

# CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

## NR 32 - OCTOBER 2017

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### RESEARCH (IAP) – NEW PUBLICATION ON THE HISTORY OF THE MAGISTRATURE

10 presentation clips on the research of the PhD researchers in the context of the IAP Justice and Population and publication of the book by Jan Julia Zurné '*Tussen twee vuren. Gerecht en verzet gedurende de Tweede Wereldoorlog*' on the magistrature during the Second World War. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

[http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/rech\\_encours\\_en.php?article=3581&pagnbr=8&pagofs=0](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/rech_encours_en.php?article=3581&pagnbr=8&pagofs=0)

### BELGIUM WWII – VIRTUAL PLATFORM ON THE SECOND WORLD WAR NOW ONLINE

An interactive reference tool for concise and qualitative historical information on various themes related to the Second World War in Belgium (<http://www.belgiumwwii.be> (<http://www.belgiumwwii.be>)). [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

[http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index\\_en.php?article=3564&pag0nbr=25&pagofs=0](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3564&pag0nbr=25&pagofs=0)

### EXHIBITION – OPENING OF 'BRUSSELS, A SAFE HAVEN?'

An exhibition that relates the complex history of the immigration in Brussels via archives and witness accounts, and that reflects on the present challenges in our society. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) (<http://www.cegesoma.be>

[/cms/index\\_en.php?article=3577](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3577))

### NEW PUBLICATION – A NEW EDITION OF THE SOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF CONTEMPORARY BELGIUM (19TH – 21ST CENTURY)

A very useful tool for among other themes, the history of the First and Second World War, key subjects of CegeSoma. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) ([http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index\\_en.php?article=3574](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3574))

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Attention ! Since October, the email addresses of CegeSoma end on arch.be. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

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

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## **IAP's Justice & Society and Justice & Population - 10 clips of research presentation (IAP) and an unpublished work on the attitude of Belgian magistrate during the Second World War**

On Friday the 22nd of September, the final results of the Interuniversity Attraction Pools (IAP's) Justice & Society and Justice & Population were festively presented in the Palace of Academies in Brussels. One element on the programme was the screening of ten films in which PhD students explained (the results of) their research. The films can be viewed online [here](#).

Cegesoma was an active partner and brought several IAP-projects to a favourable conclusion. One of those projects is Jan Julia Zurné's PhD thesis (conducted at Cegesoma between 2012 and 2016) about the Belgian judiciary during the Second World War. In early October, Lannoo published her book based on this research, entitled *Tussen twee vuren. Gerecht en verzet tijdens de Tweede Wereldoorlog*. In this book, the author discusses the reaction of the Belgian judiciary to violence committed by resistance groups during the occupation.

More information about the book can be found [here](#).

The book can be ordered at Cegesoma for €24,99 (postage included) via [cegesoma@cegesoma.be](mailto:cegesoma@cegesoma.be) or in the reading room (Tuesday-Friday 9-16.30).

Jan Julia Zurné is currently working at Cegesoma on a research project about resistance violence during the liberation and the Belgian judiciary's reaction to it.

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## Launching website Belgium WWII

**Belgium WWII** : Discover the new virtual platform on Belgium and its inhabitants during the Second World War !  
On 27 September, in the presence of the press and a particularly large audience, [Belgium WWII](#) was launched.

At a time when information is often anything but reliable, and the Internet is frequently addressed to find quick answers, this new platform represents an interactive tool for those who wish to dispose of concise and correct historical information on various themes related to the Second World War in Belgium.

The platform was funded by the Federal Science Policy in the context of a BRAIN project (Belgian Research Action through Interdisciplinary Networks), and exists in Dutch and French (and partly in German). Belgium WWII addresses everyone. With this platform, CegeSoma wants to pass on historical knowledge to a large public. The platform uses different kinds of knowledge transfer so that the public (among whom students, teachers, the general public, journalists, historians,...) may better understand the conflict.

Over time, the platform will be gradually developed. At this moment, it proposes two themes that are still subject to controversies and myths: the collaboration and the repression, and justice in times of war. With the participation of numerous researchers, these themes are addressed using different approaches:

- **Destinies of war**: how did the war disrupt the lives of millions of unknown, and also better known persons? In this section, individual experiences are evoked. Photographs, letters and audiovisual sources illustrate these trajectories. This individualized approach takes us directly to the heart of daily life in occupied Belgium.

- **Five key questions**. For each theme, direct questions bring us to the heart of the subject. Who were the collaborators? Why did they choose to help the Germans? What is the role of justice in a society under occupation? Find the answers to all your questions on collaboration and justice during the Second World War in Belgium.

- **Virtual exhibitions**. These virtual exhibitions bring you to the heart of occupied Belgium. These digital trajectories, illustrated with photographs, archival documents, video's and explanatory texts explore certain themes in more detail. Discover the history of the internment camp of Verviers, learn more about the Belgian artists who exhibited their work in Germany or follow certain wartime court cases.

- **A virtual encyclopedia**. This encyclopedia constitutes the key part of Belgium WWII, and contains contributions by experts on the history of the Second World War. These contributions deepen the knowledge on Belgium's wartime past and try to better explain the different concepts. They are accompanied by archival documents, interviews with authors, photographs, graphs, diagrams, bibliographical orientations and links to other websites.

The project brings together researchers of all universities and the different communities.

New themes such as the resistance, daily life in times of war, the persecutions, etc. will shortly be developed. Pedagogical trajectories for teachers will also be available soon.

The launch of Belgium WWII was also the opportunity for an interesting debate, animated by Bruno De Wever (Ghent University). Four journalists specialized in historical topics exchanged views: Christian Laporte for La Libre Belgique, Pierre Havaux for le Vif, Walter Pauli for Knack and Marc Reynebeau for De Standaard. They discussed the value of a website such as Belgium WWII and talked about the present challenges of the history of the Second World War.

Realisation: Margot Brulard and Tamar Cachet

Coordination : Chantal Kesteloot

Support committee : Sébastien Dubois (State Archives), Bruno De Wever (UGent), Koen Aerts (UGent), Xavier Rousseaux (UCL), Jonas Campion (UCL) and Christoph Brull (ULg).



Discover the website [www.BelgiumWWII.be](http://www.BelgiumWWII.be)

Discover a [presentation clip of the website](#)

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## EXHIBITION – 13 October: opening of the exhibition ‘Brussels, a safe haven?’

This is a very contemporary exhibition as not a day goes by when the European politics of migration are not a topic in the media and elsewhere. This exhibition takes place in the centre of Brussels, a city home to 184 nationalities, and is the perfect opportunity to reflect on the present challenges we face in our society. The exhibition traces the immigrations routes from 1830 onwards via facts and personal witness accounts. It also presents 16 contemporary witness accounts.

On 12 October, the opening of the exhibition 'Brussels, a safe haven?' was held in the Jewish Museum of Belgium in the presence of the mayor of Brussels and a particularly large audience.



This exhibition was the result of a very fruitful cooperation between the Jewish Museum, the Belgian State Archives, CegeSoma, the Center of the Judeo-Moroccan Culture and the Brussels Centre for Intercultural Action. The exhibition would not have been possible without the help of numerous persons who were willing to testify or to lend personal items and photographs.



It covers more than two centuries of personal histories based on archives of the immigration police (kept at the State Archives) as well as personal witness accounts. These reflect the fact that Brussels has succeeded to be a welcoming city that sometimes embraced the newcomers and sometimes shut them out, as is still the case today. The history of those who were invariably labelled as aliens, exiles, refugees or immigrants is complex and it is important to bring these stories to the public by using official archives, such as the State archives and the archives of State institutions, as well as incorporating the societal and personal perspective. The richness of this exhibition is that it has looked at the push and pull factors for the voluntary or involuntary departures by listening to, gathering information and conducting interviews of witnesses.

To conclude the historical part, works of art of up and coming artists based in Brussels are exhibited. Their aim is to engage the visitor by presenting the city from different angles.

From now until 18 March, many events will accompany the exhibition: film projections, conferences and workshops at the museum, but also at cultural centres and theaters in Brussels.

[Video teaser Bruxelles, terre d'accueil](#)

[The personal files of the Alien Police](#): more than two million records!

### **Practical information**

Where? At the Jewish Museum of Belgium (21 rue des Minimes, 1000 Brussels)

When? From October 13, 2017 to March 18, 2018

Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Information: 02 500 88 37; [georgia@jmb.org](mailto:georgia@jmb.org)

Optional guided tours in French, Dutch or English (max. 25 persons): 60 euros

Entrance fee: 10 euros (reduced rate: 7 euros)

More details: <http://www.mjb-jmb.org>



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## Publication - New edition of the guide 'Sources pour l'étude de la Belgique contemporaine (19e - 21e siècle)'

In September 2017 the new and adapted version of the two part book Bronnen voor de Studie van het hedendaagse België (19de-21ste eeuw)' 'Sources pour l'Etude de la Belgique contemporaine, (19e - 21e siècle)'(Sources for the study of contemporary Belgium (19th-20th Century)' has been published. It is an indispensable instrument for anyone who researches the contemporary history of Belgium. This gargantuan work was published under the watchful eye of the editors: Patricia Van den Eeckhout and Guy Vanthemsche and is published by the Royal Committee for History.

The subjects that are important for CegeSoma are the improved and brought up to date themes on the First and Second World War, written respectively by Pierre-Alain Tallier (head of the operational directorate Brussels, State Archives) and our retired colleague Dirk Martin (left and right on the photo's). Other colleagues at CegeSoma who participated are Dirk Luyten (who wrote the chapters on the Belgian Federal Public Service Employment, companies and trade unions), Chantal Kesteloot (on the Francophone regionalist parties) and Nico Wouters (on the oral sources).

The following (former) colleagues of the State Archives also participated by writing various other chapters: Filip Strubbe, Karel Velle, Guy Coppieters, Michaël Amara, Kathleen Devolder, Griet Maréchal, Sébastien Soyez, Geert Leloup, Marij Preneel, Caroline Six, Vincent Pirlot, Paul Drossens, Chantal Vancoppenolle, Joachim Derwael, François Antoine, Gustaaf Janssens, Juul Verhelst, Herman Coppens, François Moreau, Luis Angel Bernardo y Garcia.



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