

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



Université Libre de Bruxelles

Brussels, 9-10 March 2016



For more information & registration

✉ defeatingimpunity@gmail.com

**WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 2016**  
ULB, CIERL, Main Room/Library

**9.00 Welcome and Introduction**

**9.30 EXPERIENCES**

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

- **Rebecca Wittmann** (University of Toronto):  
"From Majdanek to Demjanjuk: Failures of Justice in Postwar Germany"
- **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 Rousso** (Institut d'Histoire du Temps Présent, CNRS, Paris)

- **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)"
- **Pieter Lagrou and Ornella Rovetta** (Université Libre de Bruxelles):  
"Torture on Trial, 2014-1914: the Words the Crime Elicits"

**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)

**THURSDAY 10 MARCH 2016**  
ULB, Building K, Room K.3.201

**8.30 Welcome**

**9.00 ACTORS**

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

- **Isabelle Delpla** (Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon):  
"Victim (de)Mobilisations: the Diversity of Victim Witnesses at the ICTY"
- **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"
- **Despina Konstantinakou** (University of Athens):  
"Triple Occupation - Triple Impunity?: The Prosecution of German, Italian, Bulgarian War Criminals in Postwar Greece"

**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**