

CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

NO 5 - MARCH 2014

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

NEW PUBLICATION: TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND MEMORY IN EUROPE

The recently published book 'Transitional Justice and Memory in Europe (1945-2013)', edited by Nico Wouters, tries to evaluate the long-term impact of transitional justice policies. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2518

HISTORIKERDIALOG 2014

In the course of 2014, German and Belgian historians will, on five occasions, exchange views on the subject of the First World War in the context of the 'Historikerdialog'. Learn more about this interesting cycle of debates. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2505

CONFERENCE AND DEBATE WITH FILIPPO FOCARDI AND BRUNO GROPPA

On Wednesday 26 March we welcome historians Filippo Focardi and Bruno Groppo. In the context of Focardi's current chair at the ULB, both historians will offer reflections on 'Europe and its Memories. Politics and Cultures of Remembrance since 1989'. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) <http://www.cegesoma.be>

/cms/index_en.php?article=2557

THE WAR PAPERS: ALSO IN FRENCH!

CEGESOMA will join forces with the editor of 'De Oorlogskranten 14-18' to publish a French-language version of this publication. In a few weeks, bundles of French-language newspapers will be available in every newsagent in Brussels and Wallonia. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2566

STUDY DAY ON WWI AND NATIONAL IDENTITY

On Wednesday 7 May 2014, CEGESOMA organises, together with the Académie Royale de Belgique (ARB), a study afternoon on 'War and National Identity'. You are welcome to participate and join the debate! [\[MORE INFO\]](#) http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2563

THE GREAT WAR IN OUR ARCHIVES

Despite the limited amount of documentation with regard to the First World War, CEGESOMA holds a number of very precious documents on this period, in particular with regard to daily life at the front and in the occupied country. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2560

Book publication "Transitional Justice and Memory in Europe"

In early March 2014, the book *Transitional Justice and Memory in Europe (1945-2013)* will be published by Intersentia Publishing. This English language book is the final result of the project coordinated by CEGESOMA in cooperation with the Peace Building Division at the Belgian ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The book opens with a general introduction on the difficult relationship between historical research and the multidisciplinary field of Transitional Justice. The book also contains two comparative conclusions, amongst others by the renowned Belgian sociologist Luc Huyse.

At the book's core however, are nine national case studies: four post-1945 cases (Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands), three transitional cases of the 1970s in southern Europe (Greece, Portugal and Spain) and two post-1989 cases (Hungary and Poland).

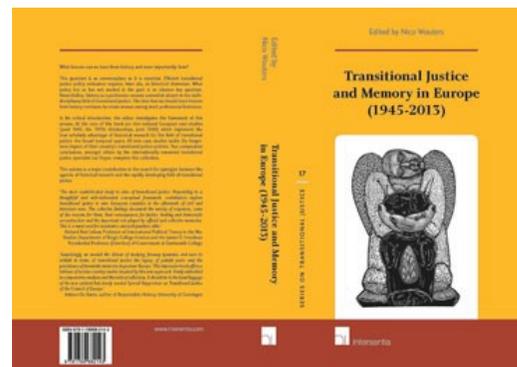
The innovative approach of the book lies in the longer term assessment of the impact of Transitional Justice policies on memory development in each society.

You can find the complete table of contents as well as order information [here](#).

[Nico Wouters](#)

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

26 / 2 / 2014



◀ [Back](#) ▶

Belgian and German Historians on the Great War

The Programme of the Historikerdialog 2014 is known

The first **Historikerdialog** of 2014 will take place on **Monday 24 March** at the University of Louvain-la-Neuve(UCL). The German historian Jens Thiel will exchange views with his Belgian colleague Emmanuel Debruyne on the topic of deportation and forced labour during the First World War.

Historikerdialog is a series of lectures and public debates between Belgian and German historians. In the course of each Historikerdialog, a central theme is developed related to the First World War. By bringing together and confronting the Belgian and German visions, the different historiographical accents in the two countries will become apparent, as well as the extent to which the visions on the war past can differ and enhance our mutual understanding.

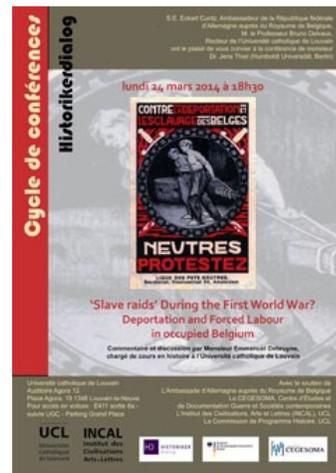
The idea of a historic dialogue between German and Belgian historians was launched end 2012 by Eckart Cuntz, German ambassador to Belgium. The idea was first put into practice by the KULeuven, and subsequently adopted by other Belgian universities. Since last year, Cegesoma acts as central coordinator of the project. The first concrete result of this coordination is the composition of the programme for 2014.

The programme flyer can be consulted [here](#).

In March, the website www.historikerdialog.eu will also be launched.

Karel Strobbe

20 / 2 / 2014



◀ Back ▶

Conference and Debate with Filippo Focardi and Bruno Groppo

Europe and its memories. Politics and cultures of remembrance since 1989

On **Wednesday 26 March 2014**, CEGESOMA organises a lecture/debate on European politics and cultures of remembrance since 1989. Our guests are the Italian historian **Filippo Focardi** who at present holds the *Chaire internationale d'Histoire de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale* at the *ULB* (see the complete programme of the lectures in our section Calendar), and the French historian **Bruno Groppo**, who specialises in labour history and in questions concerning the relation between history and memory.

The end of the Cold War did not only lead to a redefinition of the European political order, but also to a reappraisal of European public and institutional memory. New paradigms replaced the remembrance structures that were developed after the Second World War. Antifascism gradually eroded and made way for an antitotalitarian vision. In the new remembrance narrative, the victim, and no longer the biased hero, held a key place. In particular the victims of the extermination programmes of the Nazis and of the communist regimes became prominent. However, can the memory of the Holocaust and the antitotalitarian model form the basis of a common European memory? Should other experiences, such as colonialism, not be included? Where does the obsession of the past, which often takes the form of a competition between the victims, or even actual "memory wars", come from?

Filippo Focardi obtained his PhD in contemporary history (University of Turin) in 2000 with a thesis on the perception of Germany in Italy in the period 1943-1949. Since then, he conducted research and lectured at several Italian universities (Firenze, Padua, Rome, Siena). His main fields of research are the memory of fascism and the Second World War in Italy, the memory of the Italian resistance, the punishment of German criminals of war in Italy and Italo-German relations since the nineteenth century. He recently edited, with Bruno Groppo, the bundle of essays *L'Europa e le sue memorie. Politiche e culture del ricordo dopo il 1989*.

Bruno Groppo specialises in the history of the workers movement. His research tackles the transatlantic solidarity contacts and networks between European social democrats and socialist and trade union circles in the United States in the 1930s and 40s. His studies also concern German and Austrian social democrats in exile. He furthermore takes an interest in political activism of the 1960s and 1970s in Argentina and in the historiography of that period. At present, he is doing research on the politics of remembrance in Europe after 1945. He is Director of Research at the CNRS, associated researcher at the *Centre d'histoire sociale du XXe siècle (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)* and lecturer of "Cultures et identités politiques en Europe" at the University of Padova.

This event in English and in French takes place in the conference room of CEGESOMA and starts at **2.30 p.m.**

Participation is free, but registration is required via cegesoma@cegesoma.be or 02/5569211.

[Chantal Kesteloot](#) - [Karel Strobbe](#)



Italian historian Filippo Focardi.



French historian Bruno Groppo.

◀ [Back](#) ▶

At Your Newsagent : the French-Language War Papers 1914-1918

Following the success of the *Oorlogkranten 1914-1918* ([look here](#)), CEGESOMA has now also assumed responsibility for the French-Language edition: *Les Journaux de Guerre, 1914-1918*. This series reissues Belgian newspapers of the First World War in their entirety, as they were published at the time.

The richness and diversity of the French-language newspapers of the Great War can offer a unique window on this conflict which marks the brutal beginning of the twentieth century.

Each issue of the series *Les Journaux de Guerre* contains a selection of daily newspapers covering the main events of the First World War. The series includes issues of the censored press as well as of the clandestine press, newspapers published by Belgians in exile and by soldiers on the front.

Each edition includes articles by experts who place these events in their proper context allowing a better understanding of the issues and legacies of the conflict.

Les Journaux de Guerre, 1914-1918 is an independent publication. CEGESOMA ensures its scholarly and editorial direction.

[Sophie Soukias](#)

19 / 3 / 2014



The press, information and propaganda tool in War times.
Photograph from the supplement of the Brussels weekly newspaper 'Le Temps présent illustré', N°1, 4 August 1915."

◀ [Back](#) ▶

Conference on WWI and National Identity

On **Wednesday 7 May 2014**, CEGESOMA co-organises an afternoon symposium in cooperation with the *Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België (KVAB)*, entitled '*Oorlog en Nationale Identiteit. België en Vlaanderen in de Eerste Wereldoorlog*'. The symposium will be held in the KVAB in Brussels.

Four renowned historians will exchange views on the impact of the First World War on the Belgian and Flemish sense of national identity, a subject which continues to be of interest to academic and social debate. Indeed, many experts still see the First World War as the event which gave rise to anti-Belgian Flemish nationalism and which marked the beginning of the end of the Belgian nation state. The speakers will give brief presentations that will focus on hypotheses and the results of their research. The symposium will be opened by Minister of State Mark Eyskens while Rudi Van Doorslaer will moderate the plenary debate and the round table conference.

Programme :

2.05 p.m.

Introduction by Mark Eyskens

2.15 p.m.

Contextualisation of the theme by Rudi Van Doorslaer

2.30 p.m.

Bruno Yammine (*UGent*): *De ideologische basis van de Duitse Flamenpolitiek en zijn gevolgen*

2.45 p.m.

Lode Wils (*KU Leuven*): *De impact van de Flamenpolitiek op het activisme, de Frontbeweging en het naoorlogse Vlaams-nationalisme*

3 p.m.

Antoon Vrints (*UGent*): *De betekenis van het Belgisch oorlogsnationalisme*

3.15 p.m.

Maarten Van Ginderachter (*Universiteit Antwerpen*): *De rol van WOI in het uiteengroeien van België*

3.30 p.m.

Round table conference moderated by Rudi van Doorslaer with the four speakers and Mark Eyskens, with debate opportunity and possibility for questions from the public

4.30 p.m.

Conclusions of the round table conference and the debate by moderator Rudi Van Doorslaer, followed by the final conclusions by president Mark Eyskens

5 p.m.

Reception

Participation is free, but registration is necessary: ellen.serrien@kvab.be

Nico Wouters

17 / 3 / 2014



Le Palais des Académies, où la "KVAB" est hébergée.

Cegesoma Archives on the First World War

We already mentioned the richness of the CEGESOMA library and audiovisual department on the subject of the First World War. Despite its focus on the Second World War, the CEGESOMA archives also hold interesting documentation related to the First World War. In particular the series AB, diaries and manuscripts, and the collection of pamphlets include quite a few important original documents.

The Diaries and Manuscripts

Some eighty (Field)diaries, notebooks, miscellaneous texts and other ego documents, manuscripts as well as typed copies, illustrate different aspects of war and occupation in Belgium. More than half of these documents are in French, which should not come as a surprise (see below).



Brussels. German volunteers on their way to the station to enlist with the Imperial Army. (Photo Cegesoma, n° 272.349)

The military aspect is by far the most notable subject. A number of young men, especially of the 'upper classes', wrote down their experiences in the war of movement and the trench war, sometimes on a daily basis. Some of them also took photographs, which obviously adds another layer to the story. An interesting example are the *Carnets de Guerre 1914-1918* of artillery officer Jean Timmermans (AB 2646). Sometimes, the user will be forced to search harder: in the *Historique du 2e Régiment d'Artillerie 1830-1940* by General J. Terlinden for example, an account can be found in the annexes by the then Colonel Prudent Nuyten on the 1914-1918 campaign (AB 62).

A second theme are the ego documents of civilians behind the frontline which could be listed as "day to day life". This theme is addressed in different cities (Namur, Antwerp, Charleroi...), families (well-known such as Terlinden, Dave..., and also lesser known), professions (writers, priests...) and age groups (among the youngest the short but moving memories of a child *Yvonne 1914 War* by Yvonne Devos)(AB 1910).

And then there are texts with a very specific line of approach. A random list: a copy of the *Erinnerungen aus dem Weltkrieg 1914/1918* of General Ludwig von Falkenhausen , Gouverneur General after von Bissing (AB 1720), the memories of eyewitness Jeanne Jacqmot concerning the German war crimes in Tamines in 1914 (AB 2435), *Geschiedenis van den duiker aan den grenssteen 26 van de Zuid Willemsvaart* are the memories of human smuggler Louis Peeters 1915-1918 (AB 2097), a monography by clandestine head of intelligence Walther Dewé himself (*Notice historique sur le corps d'observation allié attaché à l'armée*

anglaise - La Dame Blanche) (AB 2261) , *Vaderlandsliefde en Vlaamsche burgerij*, on "Flamingantism" and patriotism, an essay by Richard Van Landuyt (AB 2060), a report on Belgian patients in France in 1916-1921 *L'histoire du sanatorium de Chanay (Ain)* by Albert Hottlet (AB 2093) etc.

In practice, by searching the catalogue with the key words "World War (1914-1918)" and "guerre mondiale (1914-1918)", the reader can find the descriptions of all these documents.

The Pamphlets

In the collection of pamphlets, CEGESOMA keeps a voluminous fund consisting of hundreds of little folders, flyers, documents related to food supply, publicity, small brochures, forms and identity documents, programmes and other mostly non-personal documents from the war period 1914-1918 aimed at a large public in the occupied country and in non-occupied territory (France, Great Britain and the Netherlands).

The content of this collection concerns notably Belgian citizens who fled to England and the Netherlands (charity and culture, internment of soldiers in the Netherlands...), aid and food supplies in the occupied country, German propaganda, pro-Allied, pro-Belgian (with emblematic figures such as Albert I, Cardinal Mercier...) and anti-German clandestine propaganda. For a number of aspects of daily life of the Belgian non-combatants, as well as with regard to the war of propaganda, this fund (AA 1794) is very much worth consulting.

In this respect, this fund and certainly the aforementioned ego documents can constitute a valuable addition to the main 1914-1918 archives elsewhere.

[Dirk Martin](#)

17 / 3 / 2014



Dressing Station Line A, sector Boezinge, June 1917. (Photo Cegesoma, N°173.937)

◀ Back ▶