► [Read more](#)

### JOURNAL OF BELGIAN HISTORY

The thematic double issue (in English) on the impact of WWI in Ypres and the third issue with individual articles have been published.

► [Read more](#)



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[Home](#) » [News](#) » Marie Curie fellowship for Adina Babeş-Fruchter

## Marie Curie fellowship for Adina Babeş-Fruchter



Our colleague [Adina Babeş-Fruchter](#), who is a project associate for [EHRI](#) (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure) has been awarded a prestigious Marie-Curie postdoctoral fellowship to do research at *KULeuven*, under Prof. M. Kohlrausch, on an underexposed aspect of the Holocaust : the fate of Jews who did not have the nationality of their country of residence.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions fund excellent research and innovation and equip researchers at all stages of their career with new knowledge and skills, through mobility across borders and exposure to different sectors and disciplines. The MSCA help build Europe's capacity for research and innovation by investing in the long-term careers of excellent researchers. The objective of Postdoctoral Fellowships is to support researchers' careers and foster excellence in research. The Postdoctoral Fellowships action targets researchers holding a PhD who wish to carry out their research activities abroad, acquire new skills and develop their careers. PFs help researchers gain experience in other countries, disciplines and non-academic sectors.

### ***Nobodies' Jews : Non-national Jews between Refuge and Deportation during the 1930s and the Holocaust***

The Nazi's rise to power and occupation of large swathes of Europe had a significant impact on more than 17 million individuals, who were targeted for their ethnic/religious background, political beliefs, physical/mental disabilities, or sexual orientation. Jews formed the biggest group that was racially targeted by Nazi Germany, and resulted in 6 million victims. From the early 1930s until the mid-1940s, Jewish people in all European countries

suffered from the increasing destruction of the Nazis: their social, civil, and economic rights were removed, their living and work conditions were affected, and their physical and psychological states suffered irreparable consequences. A significant number of the Jewish victims in Nazi-occupied and Nazi allied countries were non-national Jews. Within this group, along with interwar immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe in search of better lives, a large number had become refugees following the breakdown of their countries and the loss of citizenship after the Reich's conquests of the 1930s. Tragically, many of them found refuge in countries that were subsequently occupied by Nazi Germany, from where the vast majority of them would be deported and killed.

### ***Focus on Belgium***

The overarching aim of *'Nobodies' Jews: Non-national Jews between Refuge and Deportation during the 1930s and the Holocaust* is to construct a contextual timeline portrait of non-national Jews' lives, specifically the refugees of the Nazi's rise to power and conquests, by revealing who they were, how legislation and local institutions addressed them before and after the Nazi occupation, and how the local population responded to their fate throughout 1930s and the Holocaust years. Taking Belgium as a particularly relevant case study, the project investigates Jewish refugees from Western Europe and Central and Eastern Europe alike by developing an analytical framework comprising legal, institutional, and social standpoints. Set around three research objectives and cutting across several disciplinary fields, this project will build a socio-demographic portrait of Jewish refugees in Belgium; will reveal how their political, civil, and economic rights were addressed by the state legislation and institutions before and after the Nazi occupation; and how the interactions with the local Jewish and non-Jewish population impacted their lives throughout that period. This research idea will be implemented by mobilizing two methodological approaches and a variety of research sources. The research data will be analyzed by employing statistical software and digital humanities tools.

The Nazi occupation dismantled several European countries, stripped Jews of their national citizenship rights and forced approximately half a million of them to seek refuge by 1942. This research subject, will contribute to our wider understanding of the position of Jewish refugees. Investigating their lives from legal, institutional, and social standpoints, and over the course of several years, rather than focusing on a specific time, will enable to gain major insights into refugees' lives in countries to which they fled, as well as the adjustments they made. Finally, building a non-discriminatory future for European society depends on documenting the terrible shift from normality to Holocaust, thus preventing the reoccurrence of similar atrocities.

The fellowship starts on 1 September 2021 and runs until 2 March 2025. The mandate can fortunately be taken up flexibly, allowing Adina to continue working for EHRI for 40% of her fellowship, so that EHRI and the State Archives/Cegesoma may continue to rely on her highly valued expertise.

#### **Other news**

[Everything you want to know about Belgian resistance fighters ? Discover Wikibase Resistance](#)

[Historiography in Belgium and the Netherlands](#)

[Results of the ADOCHS project](#)

[Call for papers](#)

[ADOCHS study day: Register now!](#)

[The Resistance in Belgium: a debate](#)

[Belgium WWII, from governors to post-war justice](#)

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## BELCOWAR (FED-tWIN)

Strengthening the Cold War research line at CegeSoma

**CegeSoma in the spotlight**



On 19 July, a new series of FED-tWIN - joint long-term research projects in which federal scientific institutions and universities cooperate structurally - was approved. The FED-tWIN Belcowar, on the economic aspects of the Cold War and Belgium, was awarded to the State Archives/CegeSoma and the *KULeuven*. This FED-tWIN allows the CegeSoma to fully develop the Cold War and Belgium as one of its core themes.

BELCOWAR aims to shed new light on the history of the Cold War by examining the position of Belgium within the so-called Pax Americana. The focus is on economic policy, mainly international trade (the GATT rounds), and the question of the effects of American macroeconomic policy pressure on European countries. BELCOWAR is innovative for at least three reasons: extensive unexploited archives of policy-making bodies and corporations (such as the *Société Générale*) kept in the State Archives and the archives of the FPS Foreign Affairs will be exploited, concepts from political science will be operationalized for this historical research, and the role of Western European countries in the history of the East/West divide will be re-evaluated.

BELCOWAR builds on recent social-historical research that, based on new archival collections, has situated transatlantic relations within a much broader and much more complex web of multilateral connections. This

research emphasizes the importance of European agency (as opposed to a strongly US-centric approach) and the role of exchange and negotiation between state and non-state actors (pressure groups, social movements and corporations). This renewed historiography pays close attention to how economic dimensions shaped transatlantic relations. BELCOWAR ties in with these new developments and shifts the focus to the pressures that small countries face when they depend on the protection of a great power, the ways in which they deal with them, and how considerations of international security are combined with economic interests. Belgium is a very relevant case study, both in terms of actors (P.-H. Spaak, P. Harmel), location (seats of NATO and EU) and economic structure (Belgium is a small open economy heavily dependent on international trade). BELCOWAR aims to examine how Belgian governments and non-state actors dealt with conflicting interests, how loyalties developed over time, and how they related to the conjuncture of the Cold War, the development of European integration, the changing global context, administrative shifts and ideological differences.

BELCOWAR is a collaboration between the State Archives and the KULeuven. For the *KULeuven* the supervisor is Prof. Dr. Bart Kerremans (Faculty of Social Sciences), for the State Archives [Dr. Dirk Luyten](#) (CegeSoma). The FED-tWIN funding allows for the recruitment of one researcher, who will work half-time at the State Archives and half-time at the University. The start of the project is foreseen in 2022 and we will certainly keep you informed.

The FED-tWIN BELCOWAR comes at a particularly good time. At the end of November 2020, the Specialized Scientific Committee of CegeSoma expressed its support for the Cold War as a new thematic area of our study center. On several occasions since, our researchers have put their heads together to develop a research agenda complementary to the BELCOWAR project. As Belgium's political-diplomatic participation in the Cold War has already been extensively discussed, they choose to focus mainly on the Belgian manifestations of the "cultural" Cold War, the struggle for cultural and ideological supremacy between the United States and the Soviet Union. The combination of the economic and cultural perspectives will provide a fresh look at the Belgian dimensions of the conflict between capitalism and communism.

The renewed focus on the Cold War also brings CegeSoma into line with an older tradition of research into the history of anti-communism in Belgium at the time. The main products of this tradition were the publications on the assassination of the communist member of parliament Julien Lahaut, in 1985 (Rudi Van Doorslaer & Etienne Verhoeyen, *De moord op Lahaut : het communisme als binnenlandse vijand*) and in 2015 (Emmanuel Gerard, Widukind De Ridder & Françoise Muller, *Qui a tué Julien Lahaut ? Les ombres de la guerre froide en Belgique*). Those studies showed the strong implication of economic elites in the creation of a Belgian Cold War culture.

## Partners



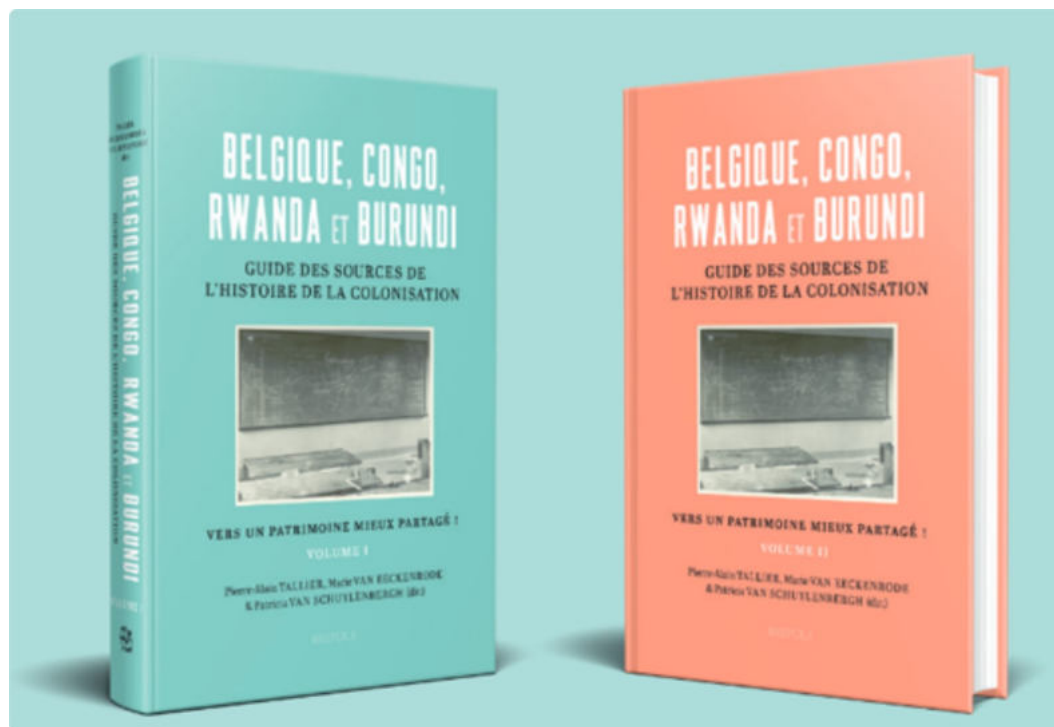
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[Home](#) » [Event](#) » Belgium, Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. A Guide to Sources on of the History of Colonization. Towards a better shared heritage!

## Belgium, Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. A Guide to Sources on of the History of Colonization. Towards a better shared heritage!

CegeSoma Public History Meeting (2021-2)

CegeSoma in the spotlight [Conference](#)



### Conference-debat (in French) with Pierre-Alain Tallier and Marie Van Eeckenrode, two of the authors of the guide.

**A discussion led by Chantal Kesteloot**

Until now, there was no tool to identify and locate all available sources on Belgian colonization in Africa in Belgium. We now have such instrument, with the publication of the "*Guide des sources de l'histoire de la colonisation (belge)*". This 2,300-page guide contains 1,500 entries on nearly 20 linear kilometers of archives held in more than 80 different Belgian institutions. The result of a partnership between the State Archives in Belgium and the Royal Museum for Central Africa, this guide was written by more than thirty archivists and historians, under the supervision of Pierre-Alain Tallier, Marie Van Eeckenrode and Patricia Van Schuylenbergh. It is published by Brepols, with the support of the Belgian Science Policy Office (Belspo) and the University Foundation of Belgium.

We invite you, with two of its authors, to discover the progress that this guide represents and to discuss the scientific, societal and memorial questions it raises.

**Guests :**





**Pierre-Alain Tallier** is a doctor in contemporary history from the *Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)*, head of the Brussels Department of the Belgian National Archives and the State Archives in the Provinces and responsible lecturer of the archival course at *ULB*.

Having already realized several important source guides (Parastatals, First World War, Judaism,..), he is particularly interested in the modalities of access to archives in relation to citizenship and societal issues.



**Marie Van Eeckenrode** is an archivist at the National Archives (AGR2) and a visiting professor at the *UCLouvain* (courses and seminars of the "History and Archives" degree). She is in charge of the transfer of the 'African archives' from the FPS Foreign Affairs to the AGR2. Her research focuses on archival science and writing practices, and aims at understanding and assisting the social commitment of the archivist. She has three ongoing projects: Decolonizing (through) archives (with Pierre-Alain Tallier and Bérengère Piret, State Archives), *Les archives peuvent-elles guérir? Quand les anciens "enfants du juge" demandent accès à leur dossier* (with Aurore François, *UCLouvain*), Archiving the event: post-attack memorials (with researchers from the Network of Spontaneous memorials, University of Manchester).

**Moderator :**



**Chantal Kesteloot** is in charge of public history at CegeSoma/State Archives. She is particularly interested in the phenomenon of commemorations and the place of the past in public space, as communicated through street names (odonymy). She coordinates the Belgium WWII website. She authored numerous publications, including most recently: 'Walloon Federalism or Belgian Nationalism? The Walloon Movement at the End of the First World War'. She is also a member of the scientific committee of the BELvue Museum and secretary of the International Federation for Public History.



**13/10/2021 - 12:30 to 14:00**

**Practical information :**

**Where:** CegeSoma conference room, Square de l'Aviation 29 - 1070 Brussels

**When:** Wednesday 13 October 2021 (12.30 - 14.00)

**Mandatory registration:** [isabelle.ponteville@arch.be](mailto:isabelle.ponteville@arch.be) or 02.556.92.11

**Attention! Corona measures:** *a number of safety measures still apply in the CegeSoma building. For example, you must disinfect your hands when you arrive at CegeSoma and you must wear a mask in the building. In order to ensure appropriate distancing between participants, the number of seats in the conference room is also limited and registrations*



*will therefore be closed once the maximum is reached. The room will be properly ventilated before and after the conference. We reserve the right to cancel this second Public History Meeting if health measures do not allow it to be held on the announced date. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!*

### **Main language**

French

### **TAGS**

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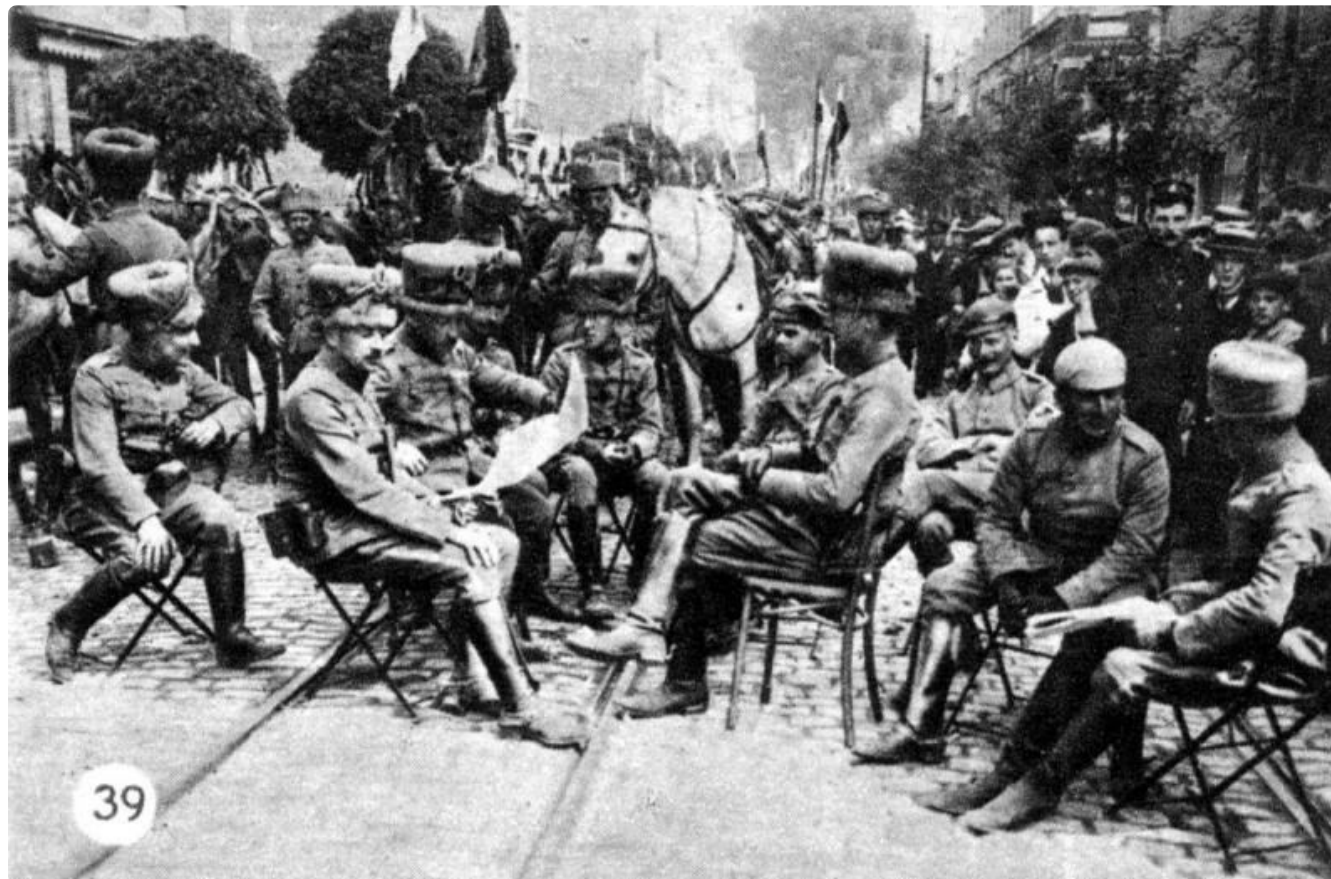
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[Home](#) » [News](#) » Call for papers

## Call for papers

The Great(er) War of Military Occupations in Europe: antecedents, experiences, and legacies. Brussels, 23-25 June 2022.



The **CegeSoma** and the **LaRHis** (*UCLouvain*) are organizing an international conference on the occupations of the First World War.

The event will be held at the CegeSoma from 23 to 25 June 2022.

The aim of this conference is to understand the different forms taken by the occupations during the First World War and to develop better categories of analysis by looking beyond the traditional geographical and chronological limits.

The call for papers has been launched and proposals (200 words) are due **by 31 October 2021** at [occupations2022@gmail.com](mailto:occupations2022@gmail.com).

For the full text of the call for papers: [click here](#).

For any further information, please contact the organizing team at the address provided!

### Other news

[Everything you want to know about Belgian resistance fighters ? Discover Wikibase Resistance](#)

[Historiography in Belgium and the Netherlands](#)

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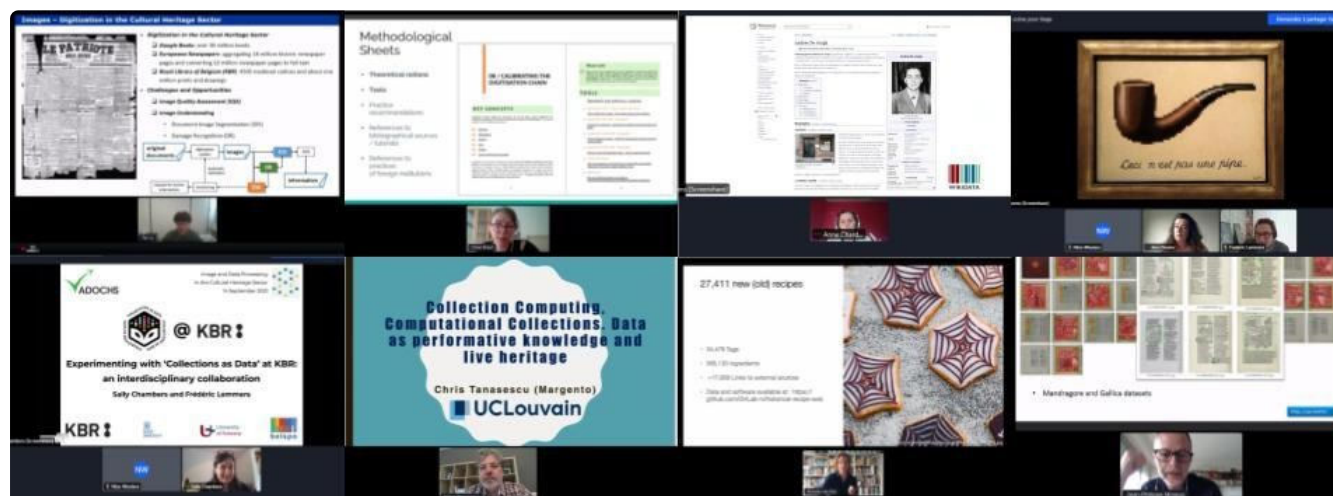
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[Home](#) » [News](#) » Results of the ADOCHS project

## Results of the ADOCHS project



The [ADOCHS](#) closing day was held online, on September 14, 2021, almost five years after the project was initiated.

More than a hundred participants - researchers, digitization operators, digital policy makers in heritage institutions, archivists and collection curators, working in Belgium, France, Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands - had the opportunity to discover the results of this project led by the CegeSoma (OD4 - State Archives), in collaboration with the KBR (the Royal Library of Belgium), the *VUB (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)* and the *ULB (Université libre de Bruxelles)*. This study day [link: <http://adochs.be/idpchsset>] out to explore the notion of quality in the context of digitization of collections, but also to reflect on the perspectives offered by the use of artificial intelligence in archives and libraries.

In the morning, researchers and project partners presented the results, conclusions and follow-up of this multidisciplinary project - from information sciences to computational mathematics. This was an opportunity for CegeSoma researcher [Chloé Brault](#) to announce the publication of [the Digitization & Quality Guide, which can be freely downloaded from the CegeSoma website](#).

Beyond the contributions of the research project, this study day was resolutely turned towards the future and focused on the evolution of libraries, archives and museums through the lens of artificial intelligence. The afternoon program allowed for this, with rich exchanges and contributions from various backgrounds, from the *Bibliothèque nationale de France* to the KNAW Humanities Cluster in Amsterdam, as well as the Central European Institute of Technology in Brno.

**Good to know** : The presentation materials are to be found on the [project's website](#), which will soon host the video recordings of the day as well (to be posted on September 30).

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## Publication of the new double (theme-) issue of the JBH (2021, 1-2)

... and the most recent, third issue of the JBH (2021-3)

[World War I](#)   [World War II](#)   [Magazine](#)



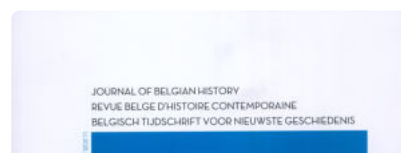
### Not to miss:

1/ **The thematic issue (in English)** of [the Journal of Belgian History](#) about one century of commemorative life in Ypres, a prosperous medieval city in Flanders that became a major place of remembrance of the First World War as soon as 1914.

This double issue was compiled under the direction of two guest editors, **Delphine Lauwers** (scientific collaborator at the State Archives) and **Matthew Haultain-Gall** (scientific collaborator at Université catholique de Louvain). It offers articles, debates and interviews from and with specialists about the demographic impact of the First World War in Ypres, the role of war damages tribunals in the reconstruction, the place of Ypres in the collective memories across the world, but also considerations about the future of the city now that the bustle of the centenary has calmed down.

2/ **The most recent, third issue** contains four articles and a series of new book reviews.

The four articles tackle themes as diverse as : the imperial project of



Leopold II in Congo, architecture as an instrument in Belgian diplomacy after WWII, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Belgian diplomacy in China and the German prison policy in Antwerp during WWII.

Would you like to get a copy? Send an e-mail to [cegesoma@arch.be](mailto:cegesoma@arch.be) or to [hilde.keppens@arch.be](mailto:hilde.keppens@arch.be)

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