

# NEWSLETTER

No 93 - March 2024



## NEWS

### THREE QUESTIONS TO ...

Widukind De Ridder, in charge of the FED-tWIN Belcowar project at CegeSoma/State Archives.

► [Read more](#)



### JOB OFFER

CegeSoma/State Archives is recruiting a trainee assistant of the scientific class SW1 (vacancy published in the *Moniteur belge* on 25/03/2024).

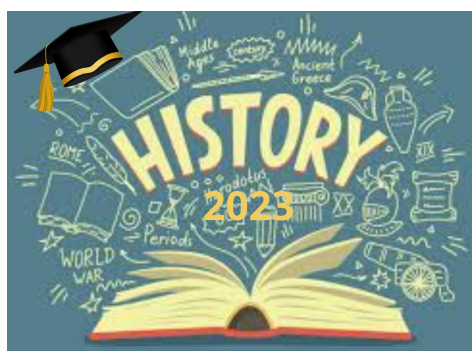
► [Read more](#)

## ON THE AGENDA

### INTERUNIVERSITY SEMINAR

Join us at CegeSoma on 17 April 2024 to discover the conclusions of the interuniversity seminar (UCLouvain - UAntwerpen) on the social history of the Resistance in small Belgian communes.

► [Read more](#)



### YOUNG HISTORIANS DAY

On 19 April 2024, CegeSoma organizes a day dedicated to recently graduated, talented young historians. Each year, this is an opportunity to discover the latest research topics at our various universities, and also to meet the historians of tomorrow.

► [Read more](#)

### CONTEMPORARY HISTORY DAY

For its 2024 edition, the Contemporary History Day will take place at



## THREE QUESTIONS TO ... Widukind De Ridder,

in charge of implementing the FED-tWIN Belcowar project at CegeSoma/State Archives



*Widukind, you joined CegeSoma in October 2022 as project manager for the FED-tWIN Belcowar project, which focuses on the economic aspects of the Cold War in Belgium. You work part-time at CegeSoma/State Archives and part-time at KULeuven. But this isn't your first experience at CegeSoma... What was your background before getting this job?*

It was a journey filled with all kinds of experiences, from backpacking in England and Eastern Europe to my first experiments in scientific writing and teaching... Looking back, however, I notice that a common thread began to emerge during my Masters in contemporary history at the *VUB*, with a marked interest in the political and economic history of the post-war period. I was interested in observing the impact of the economy on society, but also in studying the link between state and economy, particularly in the context of what is commonly referred to as the pillarization of Belgian society - the social structuring between the Catholic, liberal and socialist pillars.

I think my taste for research came while writing my dissertation on the Belgian Communist Party, which my future PhD thesis sponsor, Peter Scholliers, encouraged me to synthesize into an article and which I then submitted to the Belgian Journal of Contemporary History... currently published by CegeSoma. I wanted to write about a political party that was no longer linked to a pillar. Alain Meynen, the late archivist of *Dacob* - the Dutch-speaking equivalent of the *Centre des Archives du Communisme en Belgique (CARCoB)* - always encouraged me to carry out research



and publish my findings. That's how I started publishing, among other things, on 19th century political thought, at a time when I was preparing a doctoral thesis on the introduction of social legislation in Belgium in the 1880s, and more specifically on wage systems in the textile industry in Ghent and in the glass industry in Charleroi.



E. Gerard, F. Muller, W. De Ridder and R. Van Doorslaer

A four-year adventure that took me, improbably, to New York... to a research center where a collector had sold all the archives relating to the glass industry in Charleroi!

After this thesis and various publishing experiences, I was lucky enough to work at CegeSoma with Emmanuel Gerard and Françoise Muller on the August 1950 assassination of Communist leader Julien Lahaut. I then had the opportunity to teach history and politics at the Collège Vesalius in Brussels and to work on interculturality for an NGO in Molenbeek, before returning to CegeSoma as part of the Belcowar project.

### ***What are the advantages of working both in academia and in a federal scientific institution?***

I find it very interesting to work in a bilingual federal environment. It allows researchers to exchange views on the differences between French- and Dutch-speaking approaches. What's more, my position enables me to raise students' awareness of the archive world. Indeed, while a large number of archives relating to political economy have been opened up to research since the 2000s, I've observed that academics rely less and less on these collections in their work, and that the students I supervise have lost this reflex. I'm trying to counter this by building bridges between the academic world and archives. This autumn, for example, I organized a seminar session with my students at CegeSoma, so that our archivist, Gertjan Desmet, could talk to them about the specificities of archives. I hope this will encourage them to use archives in their work.

### ***How would you like to see the historian's craft evolve?***

With the current world conflicts, I think we need to focus more on the socio-economic and political aspects, so that we can better analyze what surrounds us, from a critical and not just a moral point of view. This history is often perceived as more "arid", but in my opinion it is essential to continue to dedicate research projects to it, so that it can serve society and its emancipation. I find, for example, that CegeSoma's public history meetings perfectly fulfil this objective, by bringing the general public into contact with complex subjects, while at the same time providing the necessary insights.



Finally, I'd like to see more people from immigrant backgrounds and more women in this discipline. In my spare time, I'm involved with the non-profit organization 'Archives des Afro-descendants de Belgique' ('Archives of Afro-

[fin](#)[premier mot](#)[dernier mot](#)

Publié le : 2024-03-25

Numac : 2024002375

## SERVICE PUBLIC FEDERAL DE PROGRAMMATION POLITIQUE SCIENTIFIQUE

Vacance d'un emploi d'Assistant stagiaire (classe SW1) de la carrière scientifique. - Vacance numéro HRM 4557 (Direction opérationnelle 4 Cegesoma)

## 1. POSITIONNEMENT DE LA FONCTION AU SEIN DE L'ETABLISSEMENT.

- Il s'agit d'un emploi d'agent scientifique statutaire à prestations complètes.
- Titre et classe de la carrière scientifique: Assistant stagiaire (classe SW1).
- Groupe d'activités de la carrière scientifique dont l'emploi fait partie: groupe II "service public scientifique".
- L'emploi sera exercé au sein de la direction opérationnelle 4 : Cegesoma aux [Archives](#) générales du Royaume.

## 2. REGIME LINGUISTIQUE.

Cet emploi est accessible aux candidates et aux candidats pouvant être affecté•e•s au rôle linguistique français en application des règles fixées à cet effet par les lois sur l'emploi des langues en matière administrative.

## 3. CONTEXTE DE LA FONCTION.

Les [Archives](#) de l'Etat sont chargées, via la direction opérationnelle CEGESOMA :

- 1° de la mise sur pied d'un centre scientifique d'expertise scientifique sur les guerres et conflits du 20e siècle, dans une perspective internationale et avec une attention particulière portée à la signification sociétale et à la mémoire;
- 2° de la réalisation et de la diffusion de la recherche scientifique sur ces matières;
- 3° de l'acquisition et de la mise à disposition de matériaux liés à cette thématique, qu'ils soient audiovisuels, archivistiques, ou encore de bibliothèque;
- 4° de la mise en oeuvre de projets d'histoire publique et de la participation à de tels projets, ceux-ci pouvant notamment prendre la forme de conférences, de publications, d'expositions, de sites internet et d'autres médias;
- 5° de l'élaboration de plates-formes de concertation et d'information entre les réseaux d'historiens professionnels de la période contemporaine, les unités de recherche universitaires, les établissements scientifiques, les instituts de conservation du patrimoine et les musées, en Belgique comme à l'étranger, ainsi que de la participation à de telles plateformes.

## 4. CONTENU DE LA FONCTION.

## 4.1. Objectifs de la fonction au regard des missions de l'établissement.

En tant que responsable de la communication externe, contribuer à la notoriété et au rayonnement du CegeSoma par le développement et la mise en oeuvre d'une stratégie de communication relative aux collections, activités, publications et projets du CegeSoma au sens large.

En tant que responsable de la coordination et de l'organisation pratique des événements de la Direction opérationnelle et de partenaires externes, contribuer à leur réalisation sur le plan qualitatif, y compris en entretenant le réseau de contacts du CegeSoma.

## 4.2. Domaines de résultats.

## 4.2.1. Domaines de résultats essentiels Services scientifiques (70%)

- lancer et coordonner des initiatives ou des activités visant à élargir l'audience du CegeSoma ;
- développer des outils innovants de valorisation matérielle et virtuelle ;
- développer, créer et diffuser du matériel de communication et de promotion ;



## A social history of the Resistance in small Belgian communes

Conclusions of the interuniversity seminar (UCLouvain - UAntwerpen)

**World War II**   [Study day](#)



On April 17, CegeSoma is pleased to invite you to the presentation of the conclusions of the second UCLouvain - University of Antwerp interuniversity seminar on local Resistance in 1940-1944. After an overview by seminar organizers, the students involved will present the cases of over twenty communes in the provinces of Antwerp, Flemish Brabant, Walloon Brabant, Hainaut (Charleroi country and Centre region) and the Brussels region.

### Afternoon program

- 2:00 pm: Introduction - **Fabrice Maerten** (CegeSoma/State Archives)
- 2:10pm: Presentation of general seminar results - **Marnix Beyen** (*UAntwerpen*) & **Emmanuel Debruyne** (*UCLouvain*)
- 2:30 pm: Thematic presentations by *UCLouvain* and *UAntwerpen* students + time for discussion
  - Resistance and urbanization. How do communities on the outskirts of large, expanding conurbations develop a particular kind of resistance?
  - Local hegemony? How does a movement manage to dominate local resistance?
  - Producing for the occupier; resisting the occupier. How can large industrial plants become local centers of

resistance?

- Collaboration: hindering or driving resistance? To what extent was the development of resistance locally affected by that of collaboration?
  - Resistance in neighborhoods. How do contrasting neighborhoods within the same commune develop specific forms of resistance?
  - The commune as a place of resistance. Does the commune provide a structuring framework for local resistance, or is it just another spatial extension of the underground struggle?
  - Places of violence? In what ways did local factors encourage or discourage violent forms of resistance?
- 
- 4:30 pm: Reflections on the results of the seminar - **Nico Wouters** (director of CegeSoma)



**17/04/2024 - 14:00 to 17:00**

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

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

**When:** Wednesday 17 April 2024 (2:00 pm - 5:00 pm)

**Languages:** French and Dutch.

**Registrations :** [isabelle.ponteville@arch.be](mailto:isabelle.ponteville@arch.be)

### **Main language**

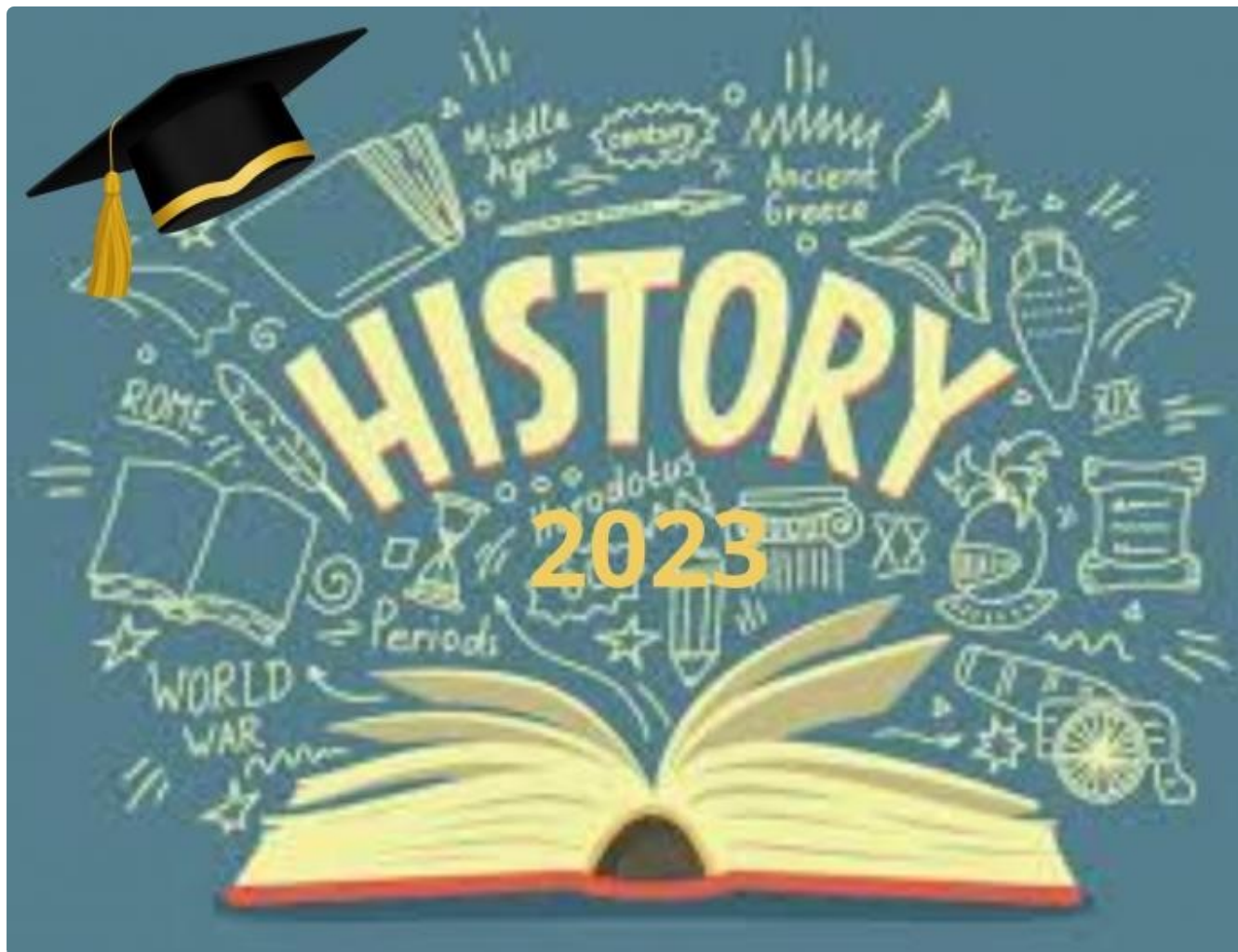
Dutch

French

## Study day 'Young Historians'

Class of 2023

[World War I](#)   [World War II](#)   [Cold War](#)   [Study day](#)



On Friday 19 April 2024, CegeSoma/State Archives is pleased to invite you to its annual study day for talented young historians who recently graduated.

This year, around twenty historians from universities all over the country will present the results of their research. As usual, topics will focus on the two great world conflicts and the Cold War.

On the menu: the impact of WWI on Belgium, WWII as seen through personal diaries, Flemish volunteers on the Eastern Front, railway workers' resistance, civilian victims of bombing, how this war is represented in Belgian museums, and more. The Cold War period will also be one of the themes in the spotlight. Several contributions will be devoted to this topic. These include contacts between universities on both sides of the Iron Curtain, the analysis of film newsreels, UNESCO's World Heritage in Eastern Europe, the struggle of the Anti-Fascist Front, and Che's Congolese experience, to name but a few.

In other words, a very interesting and varied program that will enable you to discover the latest fields of research



from the various universities in the country, and to meet some of tomorrow's historians.

As always, this event is open to all... so you're welcome!

| **[The full program of this study day can be found here.](#)**



**19/04/2024 - 09:00 to 16:30**

#### **PRACTICAL INFORMATION:**

**Venue:** Conference room of CegeSoma, Square de l'Aviation 29 – 1070 Brussels

**Date and time:** Friday 19 April 2024 (9.00 am – 4.30 pm)

**Registration mandatory until Wednesday 17 April 2024 at the latest:** [isabelle.ponteville@arch.be](mailto:isabelle.ponteville@arch.be) or +32 (0)2.556.92.11  
– please indicate if you would like to have a small snack (sandwich, drink) at noon.

- ▶ Participation is free for students attending the presentations of the papers (△ registration is mandatory).
- ▶ Fee per day: € 7.00
- ▶ Fee per day including lunch: € 15.00

Please transfer the right amount beforehand to the account of CegeSoma: IBAN: BE12 6792 0045 0092 - BIC: PCHQBEBB  
+ communication: 19.4.2024 + Last name and first name. Upon payment, you are automatically registered for the colloquium.

Feel free to bring someone with you!

#### **Main language**

Dutch

French

[Home](#) » [Event](#) » On the margins of history. Current research, debates, challenges.

## On the margins of history. Current research, debates, challenges.

Contemporary History Day 2024.

[World War I](#)   [World War II](#)   [Cold War](#)   [CegeSoma in the spotlight](#)   [Study day](#)

2024 Dag van de nieuwste geschiedenis  
Journée de l'histoire contemporaine

MAANDAG 13 MEI / LUNDI 13 MAI 9-17 h.

Musée BELvue Museum

7 Paleizenplein / Place des Palais 1000 Brussel / Bruxelles

Aux marges de l'histoire  
Recherches actuelles, débats, défis

In de marge van de geschiedenis  
Actueel onderzoek, debatten, uitdagingen

Magaly Rodriguez Garcia  
(Keynote speaker)

12 Sessies / sessions

INSCRIPTION / REGISTRATIE

Membre ABHC 35 € / BVNG-lid  
Non-membre 55 € / niet lid

Comprend: Le déjeuner, les boissons tout au long de la journée et la réception  
Inbegrepen: Lunch, drankjes en afsluitende receptie

CONTACT: BVNG@KULEUVEN.BE

Registration for **Contemporary History Day 2024** now open !

After Eupen two years ago, the 2024 Contemporary History Day will take place in Brussels on **Monday 13 May**. True to its principle that historical research transcends community borders in our country, the Belgian Association for Contemporary History is thrilled to be welcomed to the heart of the capital by the **BELvue Museum**, a project of the King Baudouin Foundation.

The objective of the Day is to give us the opportunity to meet and get together around themes of contemporary history. This year's theme is: 'On the margins of history. Current research, debates, challenges'.

**For more details on this chosen theme, visit the Journal of Belgian History (JBH) website. The detailed program will be available shortly.**

The BELVue Museum is accessible to people with special needs. If you have any questions, please contact us at [bvng@kuleuven.be](mailto:bvng@kuleuven.be) or on our [Facebook page BVNG-ABHC](#).



**13/05/2024 - 09:00 to 17:00**

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

**Where?** BELvue Museum, 7 Place des Palais, 1000 Brussels

**When?** Monday 13 May, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Registration fees:** 35 euros for members of the Belgian Association for Contemporary History and 55 euros for non-members, to be paid into account BE43 0682 0439 5801 with the communication "DNG 2024 Name + First name".  
Registration fees include lunch, beverages during the day and a closing reception.

You may register until 6 May 2024 latest via the 'Registration form' link below. Once you have paid the registration fee, your completed form will act as your reservation.

### **Main language**

Dutch

French

**REGISTRATION FORM**

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



[Home](#) » [News](#) » The first JBH of 2024 has just been published.

## The first JBH of 2024 has just been published.



It contains four separate contributions. Firstly, **Dorien Styven** and **Veerle Vanden Daelen** (both *Kazerne Dossin*) seek explanations for the so-called 'Antwerp specificity' during World War II. This concerns the observation that the number of deported Jews from Antwerp was significantly higher than the Belgian average.

The second, Dutch-language article comes from **Felix Deckx** (*KU Leuven*). He looks at the impact of sulfone treatment on three Belgian-Congolese 'leproseries' in the Equator province (1940-1960) and analyses the evolution from a gradual dominance of religious centres to government control and scientification.

The third, French-language article is by **Pascal Delwit** (*ULB*). He analyses the first post-war municipal elections of 1946 with a critical view on the very relative victory of the Communist Party of Belgium.

Finally, **Brice Prince** (also *ULB*) outlines the history of the *Œuvre de Secours pour les Victimes de la Guerre en Belgique*, the Canadian contribution of international solidarity with Belgium during and immediately after the First World War.

This issue is priced at 15 euros (excluding postage) and can be ordered from Hilde Keppens, CegeSoma, Square de l'Aviation 29, 1070 Brussels, +32 2/556 92 11 - [hilde.keppens@arch.be](mailto:hilde.keppens@arch.be).

THREE QUESTIONS TO ... Widukind De Ridder,  
Preliminary investigation report into the persecution of members of the LGBTQIA+ community during WWII  
'Goto' is gone...  
THREE QUESTIONS AND MORE TO ... Alain Colignon,  
EHRI- Conny Kristel fellowship for Solange Manche  
Contemporary History Day 2024. On the margins of history: current research, debates, challenges  
New project funding for European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI)  
The archives of star reporter Alain de Puelle de la Nieppe at CegeSoma  
New inventory!  
Album Amicorum for Bruno De Wever, vice chairman of our scientific committee  
Occupation and everyday life: a new resource portal on World War II  
Two new inventories! 'Les Invalides Prévoyants' and 'Les Enfants de la Patrie/De Kinderen van het Vaderland'

1

2

>

>>

## Preliminary investigation report into the persecution of members of the LGBTQIA+ community during WWII



In response to the resolution passed on 8 February 2024 in the House of Representatives calling for an independent historical inquiry into the persecution suffered by members of the LGBTQIA+ community under the German occupation of Belgium during the Second World War (WWII), CegeSoma has produced a brief report outlining the results of a preliminary investigation.

This is largely based on the research work carried out by Dimitri Roden. In this short report, Dimitri Roden and Nico Wouters attempt to provide the historical context, summarize the current state of research and provide a prospect of possible archives. Finally, this report aims to formulate a decision on the potential for further historical research.

**[Read more about the preliminary research on the persecution of people from the LGBTQIA+ community during World War II.](#)**

### Other news

[THREE QUESTIONS TO ... Widukind De Ridder](#),  
The first JBH of 2024 has just been published.

'Goto' is gone...

[THREE QUESTIONS AND MORE TO ... Alain Colignon](#),  
EHRI- Conny Kristel fellowship for Solange Manche



Contemporary History Day 2024. On the margins of history: current research, debates, challenges  
New project funding for European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI)  
The archives of star reporter Alain de Pille de la Nieppe at CegeSoma  
New inventory!  
Album Amicorum for Bruno De Wever, vice chairman of our scientific committee  
Occupation and everyday life: a new resource portal on World War II  
Two new inventories! 'Les Invalides Prévoyants' and 'Les Enfants de la Patrie/De Kinderen van het Vaderland'

1

2

>

>>