

CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

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PUBLIC HISTORY MEETING

On 30 September 2019 there is a conference-debate (in French) in CegeSoma on the occasion of two new book publications 'Bruxelles, ville libérée (1944-1945)' and 'La Wallonie libérée (1944-1945)' with the authors Mélanie Bost, Alain Colignon, Chantal Kesteloot and Bénédicte Rochet . Anne Roekens will moderate the discussion. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3948) (http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3948)

TV-SERIES

On 1 October 2019, the new Canvas TV-series 'Children of the resistance' (in Dutch, 'Kinderen van het verzet') will be launched in CegeSoma. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3951) (http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3951)

INVITATION

There are still a few remaining seats for the conference (in the framework of the Transmemo project) on 3 October in the senate about family memories about resistance and collaboration during the Second World War in Belgium. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3917&pag0nbr=107&pagofs=0) (http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3917&pag0nbr=107&pagofs=0)

EXHIBITION

Until 3 November you can discover iconic- as well as lesser-known pictures of the liberation in Brussels in the exhibition 'Bevrijd Brussels Libérée', in the Halles Saint-Géry/Sint-Gorikshallen. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3944&pag0nbr=107&pagofs=0) (http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3944&pag0nbr=107&pagofs=0)

PROJECT

The EHRI-project (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure) which has developed an international digital research environment during these last years, is on its way to become a permanent structure thanks to newly approved financing. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3942&pag0nbr=107&pagofs=0) (http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3942&pag0nbr=107&pagofs=0)

Sixth Public History Encounter of the CegeSoma

Monday 30 September 2019 (12.30 pm – 2.00 pm) at CegeSoma

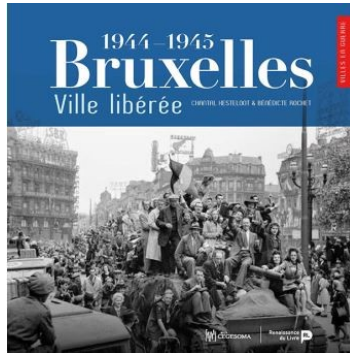
'When photography becomes a historical source in its own right'

Conference-debate (in French) on the occasion of the two new publications 'Bruxelles, ville libérée (1944-1945)' and 'La Wallonie libérée (1944-1945)'

Guest speakers: Mélanie Bost, Alain Colignon, Chantal Kesteloot, Bénédicte Rochet (authors)

Host: Anne Roekens

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Liberation, CegeSoma is pleased to invite you to the presentation of two new publications about the liberation of Brussels and Wallonia.

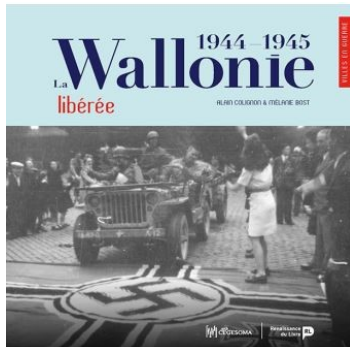


On 3 September 1944 in the evening, Brussels is liberated.

In the course of the previous days, the city had been in upheaval. The last remaining collaborators became more nervous. German troops fled in utter chaos. On 4 September, the people of Brussels burst with joy into the streets of the capital, even if the war in Europe would only end on 8 May 1945.

Thanks to the rich collections of the Study Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society (State Archives) and other holdings conserved by Belgian and foreign institutions and by private individuals, Chantal Kesteloot and Bénédicte Rochet present a photographic historical overview of Brussels in the years 1944-1945.

Some well-known and iconic photographs of the Liberation are placed within their context and lead the way to other, lesser known pictures from professional and amateur photographers and to the issues that marked the public life of the capital in these times.



A different perspective on the agitated weeks and months of the Liberation of Wallonia is proposed by Mélanie Bost and Alain Colignon on the basis of a careful selection of less- or better-known photographs chosen for their documentary-, narrative or aesthetical value, that originate from the collections of CegeSoma and other public and private collections.

Here, the focus lies on the period from the landing in Normandy until the return of the prisoners (April-July 1945). Light is shed on the challenges that ordinary citizens had to face in order to live through these harsh times at the end of the war.

As a complement to the works already published in the series "Cities at War", the authors attempt to grasp the intimate lifestyles of people at a key moment in history while keeping the focus on "our" small and big cities, bourgeois cities and industrial agglomerations in order to present an original approach of Wallonia between war and peace.

During this Public History Meeting hosted by Anne Roekens, the authors will try to answer the following questions: How did the people in Brussels and Wallonia experience this period? Which photographs are still conserved? What do they tell us about the last months of Brussels and Wallonia at war and about the chaotic period that followed? What do they reveal about photographic practice in times of war? Etc.

After the event, you will have the opportunity to buy the two books (each one at € 24.90, 160 pages) - 'Bruxelles, ville libérée (1944-1945)' and 'La Wallonie libérée (1944-1945)' - published by Renaissance du Livre/CegeSoma-State Archives in the collection Cities at War and to have your copy autographed by the authors.

Guest speakers:



Chantal Kesteloot holds a PhD in history from ULB. She promoted in 2001 with a thesis on the Walloon Movement and Brussels from 1912 to 1965.

She is in charge of the Public History department at CegeSoma/State Archives, and co-author, together with Bruno Benvindo, of 'Bruxelles ville occupée 1914-1918' and author of 'Bruxelles sous l'Occupation, 1940-1944', two works published in the collection Cities at War.

Her main fields of interest are the history of the Walloon Movement, the complex of problems around Brussels, war remembrance and national history, the issue of nationalism and national identity.



Alain Colignon holds a Master's degree in history from University of Liège (ULg) and is in charge of the Library department of CegeSoma/State Archives.

He has authored several works about daily life during the Second World War, has studied political radicalism, collective memory of troubled times and representations of identity. He is a regular contributor to the Encyclopaedia of the Walloon Movement (1993-1997), to the Dictionary of the History of the Second World War in Belgium (2007) and to the project Belgium WWII. Furthermore, he has written a number of articles about the period 1914-1970 and about regional ethnology. Together with Mélanie Bost he is co-author of 'La Wallonie dans la Grande Guerre 1914-1918', and together with Fabrice Maerten he has penned 'La Wallonie sous l'Occupation, 1940-1945', both of which were published in the collection Cities at War).

Mélanie Bost, PhD in history from the Catholic University at Louvain-La-Neuve (UCL). After having been a doctoral student at CegeSoma for several years, she defended her thesis about the attitude of the Belgian magistrature during the Second World War. She has authored, among others, a publication in collaboration with Alain Colignon titled 'La Wallonie dans la Grande Guerre 1914-1918' (collection Cities at War, 2016) and one with Chantal Kesteloot titled 'Les commémorations de la Première Guerre mondiale' (CRISP, 2014). Her fields of research are the history of the judiciary and daily life of people during



wartime.

She currently works at the Directorate-General for the Steering of the Education System (*Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles*) and is associated researcher at the Royal Military Academy and at CegeSoma.



Bénédicte Rochet holds a PhD in history from University of Namur with a thesis entitled "*Des actualités filmées au service de l'Histoire. La propagande audiovisuelle d'un gouvernement belge en état de siège (1940-1945)*".

She is currently first assistant and visiting lecturer in History at University of Namur. Her fields of research are the history of cinema (filmed current events, Belgian cinema and world conflicts), the First and the Second World War, the history of visual creation in the 20th century and public history (documentaries, web documentaries, expositions...).



Anne Roekens holds a PhD in history from the Catholic University at Louvain-La-Neuve (UCL) with a thesis about the role of French-speaking public broadcasting company RTBF in the development of the Walloon identity in the second half of the 20th century.

She is a professor of contemporary history at University of Namur, with particular expertise in the history of identity representations and processes in Belgium, media history, audio-visuel analysis and the history of psychiatry.

She is also member of the review committee of the Journal of Belgian History, of the specialised scientific committee of CegeSoma, and of the research group HiSI (Histoire, Sons et Images).

Summary:

Conference-debate about the subject: 'When photography becomes a historical source of its own'.

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

When: Monday 30 September 2019 (12.30 pm – 2.00 pm)

Registration mandatory: by e-mail to isabelle.ponteville@arch.be or by phone 02.556.92.11 - please indicate if you take a snack or not* and which one (5 Euros to be paid in advance to CegeSoma: IBAN: BE12 6792 0045 0092 - BIC: PCHQBEBB + communication: last name and first name + Rencontre Histoire publique).

*** 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 forward this invitation!

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“Children of the Resistance”: launch of the programme by Canvas at Cegesoma

Following the high-profile TV-series “Kinderen van de collaboratie” (2017) and “Kinderen van de kolonie” (2018), the series “Kinderen van het verzet” will be broadcast on Canvas (VRT) from October 2019.

[This new series will be officially presented to the press and the public in the conference room of Cegesoma on the 1st of October 2019.](#)



Picture Josh Appel

Reception and registration starts at 10:30 AM in the entrance hall of Cegesoma.

The actual event starts at 11:00 with opening comments by Nico Wouters (director of Cegesoma), Koen Aerts (UGent, scientific advisor of the series) and Canvas editor-in-chief Geert Clerbout.

Afterwards, resistance daughter Bertje Ureel will present a personal testimony.

The first episode of the series (“40-44”: In the Resistance!) will then be shown in its entirety to the press and the public.

Following the episode, a brief moment is planned for questions, after which lunch is scheduled between 12:20 and 14:00.

Registration is free, but it is necessary to register in advance at: fien.deconinck@vrt.be.

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Conference 'TRANSMEMO' (memories of collaboration and resistance)

On Thursday **3 October 2019** we will co-organize a conference of the research project TRANSMEMO in the senate of Belgium. In this project historians and psychologists investigate how Belgian families with a history of collaboration or resistance remember and experience the legacy of the Second World War. During a full-day program TRANSMEMO will present the results of the research while political scientists, psychologists and historians will reflect on the legacy of this past.

Journée d'étude

Guerre, famille et transmission

Résistance et collaboration durant la Seconde Guerre mondiale dans les mémoires familiales et publiques en Belgique



Sénat, 3 octobre 2019, de 9h30 à 17h

Inscription gratuite mais obligatoire: <http://bit.ly/TRANSMEMO-2019>

INVITATION

This study day takes place from 9.30h to 17.00h in the senate of Belgium.

The program is aimed at a wider audience, with artistic breaks and a debate between opinion formers from both language communities.

Specialists will also give advice on the existing sources to reconstruct one's own family history.

Speakers are members of the TRANSMEMO research team : Nico Wouters and Florence Rasmont (CegeSoma-State Archives in Belgium), Olivier Luminet, Aline Cordonnier, Pierre Bouchat and Valérie Rosoux (UCL), Bruno De Wever and Koen Aerts (UGent).

The entire day will be coordinated by Chantal Kesteloot (CegeSoma/ State Archives).

External specialists that will give a presentation are : Jan De Mol (psychologist, UCL) and Chris van der Heijden (historian, De Groene Amsterdammer).

Artistic breaks are provided by Laurence Vieille (theatre and poetry) and Wim Claeys (music). The debate will be held among Christian Laporte (La Libre Belgique), Béatrice Delvaux (Le Soir), Marc Reynebeau (De Standaard) and Jeroen de Preter (Knack).

Simultaneous translation is available (French/Dutch).

The conference is free of charge but it is mandatory to register via <http://bit.ly/TRANSMEMO-2019>.

For any additional questions, please contact transmemo@arch.be

You can find the invitation for the conference dedicated to the TRANSMEMO project [here](#).

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Bevrijd Brussels Libérée (Liberated Brussels)

Brussels, 3 September 1944. Since the early hours of the morning, Radio London broadcasts the Belgian national anthem, the Brabançonne. Just one day before, the first units of the Allied Armed Forces have entered the country. In the capital city, people stayed indoors, following the instructions not to interfere with troop movements.

Then, shortly before 8 pm, the first Allied tank enters Brussels. When people recognize it, they burst with joy.



We all remember the images of people surrounding tanks in droves, women embracing soldiers, and children getting autographs. The Liberation of Brussels is a moment of emotion, but not only emotions...

Discover the most iconic images of the Liberation of Brussels and other less known pictures: The last fights at Trone square, the fire at the Palace of Justice, the return of the government, and the first trials of collaborators...

These emotions of the first days of September 1944 are brought back to life in a new exhibition by Les Halles Saint-Géry, CegeSoma/State Archives and Germaine Image: Bevrijd Brussels Libérée, a photographic and archival retrospective brought to you in collaboration with Cinematek, the War Heritage Institute and the Royal Library.

Open every day from 3 September until 3 November at Halles Saint-Géry (Place Saint-Géry 1, 1000 Brussels), from 10 am until 10 pm. Free entrance!

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Towards a permanent structure for EHRI

On 23 August, it was announced that funding of the European Union for the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI), in which the State Archives/CegeSoma are a partner, will continue. Objective of this funding is to sustain and expand its resources and activities and to enable it to become a permanent European home for international Holocaust research and collaboration.



Over the past nine years EHRI, has already proven itself by building and supporting a digital infrastructure for the international Holocaust research community. EHRI provides online access to information about dispersed sources relating to the Holocaust through its Online Portal, and tools and methods that enable researchers and archivists to collaboratively work with such sources. Apart from providing an online platform, EHRI also facilitates an extensive network of researchers, archivists and others to increase cohesion and co-ordination among practitioners and to initiate new transnational and collaborative approaches to the study of the Holocaust. EHRI thereby seeks to overcome one of the hallmark challenges of Holocaust research: the wide dispersal of the archival source material across Europe and beyond, and the concomitant fragmentation of Holocaust historiography.

A permanent organisation

Thanks to the new funding, EHRI can now be sustained as a permanent and independent organisation. Its dependence on European funding will be replaced by a business model in which a number of member states will contribute to the financing of the organisation.

The organisation will still be coordinated by NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam, which has been carrying out this task successfully for the past nine years. The State Archives/CegeSoma and Kazerne Dossin are the Belgian partner institutions that accompany the transition from a project to a permanent infrastructure. This way, CegeSoma, which contributed to the creation of EHRI, can continue to support research about this important aspect of the history of the Second World War.

<http://www.ehri-project.eu/>

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