

# DEFEATING IMPUNITY

## PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

The Archival Trail, 1914 - 2016



## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP



© Heike Ullrich / Sony Pictures

Université Libre de Bruxelles

Brussels, 9-10 March 2016



For more information & registration

defeatingimpunity@gmail.com

The conference seeks to discuss (inter)national records of engagement with international law and justice from 1914 to 2016. It specifically questions the way in which the judiciary dealt with gross violations of international law in the wake of war and how legal actors responded to the challenges of an emergent and developing set of international laws. Most of the literature concerning international humanitarian law and international criminal justice adopts a legal perspective, paying little attention to the contribution of actors. Yet, because they play an essential role in the prosecution of offenses, in the interpretation of a recent and evolving legislation, or in the mobilisation of victims, their voluntarism or abstention largely determines the implementation of international law/justice and its evolution.

The history of international law as written by legal scholars often offers a linear narrative of human progress towards a better articulation of legal norms, towards ever more justice and peace. "Historical trials" are reduced to simple stepping stones on the road culminating in the creation of the International Criminal Court. Historians tend to introduce contingency and discontinuity into this narrative, of unintended outcomes, of a course affected by external dynamics rather than guided by its internal coherence. The emergence of an international order whereby justice is not only limited to the exercise of sovereignty within the borders of the Nation State, is however undeniably a cumulative process.

The conference aims at combining views from the field with scholarly research in the social and legal sciences and will pay close attention to the archives and the sources that allow us to investigate these topics. How do scholars working on judicial sources cope with the different filters that stand between the sources they work on and the events and processes they study? How can we map networks of militancy and systematic documentation gathering in the wake of war and their impact on national dynamics? Did practitioners, in the 1940s, in the 1990s, ground their legal framework, their investigations, their procedural approach and their final verdicts on their familiarity with national and international judicial precedent?

#### Directions

> 9 March 2016      - CIERL Main Room / Library, Université Libre de Bruxelles (Campus Solbosch)  
Av. F. Roosevelt 17, 1050 Bruxelles  
- Keynote lecture, Building R42, Room R42.5.503

> 10 March 2016      **Building K**, Room K.3.201  
Université Libre de Bruxelles (Campus Solbosch)

#### Scientific Committee:

Mélanie Bost (CegeSoma/RMA), Pierre-Olivier de Broux (USLB), Thomas Graditzky (ULB), Helen Grevers (UGent), Stanislas Horvat (RMA), Pieter Lagrou (ULB), Herbert Reinke (HU Berlin), Xavier Rousseaux (UCL), Ornella Rovetta (ULB), Caroline Six (State Archives), Nico Wouters (CegeSoma), Jonas Campion (UCL), Veerle Massin (UCL), Pierre-Alain Tallier (State Archives/ULB)

#### Organizing Committee:

Pieter Lagrou (ULB), Ornella Rovetta (ULB), Pierre-Olivier de Broux (USLB), Thomas Graditzky (ULB).

# DEFEATING IMPUNITY PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

The Archival Trail, 1914 - 2016



## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP



© Heike Ulrich / Sony Pictures

Organized with the support of the IAP 7/22 "Justice & Populations" - Belgian Science Policy

Université Libre de Bruxelles



Brussels, 9-10 March 2016

For more information & registration

defeatingimpunity@gmail.com

**9.00 Welcome and Introduction**

**9.30 EXPERIENCES**

Moderator: **Stanislas Horvat** (Royal Military Academy Belgium)

- **Isabelle Delpla** (Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon):

"Victim (de)Mobilisations: the Diversity of Victim Witnesses at the ICTY"

- **Thomas Graditzky** (Université Libre de Bruxelles):

"The Belgian Experience of the Law of Military Occupation during the Great War: Overlooked by the Postwar Trials?"

- **Lisette Schouten** (Universität Heidelberg):

"Delivering Justice? Hugo Pos as a Resilient Prosecutor in East Asia's War Crimes Courts (1944-1948)"

**11.15-11.30 Break**

**11.30 RECORDS**

Moderator: **Kerstin von Lingen** (Universität Heidelberg)

- **Catherine Denis** (Avocats Sans Frontières):

"A View from within on the Challenges of International Justice: Transitions, Memory and Prevention"

- **Delphine Lauwers** (Belgian State Archives):

"A Century of Pioneering Case-law. Digitizing and Investigating Belgian Precedents of International Justice"

- **Vanessa Voisin** (Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne):

"Filming the War Crimes Trials: a Soviet Policy"

**13.00-14.00 Lunch**

**14.00 CLASSIFICATIONS**

Moderator: **Henry Roussel** (Institut d'Histoire du Temps Présent, CNRS, Paris)

- **Rebecca Wittmann** (University of Toronto):

"From Majdanek to Demjanjuk: Failures of Justice in Postwar Germany"

- **Wolfgang Form** (Philipps-Universität Marburg):

"Bringing together the United Nations War Crimes Commission Papers"

- **Arnaud Charon** (Belgian State Archives/Université Libre de Bruxelles):

"Deportees claim Justice: the Trial Proceeding of Jacques Pirenne before the Germano-Belgian Mixed Arbitral Tribunal (1924)"

**18.00 Room R42.5.503 Keynote Lecture: Kerstin von Lingen** (Universität Heidelberg):

"Coining Postwar Justice: Exile, Legal scholarship and the United Nations War Crimes Commission"

(International Chair in the History of the Second World War 2016)

**8.30 Welcome**

**9.00 ACTORS**

Moderator: **Isabelle Delpla** (Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon)

- **Pieter Lagrou and Ornella Rovetta** (Université Libre de Bruxelles):

"Torture on Trial, 2014-1914: the Words the Crime Elicits"

- **Marie-Anne Weisers** (Université Libre de Bruxelles):

"The Struggle of Belgian Magistrates to Punish Crimes against the Jews (1947-1951)"

- **Chris De Cock** (Lieutenant-colonel, Chief of Staff, BEL Armed Forces, Legal Department)

"The Role of the Legal Advisor in Operations: Accomplishing the Mission While Respecting the Law"

**10.45-11.00 Break**

**11.00 INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE?**

Moderator: **Pierre-Olivier de Broux** (Université Saint Louis Bruxelles)

- **Guillaume Mouralis** (Université Paris Ouest Nanterre):

"The Preparation of the Nuremberg Trial: Professional Paths and Legal Innovation"

- **Vincent Genin** (Université de Liège):

"An International Justice without Belgium? The case of the Permanent Court of International Justice (1921-1930)"

- **Diane Bernard** (Université Saint Louis Bruxelles):

"Articulating Domestic and International Jurisdiction. Audacious Dreams and Realistic Creativity in the Preparatory Steps towards the Statute of the International Criminal Court (1919-1998)"

**12.30 Conclusions**

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

## A CENTURY OF PIONEERING CASE-LAW.

### BELGIAN PRECEDENTS OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE IN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE (1914-2014)

9.01.18

ULB, Solbosch Campus,  
Room AY2.108

D A Y 1

Avenue Franklin Roosevelt,  
n°50, 1050, Brussels

<http://jusinbell.hypotheses.org/241>

10.01.18

Dépot Cuvelier, A.G.R. 2  
Reading Room.

D A Y 2  
Rue du Houblon, 26-28  
1000, Brussels



Download this free app to scan  
at coding to app

**A CENTURY OF PIONEERING CASE-LAW.  
BELGIAN PRECEDENTS OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE  
IN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE (1914-2014)**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZED WITHIN THE JUSINBELLGIUM\* PROJECT**

(\*ULB, STATE ARCHIVES OF BELGIUM, LEUVEN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL GOVERNANCE STUDIES, ICWC)

**9 & 10 JANUARY 2018  
PROGRAMME**

**Day 1 : 09.01.2018**

**Université libre de Bruxelles, Solbosch Campus, Av. F. Roosevelt, 50, 1050 Brussels.**

**Room AY2.108**

9h30: Welcome

10h00

**THEME 1**

***Case-law in the digital era: archival and legal challenges of online access***

- Introduction by a member of the State Archives of Belgium (*to be confirmed*)
- Introduction by Xavier Rousseaux, Coordinator of the Interuniversity Attraction Pole 'Justice & Populations' Bejust 2.0 project

10h30-12h30

***Presentation of the Jusinbellgium project***

*Moderator: Wolfgang Form (International Research and Documentation Centre for War Crimes Trials)*

By Pieter Lagrou (ULB, MMC), Ornella Rovetta (ULB, MMC), Delphine Lauwers (State Archives of Belgium), Hendrik Vandekerckhove (Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies) and Marie-Anne Weisers (JLB, MMC)

Lunch

13h30-15h30

***Is digital history public history?***

*Panel Discussion*

*Moderator: Xavier Rousseaux (UCL, FNRS)*

- Vanessa Voisin (WW2CRIMESONTRIAL1943-91 / CERCEC): Les crimes de guerre nazis dans le prétoire, Europe centrale et orientale, 1943-1991
- Edwin Klijn (NIOD), The Triado-project
- Wolfgang Form (International Research and Documentation Centre for War Crimes Trials): Mapping War Crimes - Geographies of Justice. ICWC worldwide documentation program
- Paul Drossens (State Archives of Belgium) and Gertjan Desmet (State Archives of Belgium): In search of War Crimes. Unearthing and accessioning the archives of the Belgian Military Justice
- Chantal Kesteloot (Cegesoma): La plateforme Belgium WWII

Break

16h00-18h00

***Keynote Lecture by Kim Christian Priemel (University of Oslo)***

*The Betrayal. The Nuremberg Trials and German Divergence*, Oxford University Press, 2016

The lecture will be introduced by Pieter Lagrou (ULB)

## Day 2 : 10.01.2018

Dépot Cuvelier, Archives Générales du Royaume 2, Rue du Houblon 26-28, 1000 Brussels.

Reading Room

8h45: Welcome

9h00-11h00

### **THEME 2: German Atrocities, 1914. Litigation, Reconciliation, Justice**

Panel discussion

- John Horne (Trinity College Dublin) and Alan Kramer (Trinity College Dublin)
- Jusinbellgium team on WWI files

Discussion and comments:

- Martin Kohlrausch (KU Leuven) and Sebastiaan Vandenbogaerde (UGent)

Break

11h15-13h00

### **THEME 3: The three moments of International Justice: Learning from failure or building on precedent**

#### **Research challenges at the crossroads of law and history**

Panel discussion

Moderator: Jan Wouters (Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies)

- Élisabeth Claverie (ISP, CNRS): The Seselj case, between legal and anthropological approaches
- Luc Walleyn (Lawyer): Beyond the Don Quichote approach: 15 years of extraterritorial jurisdiction in Belgium
- Thijs Bouwknegt (NIOD): Universal Jurisdiction in The Netherlands - The Rwanda & Ethiopia Cases

### **13h00-13h30 Visit of the archives repository (limited number of participants)**

End of conference

---

#### **Scientific Committee of the Conference**

- Pieter Lagrou, Professor, Université libre de Bruxelles, Centre de recherche MMC
- Xavier Rousseaux, Research Director FNRS, Université catholique de Louvain
- Wolfgang Form, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Research Director of the International Research and Documentation Center for War Crimes Trials
- Jan Wouters, Professor, KU Leuven, Director of the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies
- Paul Drossens, Head of State Archives in Ghent
- Vanessa Voisin, Coordinator WW2CRIMESONTRIAL1943-91 / CERCEC

#### **Organizing Committee of the Conference**

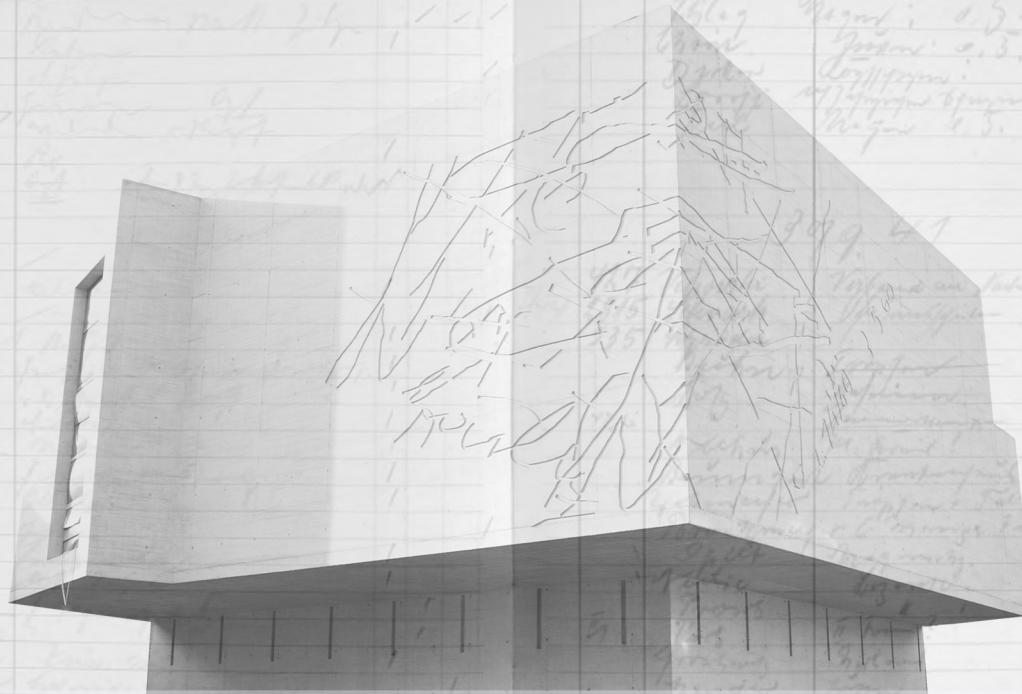
- Pieter Lagrou, Professor, Université libre de Bruxelles, Centre de recherche MMC
- Xavier Rousseaux, Research Director FNRS, Université catholique de Louvain
- Ornella Rovetta, Post-doctoral researcher, Université libre de Bruxelles, Centre de recherche MMC
- Delphine Lauwers, Post-doctoral researcher, Archives Générales du Royaume
- Hendrik Vandekerckhove, PhD researcher, KU Leuven, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

#### **Organizing Institutions of the Conference**

Université libre de Bruxelles (Centre de recherche Mondes Modernes et Contemporains), State Archives of Belgium, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, International Research and Documentation Center for War Crimes Trials (Philipps-Universität Marburg), Université catholique de Louvain and WW2CRIMESONTRIAL1943-91.

#### **Supporting Institutions of the Conference**

With the support of BELSPO (Belgian Science Policy) and F.R.S.-FNRS.



Venue: Ostfalia Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften

16 and 17 May 2019

# INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

## *Staging History: Archives, Objects and Architecture*

Contact and Registration:  
Janna.Loelke@stiftung-ng.de or ornella.rovetta@ulb.ac.be

**DAY 1**  
**16.05**

### PUBLIC EVENT

4.30pm Welcome speech

Jens-Christian Wagner (Stiftung niedersächsische Gedenkstätten)

5pm-6.30pm Roundtable

Handling Mass Documentation

Delphine Lauwers & Ornella Rovetta (Jusinbellgium)

Wolfgang Form (ICWC, Philipps-Universität Marburg)

Martina Staats (Gedenkstätte in der JVA Wolfenbüttel)

7pm Lecture

Pieter Lagrou (Université libre de Bruxelles)

«The 1921 Ramdohr trial. Judicial

confrontation and cooperation;

Belgium and Germany, 1914-1951»

**DAY 2**  
**17.05**

### WORKSHOP

9am-10.30am

Archives as Exhibits:

Staging History in the Museum

Paul Drossens (State Archives of Belgium)

Laurence Schram (Caserne Dossin, Belgium)

Anett Dremel (Gedenkstätte in der JVA Wolfenbüttel)

Klaus Tätzler (Gedenkstätte Bergen-Belsen)

11am-12.45pm

After the Exhibition: Accessing,  
Retrieving and Connecting Archives

Delphine Lauwers (State Archives of Belgium)

Gert De Prins (War Victims Archives, Belgium)

Silke Wagener-Fimpel (Niedersächsisches Landesarchiv – Standort Wolfenbüttel)

Thomas Henne (Archivschule Marburg-Hochschule für Archivwissenschaft)

Venue: Ostfalia Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften,  
Gebäude 11, Raum 4, Salzdahlumer Str. 46/48, 38302 Wolfenbüttel

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP  
Staging History: Archives,  
Objects and Architecture**

Wolfenbüttel (Germany), 16 and 17 May 2019

---

CONTACT and REGISTRATION  
[Janna.Loelke@stiftung-ng.de](mailto:Janna.Loelke@stiftung-ng.de) or [ornella.rovetta@ulb.ac.be](mailto:ornella.rovetta@ulb.ac.be)

**DAY 1 16 MAY 2019**

**Venue:** Ostfalia Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften,  
Lecture Hall Building n° 11, Room 4  
Salzdahlumer Str. 46/48, 38302 Wolfenbüttel

**Public Event**

**4.30pm**

**Welcome speech** by Jens-Christian Wagner  
(Stiftung niedersächsische Gedenkstätten)

**5pm–6.30pm**

**Roundtable Handling Mass Documentation**

- "Jusinbellgium. A century of Pioneering Case Law (1914–2014): On the Trail of Belgian Trial Archives"  
*Delphine Lauwers and Ornella Rovetta, State Archives of Belgium and Université libre de Bruxelles*
- "The International Research and Documentation Centre for War Crimes Trials"  
*Wolfgang Form, Philipps Universität Marburg*
- "The Wolfenbüttel Memorial"  
*Martina Staats, Gedenkstätte in der JVA Wolfenbüttel*

**7pm**

**Public lecture**

"The 1921 Ramdohr Trial. Judicial confrontation and cooperation; Belgium and Germany, 1914–1951"

*Pieter Lagrou, Université libre de Bruxelles*

**DAY 2 17 MAY 2019**

**9.00-10.30am**

**Workshop 1 Archives as Exhibits: Staging History in the Museum**

**Moderators:**

Ornella Rovetta (Université libre de Bruxelles) and Janna Lölke (Gedenkstätte in der JVA Wolfenbüttel)

**Participants:**

- Paul Drossens, State Archives of Belgium
- Laurence Schram, Caserne Dossin, Belgium
- Anett Dremel, Gedenkstätte in der JVA Wolfenbüttel
- Klaus Tätzler, Gedenkstätte Bergen-Belsen

**11.00am-12.30pm**

**Workshop 2 After the Exhibition: Accessing, Retrieving and Connecting Archival Material**

**Moderators:**

Martina Staats (Gedenkstätte in der JVA Wolfenbüttel) and Wolfgang Form (ICWC, Marburg)

**Participants:**

- Delphine Lauwers, State Archives of Belgium
- Gert De Prins, War Victims Archives, Belgium
- Silke Wagener-Fimpel, Niedersächsisches Landesarchiv – Standort Wolfenbüttel
- Thomas Henne, Archivschule Marburg-Hochschule für Archivwissenschaft

**12.30-12.45pm**

**Concluding remarks**

**End of workshop**

---

**Organized by:**

Université libre de Bruxelles, Gedenkstätte in der JVA Wolfenbüttel, State Archives of Belgium, Philipps Universität Marburg, Niedersächsisches Landesarchiv – Standort Wolfenbüttel, Ostfalia Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften.

**Practical information:**

- Language: English and German
- Venue: Ostfalia Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften, Gebäude 11, Raum 4, Salzdahlumer Str. 46/48, 38302 Wolfenbüttel
- Accommodation for participants: [Jugendgästehaus der Stadt Wolfenbüttel](#)

**Directions:**

The workshop will take place at the Ostfalia University Wolfenbüttel.

To get there take the train to Braunschweig main station. Continue by bus 420 to the bus stop "Mittelweg" (crossing Salzdahlumer Str.) in Wolfenbüttel. 10-15 minutes from the bus stop along Salzdahlumer Str. to both university locations. On this route there is also a direct bus connection with line 793. For the exact departure times, please use the electronic timetable information ([www.efa.de](#)).

The seminar room for the workshop is room no. 4 which is located in lecture hall building no. 11 on campus B "Am Exer" (see map).



## ***Workshop***

### ***A Century of Pioneering Case-Law in the Digital Era***

#### ***Belgian Precedents of International Justice in International Perspective (1914-2014)***

The JUSINBELLGIUM project started in 2015, the collective project JUSINBELLGIUM (A century of pioneering case-law. A digital database of Belgian precedents of international justice, 1914-2014) aims to examine and to document the emergence of new forms of justice within Belgian courts after episodes of war and mass violence from 1914 to 2014. The durable and fundamental research result of the project is the creation of a database of digital judicial sources which will be hosted in the “Legal Tools” Project of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The workshop discusses the sources of new forms of international justice in four directions: (1) Case-law in the digital era: archival and legal challenges of online access (2) German Atrocities, 1914. Litigation, Reconciliation, Justice (3) The three moments of International Justice (>1918; >1945; >1990s) and (4) further development of the project (2018)

**Day 1                    16. 1. 2018**

**10.00-10.30**      Reception and Introduction  
*Stefanie Bock and Wolfgang Form*

#### ***Workshop I***

**10:30**                  Progress of the JUSINBELLGIUM project  
#of pages scanned, what needs to be done

**11:00**                  Planning of cooperation in 2018  
Create a timeline  
ICWC's role for new uploads

**12:00-13:00**          Miscellaneous  
Collaborators, take them out of the database in Marburg?  
Are only war criminals relevant for our project?  
Some people not to be found in the tableau, what to do?  
Information needs to be checked on whether collaborators or not.

**Lunch**

**Workshop II**

**14:00-15:45**

*Discussion relating to database  
Access version for Belgian Partners?  
Questions on digitalization further sources at National Archiv -  
Questions about public history?*

**Coffee Break**

**16:15-18:00**

**Colloquium:** A century of pioneering case-law. A digital database of Belgian precedents of international justice 1914-2014  
*Ornella Rovetta, Delphine Lauwers, Hendrik Vanderkerckhove*  
*Chair: Stefanie Bock*

**Day 2**

**17. 1. 2018**

**Workshop III**

**09:00-10:30**

Further expansion of the database tool  
Methodology for WWII cases  
How to deal with the WWII cases (big files; large number of pdf's)?  
How to divide them? Decision: how we sort the pdf // original file.  
Could be less specified files (metadata)?

**Break**

**11:00 – 12.45**

Discuss issues with upcoming uploads  
What to do (checklist) by the next upload?  
Miscellaneous

**Lunch**

**Conference Venue - Day 1 and 2**

**16 and 17 January 2018**

**International Research and Documentation Centre  
War Crimes Trials (ICWC)**

**University Str. 7, 3. Floor**

**Philipps-University, 35032 Marburg**

**Partners of the Project**

Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

State Archives of Belgium,

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies (KU Leuven)

International Research and Documentation Centre War Crimes Trials (Philipps-University Marburg)