

## CEGESOMA - State Archives

## NEWSLETTER

No 99 - November 2024

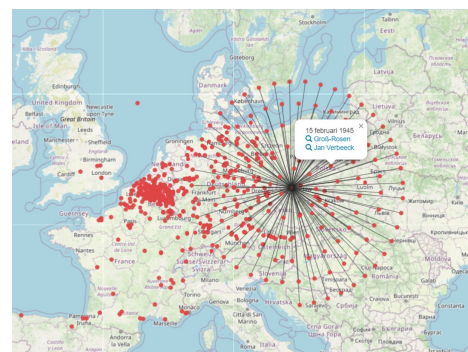


## NEWS

## RESISTANCE IN BELGIUM

The online platform has received tens of thousands of visits and is a resounding success. It also already evoked a number of questions and reactions. Here are some useful updates.

► [Read more](#)



## DEPARTURE OF A COLLEAGUE

Current austerity measures and the difficult budgetary situation of the State Archives force us to say goodbye to the initiator and one of the driving forces behind the Resistance in Belgium project. The impact on our centre is huge.

► [Read more](#)

## CLOSING DAYS READING ROOM

CegeSoma's reading room will be closed from Tuesday 24 December 2024 to Thursday 2 January 2025. Thank you for your understanding!



## ON THE AGENDA

## La guerre après la Guerre?

L'occupation belge de la rive gauche du Rhin (1918-1930)



## THE BELGIAN OCCUPATION OF THE LEFT BANK OF THE RHINE

Join us on 11 December for a 'public history meeting' (in French) with Anne Godfroid, author of '*La guerre après la guerre? L'occupation belge de la rive gauche du Rhin (1918-1930)*'. The interview is moderated by Sophie De Schaepdrijver.

► [Read more](#)

## RESEARCH

### BRUSSELS TOPONIMY: PAST AND FUTURE

A look back at a study day on the past and present of Brussels toponymy, an interesting field of research.

► [Read more](#)



### YOUNG HISTORIANS

The abstracts of all master's theses (2024) presented at CegeSoma on 28 and 29 November are available online.

► [Read more](#)



Square de l'Aviation 29 / B-1070 Brussels / Belgium  
Copyright © CegeSoma / State Archives, all rights reserved

[Home](#) » [News](#) » The Resistance in Belgium platform: the buzz, questions... and answers!

## The Resistance in Belgium platform: the buzz, questions... and answers!



Launched on October 21, 2024, [the Resistance in Belgium online platform](#) has already been visited tens of thousands of times. But its consultation has also given rise to many questions and reactions, which our team tried to answer as adequately as possible.

As a reminder, this platform will provide progressive access to the biographical records of all the men and women who applied to be recognized by the Belgian state for having taken part in the fight against Nazi occupation in 1940-1944. To date, more than 42,000 biographical records have been compiled from the archives of the Belgian State Security Service, relating to intelligence and action services.

The opening of the platform aroused great interest not only in the written press, but also on radio and television, as can be seen from [our press review](#). A wave of site visits followed, with well over 10,000 hits every day during the week of October 21.

At the same time, reactions poured in at CegeSoma's e-mail address. Over the past month, they've numbered in the hundreds! Most preface their messages with congratulations on this valuable tool for family and local history. But more often than not, the e-mails are accompanied by questions or comments.



The most frequent remarks concern the absence of the person or persons sought in the database. It is worth pointing out that the database does not yet include people who applied to be recognized for armed resistance, civilian resistance, or resistance by the underground press. The inclusion of those members of the underground forces is scheduled to take place in spring 2025 for those who applied for resistance status through the underground press, in spring 2026 for civilian resistance applicants, and at the end of 2027 for armed resistance fighters. In addition, in order to comply with privacy legislation, only people born over one hundred years ago will be listed on the online platform. This will be the case for everyone from 2028 onwards.

Another recurring question concerns the procedure for accessing State Security files. You can find the answer to this question here: [State Security archive files \(AA1333\) | Cegesoma](#). Some people are surprised that they don't have access to digitized files. Unfortunately, such a financial and human investment is out of CegeSoma's reach. On the other hand, we have been able to answer the questions of several local historians on how to find all members of the Resistance in one or more communes, since the path to follow is clearly specified here: [Search by domicile - Resistance in Belgium](#).

In general, you'll find the answers to most of your questions here: [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) - Resistance in Belgium](#)

We would also like to thank those of you who have pointed out the presence of incorrect data in a small number of biographical files, and provided us with supporting evidence. Errors on our part, despite all the checks we have carried out, but also sometimes attributable to the people who compiled the files in the aftermath of the war. Please do not hesitate to continue to send us your requests for corrections, and we will make them directly if we feel they are justified.

Finally, several people have expressed a desire to join **our team of volunteers**. All volunteers are welcome. The only conditions are: spend one day a week encoding data on the identity and activities of resistance members, and any repression they suffered, at the State Archives in Brussels; have a good working knowledge of French or Dutch, and if possible both languages; have an analytical mind, capable of rigorously applying multiple instructions; enjoy teamwork. There's no shortage of work ahead, since the contents of tens of thousands of personal files on candidates for both civilian and armed resistance status have yet to be encoded. [Contact us for more information](#).

**Access to the platform: <https://resistanceinbelgium.be>**

#### Other news

["Archive Inventories" search engine now available in AGATHA](#)

[EHRI Becomes an ERIC to Secure the Future of Holocaust Research](#)

[Belgium WWII: local resistance, the Battle of the Bulge and the administration of occupied Belgium](#)

[Wanted: Dutch-speaking Metis witnesses](#)

[The SADO Photographic Archive: A Magnificent Addition to CegeSoma's Collections!](#)

[Closure of the CegeSoma reading room](#)

[Brussels toponymy, past and future](#)

[Young Historians' Days - Class of 2024](#)

[Forced farewell to a colleague](#)

[New inventory! CegeSoma's 'Diaries and Manuscripts' Collection.](#)

[JBH : new publication \(2024/3-4\)](#)

[A new inventory! The archives of journalist Alain de Prelle de la Nieppe.](#)

1

2

3

>

>>



© CegeSoma | Luchtvaartsquare 29, 1070 Anderlecht | 02 556 92 11

[Home](#) » [News](#) » Forced farewell to a colleague

## Forced farewell to a colleague



On 31 December we are forced to take leave of our colleague Anne Chardonens.

Not a departure due to a well-deserved retirement this time, on the contrary. This is a young person we have to let go because of the ongoing budget cuts and the critical budgetary situation at the State Archives. Anne started at CegeSoma in November 2016 as a researcher on the MADDLAIN and ADOCHS projects. She did her PhD at ULB on the management of authorized archival descriptions in the context of linked data ([which is freely accessible online](#)). From November 2020, she replaced Florence Gillet as the person responsible for digital access to CegeSoma's collections. Anne emerged as a dynamic, innovative, pleasant and de facto indispensable colleague with a great understanding of new digital technologies.

The national resistance database launched on 21 October was her "baby". It may be called ironic that after the enormous success of the launch of this project, we have to let go the initiator and one of the driving forces due to the financial crisis situation. Other colleagues are trying to take over as many tasks as possible, thus ensuring the continued development of the national resistance database. Still, Anne's departure will have a major impact on the functioning of CegeSoma. A number of planned functionalities of the new resistance database (such as certain visualizations in geographical maps or the linking of data including references to other sources) will have to be

abandoned. We are also definitely dropping CegeSoma's own digitization workshop. And the new access to certain digital collections will also be greatly delayed in the coming years. Unfortunately, we are being forced into this because of the situation.

With Anne we lose not only a warm and empathetic colleague but also someone with great scientific abilities. No doubt Anne is going to have a brilliant career ahead, but for CegeSoma and our services this means an immense loss.

#### Other news

["Archive Inventories" search engine now available in AGATHA](#)

[EHRI Becomes an ERIC to Secure the Future of Holocaust Research](#)

[Belgium WWII: local resistance, the Battle of the Bulge and the administration of occupied Belgium](#)

[Wanted: Dutch-speaking Metis witnesses](#)

[The SADO Photographic Archive: A Magnificent Addition to CegeSoma's Collections!](#)

[Closure of the CegeSoma reading room](#)

[Brussels toponymy, past and future](#)

[Young Historians' Days - Class of 2024](#)

[The Resistance in Belgium platform: the buzz, questions... and answers!](#)

[New inventory! CegeSoma's 'Diaries and Manuscripts' Collection.](#)

[JBH : new publication \(2024/3-4\)](#)

[A new inventory! The archives of journalist Alain de Prelle de la Nieppe.](#)

1

2

3

>

>>

© CegeSoma | Luchtvaartsquare 29, 1070 Anderlecht | 02 556 92 11



[Home](#) » [Event](#) » War after war: The Belgian occupation of the left bank of the Rhine (1918-1930).

## War after war: The Belgian occupation of the left bank of the Rhine (1918-1930).

CegeSoma Public History Meeting (2024-8).

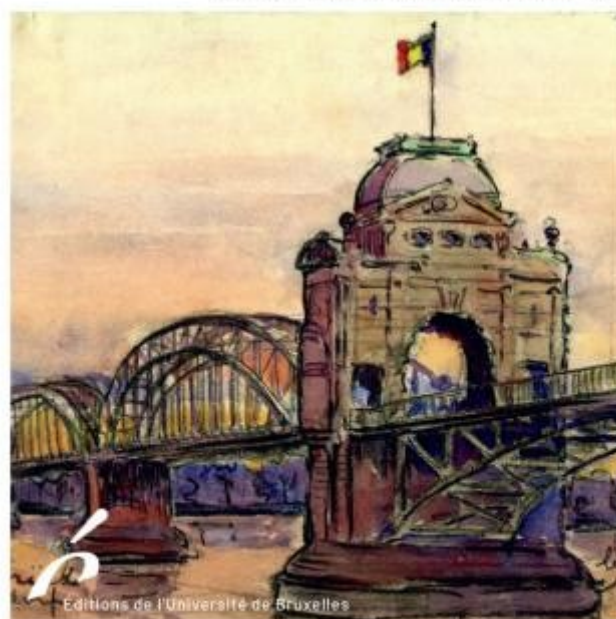
**World War I** [Conference](#)



Anne Godfroid

### La guerre après la Guerre ?

L'occupation belge  
de la rive gauche du Rhin (1918-1930)



**Conference-debate (in French) with guest Anne Godfroid.**

**A talk led by Sophie de Schaepdrijver.**

In the aftermath of World War I, Belgium took on the role of occupier. In December 1918, its troops crossed the German border and settled on the left bank of the Rhine, from Cleves to Aachen. They remained there for over ten years. This experience of reverse occupation, hitherto obscured from the collective memory and studied from specific angles, is now the subject of a global approach combining political as well as military, social and cultural dimensions.

The result of meticulous research in Belgian and foreign archives, 'La guerre après la guerre: L'occupation belge de la rive gauche du Rhin (1918-1930)' looks back at a plural and complex cohabitation between Belgians and Germans. The story focuses on the strategies of power, resistance and rapprochement implemented. The often discordant voices of civilians and soldiers are heard, giving a voice to the young and the old. Against a backdrop of changing attitudes in Belgium and occupied Germany in the decade following the end of the Great War.

On Wednesday 11 December, CegeSoma and its non-profit organization 'Les Amis du CegeSoma' invite you to a conference-debate with Anne Godfroid as part of CegeSoma's Public History Meetings. The author will be in conversation with Sophie de Schaepdrijver. Together, they will look back at this forgotten occupation.

Everyone welcome!

**Anne Godfroid** has a PhD in Contemporary History (ULB) and in Social and Military Sciences (ERM). Her dissertation was awarded the de Greef Foundation Prize in Military History. She works at the Royal Military Museum (Brussels), where she successively curated exhibitions and managed collections. Her publications include works on military justice and violence against women in wartime.

**Sophie De Schaepdrijver** is Professor of Contemporary European History at Pennsylvania State University (USA). She specializes in the social and cultural history of World War I. Her latest work is a biography and memorial study on spy Gabrielle Petit. She is currently working on a collective project on occupation regimes and experiences of occupation in Europe in 14-18.



11/12/2024 - 14:00 to 15:30

#### **PRACTICAL INFORMATIONS:**

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

**When:** Wednesday, December 11, 2024 (2:00 pm - 3:30 pm)

**Registration required:** [isabelle.ponteville@arch.be](mailto:isabelle.ponteville@arch.be) of 02.556.92.11

The book will be sold on site for €29.00.

Anne Godfroid, *La guerre après la guerre : L'occupation belge de la rive gauche du Rhin (1918-1930)*, Brussels, Editions de l'Université de Bruxelles, 2023, 332 p.

Please feel free to bring a friend!

#### **Main language**

French

© CegeSoma | Luchtvaartsquare 29, 1070 Anderlecht | 02 556 92 11

[Home](#) » [News](#) » Brussels toponymy, past and future

## Brussels toponymy, past and future



On 14 November, a study day at CegeSoma brought together some fifteen researchers on Brussels toponymy, past and future. The initiative was supported by the Brussels Studies Institute (BSI), the Brussels Interdisciplinary Studies Network (EBxl) and Cegesoma/ State Archives, represented respectively by Iadine Degryse, Benjamin Wayens and Chantal Kesteloot.

### Why such an initiative?

Long confined to the realm of the anecdotal, toponymy has been the subject of unprecedented interest over the last fifteen years. New research has been initiated by historians, geographers, anthropologists, sociologists and even linguists. Public space is not a neutral ground, but a place where memories and social representations are made. Some of these are being contested and debated today. But the phenomenon is far from new.

This long-term approach fuelled the day's contributions and debates. The focus was on Brussels toponymy, from medieval mapping practices to the very contemporary issues of decolonization and feminization, not forgetting other spaces such as public transport stops and the use of old street signs in museums.

### Fertile ground for war history

World wars have left their mark on Brussels' toponymic landscape. In this respect, World War I is by far the





most present, a fact linked to the urbanization of the capital in the inter-war period, the outstanding dynamic of Auderghem commune, and the competition between municipalities to capture the international memory of the conflict. But the occupations also generated other reflections, in terms of the rationalization of names and the desire for control. In short, a field of research that has yet to reveal its full potential.



### A database and a publication

This first meeting is part of a wider perspective. It should lead to a twofold initiative: the publication of the proceedings at the end of 2025 and the finalization of a database on Brussels roadways. These initiatives will help make this research part of a multi-disciplinary scientific approach. The database will allow research into the various types of streets, the dates on which they were created, and the choices made by the various municipalities over the course of their history. The objective is also to better identify the variety of archives available, and their locations.

In short, a project to keep an eye on.

### Other news

["Archive Inventories" search engine now available in AGATHA](#)

[EHRI Becomes an ERIC to Secure the Future of Holocaust Research](#)

[Belgium WWII: local resistance, the Battle of the Bulge and the administration of occupied Belgium](#)

[Wanted: Dutch-speaking Metis witnesses](#)

[The SADO Photographic Archive: A Magnificent Addition to CegeSoma's Collections!](#)

[Closure of the CegeSoma reading room](#)

[Young Historians' Days - Class of 2024](#)

[Forced farewell to a colleague](#)

[The Resistance in Belgium platform: the buzz, questions... and answers!](#)

[New inventory! CegeSoma's 'Diaries and Manuscripts' Collection.](#)

[JBH : new publication \(2024/3-4\)](#)

[A new inventory! The archives of journalist Alain de Prelle de la Nieppe.](#)



[Home](#) » [News](#) » Young Historians' Days - Class of 2024

## Young Historians' Days - Class of 2024



On November 28 and 29, 2024, CegeSoma was pleased to welcome thirty-two recent graduates from universities across the country. These young students, selected for the quality of their Master's theses, had the opportunity to present the results of their work on traditional CegeSoma themes such as the two World Wars, the Cold War and (de)colonization. In addition to these topics, other issues linked to Belgian history and international perspectives were also skilfully explored. Once again, this year's edition offered a rich program, providing an opportunity to discover the latest advances in research carried out at Belgian universities.

Please find below the abstracts of all contributions. If you are particularly interested in any of the topics, please let us know. We'll be happy to pass on your comments or requests to the young historians.

### **PROGRAMME FOR 28.11.2024**

#### **1/ (De)Colonisation - Session chaired by Guy Vanthemsche (VUB)**

- Senne ONGENA, [\*Rietsuiker in koloniaal Congo \(1890-1940\). Grondverlening, rekruteringen en kinderarbeid in de Compagnie Sucrière Congolaise.\*](#) UGent (S. Coghe)
- Itsert AKKERMANS, [\*Lovanium: beziel of vergeten? Contacten tussen de universiteiten van Leuven en Kinshasa, 1960-2010.\*](#) KULeuven (I. Goddeeris)
- Francesca GIUFFREDI, [\*La colonisation de l'Afrique dans les identités européennes : construction et déconstruction du passé colonial entre mémoire, oubli, changement et résistance. Une analyse comparative\*](#)

[des espaces publics belges et italiens.](#) UCLouvain (A.-S. Gijs)

- Anaëlle ENGLEBERT, [La répression des étudiants de Lubumbashi des 11 et 12 mai 1990. Analyse de cet événement et de ses conséquences sur les relations Belgique-Zaïre en 1990.](#) UCLouvain (A.-S. Gijs)
- Cyril DUCHEYNE, [Literaire reisverslagen over koloniaal Congo: de interactie tussen jacht, mensen en natuur.](#) UGent (V. Pouillard)

**2/ Gender history - Session chaired by Henk De Smaele (UAntwerpen)**

- Tuur BISSCHOP, [Praktijk versus beleid: Prostitutiecontrole in Antwerpen na de afschaffing van de reglementering in 1948.](#) UGent (M. De Koster)
- Lea SCHIETTECATTE, [Mannelijk, ziek, gevaarlijk en vreemd: de representatie van lesbian-like vrouwen in de Belgische dagbladers tijdens het interbellum.](#) KULeuven (M. Rodriguez)
- Bente OOMS, [De maatschappelijke omgang met en de ervaring van tienerzwangerschap tussen de jaren 80 en 2000.](#) KULeuven (T. Claes)

**3/ First and Second World Wars - Session chaired by Fabrice Maerten (CegeSoma/State Archives)**

- Hannah MARTENS (online), [De hulpverlening van het Belgische Rode Kruis aan civiel-geïnterneerden tijdens de bezetting van België \(1940-1944\).](#) VUB (N. De Mûelenaere)
- Arthur BANSE, [La zone des étapes dans la région de Mons pendant la Première Guerre mondiale.](#) UCLouvain (E. Debruyne)
- Anne BEKERS, [Dat ik niet bepaald wist dat het verlenen van hulp aan joden weerstand was: Onderduiknetwerken in de stad Antwerpen tijdens de Tweede Wereldoorlog \(1940- 1944\).](#) UAntwerpen (M. Beyen)
- Virginie MASSIN, [Le football belge durant l'occupation.](#) ULB (P. Lagrou)
- Coline GERARD, [Perception des relations intimes entre soldats allemands et femmes belges pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale.](#) UCLouvain (L. van Ypersele)
- Pauline CIGNARELLA, [L'expérience du front de l'Est à travers les correspondances des légionnaires.](#) ULB (P. Lagrou)

**4/The beginnings and aftermath of the world wars - Session chaired by Michaël Auwers (CegeSoma/State Archives)**

- Shone LOUSBERG, [L'évolution des relations entre la Belgique et le Japon durant la guerre russo-japonaise.](#) UCLouvain (V. Dujardin)
- Eloïse FERDIN, [Le retour des corps au sortir de la Première Guerre mondiale à Namur et à Mons.](#) UCLouvain (L. van Ypersele)
- Rémy GILLET, [Les dispositifs de défense des nœuds routiers de Libramont et de Neufchâteau mis en place par l'armée belge entre 1933 et 1940 entre prévisions et réalité.](#) UCLouvain (E. Debruyne)
- Marius DUCULOT, [La reconstruction à Dinant pendant et après la Seconde Guerre mondiale.](#) UCLouvain (E. Debruyne)
- Kelly PELLETIER, [La rencontre des soldats canadiens et de la population belge à la Libération en 1944.](#) UCLouvain (E. Debruyne)

**PROGRAMME FOR 29.11.2024**



## 1/ Cold War - Session chaired by Widukind De Ridder (CegeSoma/State Archives - KULeuven)

- Cédric VAN DE VELDE, [\*Kinderen van het maoïsme. Radicaliteit en extremisme binnen de politieke partij 'Alle Macht Aan De Arbeiders' \(AMADA\) gedurende de jaren zeventig.\*](#) UGent (K. Aerts)
- Jitske QUANTEN, [\*Het eurocommunistisch spook in Vlaanderen. De ontwikkeling van een progressieve cultuur tussen 1968 en 1989 in het licht van de anti-apartheidsstrijd.\*](#) KULeuven (W. De Ridder)
- Claudia PELGRIMS, [\*Actieve hulp of passief medeleven? De Belgische socialisten en de Praagse Lente van 1968.\*](#) KULeuven (I. Goddeeris)
- Thea CRUCITTI, [\*Les abris antiatomiques en Belgique durant la Guerre froide.\*](#) UCLouvain (E. Debruyne)

## 2/ Migration - Session chaired by Catherine Lanneau (ULiège)

- Wendy LEMENAGER, [\*Enseigner l'histoire de l'immigration dans l'enseignement qualifiant : apports et limites d'une approche multiperspectiviste.\*](#) ULiège (C. Lanneau)
- Mathilde GRAMME, [\*La mémoire des exilés républicains espagnols et de leurs descendants en Belgique.\*](#) UCLouvain (L. van Ypersele)
- Evert LAMBRECHTS, [\*Faites vos jeux! Rien ne va plus! Toezicht op vreemdelingen in het internationale gokcircuit van Oostende \(ca. 1870-1914\) door de ogen van de Sûreté Publique.\*](#) UGent (A. Vrints)

## 3/ Urbanism and cultural history - Session chaired by Dimitri Roden (CegeSoma/State Archives - UGent)

- Anna DERWAELE, [\*50 jaar het Erasmushuis in Leuven: een blik voorbij de betonnen façades, op weg naar de universiteit van morgen.\*](#) KU Leuven (M. Kohlrausch)
- Rick FAUST, [\*Sociaal voor wie? – De relatie tussen de inrichting van de stedelijke ruimte en het \(gewenste\) bewonersprofiel in de Antwerpse sociale woonwijken het Kiel, Luchtbal en Linkeroever, 1949-1978.\*](#) UAntwerpen (G. De Block)
- Tabatha FABRI, [\*L'internationalisme et la langue internationale "espéranto", L'internationalisme, le sennaciismo et la nation dans les mouvements espérantistes d'extrême-gauche à Bruxelles de 1904 à 1972.\*](#) ULB (N. Verschueren)
- Clémentine SCHOLLAERT, [\*Belgium... 12 points ?! Histoire du trente-deuxième Concours Eurovision de la Chanson à Bruxelles \(1986-1987\).\*](#) ULB (V. Fernandes Soriano)
- Maxim MOREL, [\*"You're two wonderful people who happened to fall in love and happened to have a pigmentation problem.": De receptie van Amerikaanse racisme-gerelateerde films in de Belgische filmers \(1945-1968\).\*](#) UAntwerpen (H. De Smaele)
- Antje DE HERDT, [\*"God heeft het woord aan de man gegeven, de vrouw heeft het genomen". Maria Rosseels en de vrouwenpagina als subversief platform inzake gendernormen en katholicisme \(ca. 1953-1965\).\*](#) UAntwerpen (T. Van Osselaer)
- Maarten DROSSART, [\*Langs de zijlijn of buitenspel? Representatie van partners van voetballers in de Vlaamse pers van 1979 tot 1997 en hun eigen ervaringen.\*](#) KULeuven (M. Rodriguez)

### Other news

["Archive Inventories" search engine now available in AGATHA](#)

[EHRI Becomes an ERIC to Secure the Future of Holocaust Research](#)

[Belgium WWII: local resistance, the Battle of the Bulge and the administration of occupied Belgium](#)

[Wanted: Dutch-speaking Metis witnesses](#)

The SADO Photographic Archive: A Magnificent Addition to CegeSoma's Collections!

Closure of the CegeSoma reading room

Brussels toponymy, past and future

Forced farewell to a colleague

The Resistance in Belgium platform: the buzz, questions... and answers!

New inventory! CegeSoma's 'Diaries and Manuscripts' Collection.

JBH : new publication (2024/3-4)

A new inventory! The archives of journalist Alain de Puelle de la Nieppe.

1

2

3

>

>>

© CegeSoma | Luchtvaartsquare 29, 1070 Anderlecht | 02 556 92 11