



Hotspots

Social Hotspots. High Courts of Justice Files, sources for Low Countries history.

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Axis 3: Cultural, historical and scientific heritage



NETWORK PROJECT

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Social Hotspots. High Courts of Justice Files, sources for Low Countries history

Contract - BR/175/A3/HOTSPOTS

FINAL REPORT

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Published in 2024 by the Belgian Science Policy Office
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Harald Deceulaer, Xavier Rousseaux, Inès Glogowski. ***Social Hotspots. High Courts of Justice Files, sources for Low Countries history***. Final Report. Brussels: Belgian Science Policy Office 2024 – 22 p. (BRAIN-be - (Belgian Research Action through Interdisciplinary Networks))

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ABSTRACT

1.1. Context

Since the late Middle Ages, courts have played a crucial social and political role in the territory of present-day Belgium. The project Social Hotspots High Courts of Justice files, sources for Low Countries history focussed on juridical activities as an instrument of politicization in Brabant at the end of the 18th century, using the files of a special branch of the Council of Brabant: the Fiscal Office.

1.2. Objectives

The HOTSPOTS project was primarily conceived as an interdisciplinary study of the trial files from the attorney-general of Brabant, from an archival and an sociopolitical. The aim was to elucidate its role as an instrument of political change, regulation, and reform in the last quarter of the 18th century, in an era of political revolutions – from the Brabant Revolution to the Austrian restorations and the first French invasion. But also to explore the functioning of law courts as the main contact points between the early modern state and 'ordinary' people. However, it became clear that, in addition to the classical role as 'public prosecutor' and the countless trials that ensued, the general-attorney of Brabant was also going to be involved in one other important mission: the supervision of places of detention in Brussels and the Duchy of Brabant.

1.3. Conclusions

In the State Archives, all the files of the attorney-general are now catalogued and available for research. In the UCLouvain/VUB consortium, ground-breaking research had been developed on the early modern confinement in 18th c. Brussels and Brabant. A joint PhD., various scientific publications and integration in new international networks on history and social sciences of confinement renew the role of 18th high courts in the transformation of the prison. Database will provide an accurate picture of the various confined population useful for political and social history, and genealogical research. As added value, both archivists and researchers are involved as experts for the valorisation of local heritage projects.

1.4. Keywords

High courts of Justice, Public Prosecutor, Brabant, 18th c., Confinement, Enlightenment, Revolutions.

2. INTRODUCTION

Since the late Middle Ages, courts have played a crucial social and political role in the territory of present-day Belgium. The holdings of early modern casefiles of the Belgian State Archives are exceptionally rich in comparison to other European countries, and they constitute an extremely rich treasure trove of information for different types of research.

The project Social Hotspots High Courts of Justice files, sources for Low Countries history focussed on juridical activities as an instrument of politicization in Brabant at the end of the 18th century, using the files of a special branch of the Council of Brabant: the Fiscal Office. Its role was to defend the interests of the sovereigns, and to apply their programs. By focussing on the role of the Fiscal Officers, this research studied the growing role of regional courts in the process of State Formation. These legal institutions were both actors in the rationalisation of power, and the scene on which conflicts were settled between individuals, or between rulers and their subjects. The Fiscal Office was one of the administrative and legal institutions of the High Courts of the Habsburg Low Countries. Its role in the Council of Brabant was to maintain public order and to defend the interests of the sovereign. Its principal agents, called 'Fiscal Officers' were the attorney-general, the 'avocat fiscal' and – according to different time-periods – one or several substitute attorney-generals. They were considered to be the 'eyes and arm' of the sovereign. The attorney-general intervened in conflicts between localities, supervised local courts and defended the interests of the sovereign. The files cover highly diverse subjects, ranging from verbal or physical violence against local representatives of the government over counterfeiting to homicides. This archival series allows to understand certain social and political tensions and clarifies why political institutions intervened in the legal system.

The project had an archival and a research axe. The 16th, 17th and 18th century court-files of the cases by the attorney-general in the Council of Brabant have been catalogued due to this project. The Belgian State Archives were able to recruit one archivist, Tom Bervoets, for the period between 1 October 2017 and 30 September 2019. The Belgian State Archives provided extra funding for the months between 1 October and 31 December 2019. Furthermore, in 2020-2022 the promotor of the project inside the Archives, Harald Deceulaer, continued the cataloguing work, aided by three volunteers.

Parallel to the archival axe, a PhD was started in October 2017 by Inès Glogowski, under the supervision of Griet Vermeesch (VUB later replaced by Anne Winter), Xavier Rousseaux (UCLouvain) and Harald Deceulaer (Belgian State Archives). The PhD studies the central role of the Fiscal Office and its agents, through the study of their files. The prisons in Brussels formed a point of entry. The Fiscal Officers were active in these structures of detention as they fulfilled a mission of control of the Brabantine legal framework. The rapports and preparations of files made during and after their visits reveal tensions and conflicts: struggles about jurisdiction, reactions against the neglect of the prison after meetings with prisoners, trials against jailers and reform of relementation.

3. STATE OF THE ART AND OBJECTIVES

At the outset of its development, the HOTSPOTS project was conceived as a study of the trial files from the attorney-general of Brabant. The aim was to elucidate its role as an instrument of political change, regulation, and reform in the last quarter of the 18th century, in an era of political revolutions – from the Brabant Revolution to the Austrian restorations and the first French invasion. But also to explore the functioning of law courts as the main contact points between the early modern state and 'ordinary' people. Following in the footsteps of many historians who increasingly turn to case files produced by the courts so as to examine the lives, relations and concerns of these ordinary people, and to map the role of the judiciary in state formation processes (Baker 1989; Rousseaux 1988, 1992; Levy, Rousseaux 1992; Agren, Karlsson, Rousseaux 2001; Osterberg, Sogner 2000; Emsley, Levy, Rousseaux 2000; Padoa-Schioppa 2000; Vermeesch 2014; Vermeesch 2015).

However, it became clear that, in addition to the Brabant attorney-general's role as 'public prosecutor' and the countless trials that ensued, he was also going to be involved in one other important mission: the supervision of places of detention in Brussels and the Duchy of Brabant. Indeed, archives are not only important in volume, but are also exceptional and rich in the multiple nature of files. There are letters sent by prisoners to the attorney-general complaining about their conditions of detention or about other prisoners, an extensive correspondence from the Fiscal Office with a multitude of actors: subordinate justice officers who arrest and imprison detainees, the Brabant Council, the Austrian Privy Council, the Plenipotentiary Minister, and the Governors General. But the most important documents in these archives are the lists of prisoners and the minutes drawn up during Good Friday visits and at certain specific other times. These visits were carried out in two prisons in Brussels (the criminal prison at the Halle Gate and the so-called *Treurenberg* civil prison) and in the crusaders and cellite friars' convents in the Duchy of Brabant.

Because of the difficult accessibility of the Brabant Fiscal Office's archives, in the absence of a complete inventory, the importance of these competence has received very little attention in historiography. This has been the case both in institutional reference works (Gaillard 1898-1902) and in more recent studies of the Fiscal Office of Namur (Douxchamps-Lefèvre 1961), the Brabant Fiscal Office (Coppens 2009) and the Grand Council of Mechelen (Verscuren 2006, 2015). Moreover, these two prisons have never been studied in depth. Indeed, the few studies on Brussels' carceral establishments have focused on the two reformatories. Following the example of Claude Bruneel's work on the Brussels *tuchthuys* (Bruneel 1966a, 1966b, 1967, 1969) or that devoted to the provincial houses of correction in Brussels, Ghent and Bruges (Coen 1966 ; Deghilage 2014 ; Dendas 2002 ; De Pauw 1981 ; De Zutter 2007 ; Hallema 1937 ; Mahy 1982 ; Rombaut 1983 ; Stroobant 1900 ; Uytterhoeven 1989 ; Van Opdenbosch 1968 ; Van Waeijenberge 1994 ; Vanderwiele 1971). This focus is on the same line that the French, American and British historiographies, built around the central idea of the emergence of prison as a punishment (Goffmann 1961 ; Foucault 1975). But the prisons at the Halle Gate and the *Treurenberg*, as 'ordinary' prisons of the Early Modern, were not intended to punish detainees. They were part of the judicial procedure: keeping the defendants during their trial, locking up recalcitrant debtors. These 'ordinary' prisons have therefore aroused less interest and for a long time they have been in the blind spot of history (Abdela 2019). For the Low Countries, only a few studies have looked at confinement in criminal or civil prisons (Auspert, Neuville 2012; Bauchau 1990 ; Van Hoyer 1983, 1986) or charges of 'madness' in convents and madhouses (Boudens 1992 ; Der

Kinderen 2006 ; Lis, Soly 1990 ; Schegers 1980 ; Schotte 1981 ; Van der Auwera 1996 ; Vennekens 2014 ; Verstraete 1994).

It was therefore a relatively new field of research in Belgium. In this context, the research focused on this mission of supervision and management of prisons and convents of the cellite and the crusader friars (in Brussels and the Duchy of Brabant) by the Fiscal Officers at the second half of the 18th century. The theme of confinement has therefore become the central pillar of the PhD research. This new direction has enabled the HOTSPOTS project to become part of the dynamic and fruitful field of research into the history of confinement. Especially in the collective *Early Modern Confinement* (Em#C), which aims to bring together and compare different forms of confinement throughout the ages: monasteries, Early Modern prisons, asylums, hospitals and modern central houses.

While the focus has shifted from the trial files of the Brabant attorney-general to the archives relating to places of confinement, the research component of the project remains the same. Indeed, it comprises an examination of the interaction between 'ordinary people' (but now with a focus on the imprisoned people), on the one hand, and central and local institutions on the other, by intertwining a 'bottom-up' approach (centred on the prisoners using the means at their disposal to expedite their cases) with a 'top-down' approach (focusing on the magistrates and political personnel using the institution in the context of early modern processes of state building).

The uniqueness of this project consisted in the close interaction of a research component, an archival component and a valorisation component. The project's initial objectives have been achieved: several articles have been published in international peer-reviewed journals, more than a dozen papers have been presented both in Belgium and abroad, an international workshop has been organized in Brussels in 2022 and three research tools have been published, opening up research in the archives of the Brabant Council and the Brabant Fiscal Office. Although the doctoral thesis by Inès Glogowski - *Confinement in Brussels seen through the prism of the Brabant Fiscal Office (second half of the 18th century)* - has not yet been finalized, the first results have been communicated at conferences and more particularly at the international workshop organized in 2022 as the closing event of the HOTSPOTS project.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. Archival science

The catalogues created in the project contain the following information for each case file: the inventory number, the names of the parties, the subject-matter of the dispute, the dates of the case and its material form. This method of cataloguing has emerged within the State Archives and allows for the most efficient processing of large numbers of case files, while registering the most informative data for researchers (Deceulaer, Dubois and Puccio, 2014).

The catalogues have been published both on paper and online, in pdf and in the search engine of the Belgian State Archives.

4.2. Research

The doctoral research commenced by delving into the archives of the Brabant Fiscal Office. The only archives accessible at the outset of the project were 18th-century manuscript catalogues covering the entire collection, a detailed description of a portion of the collection (Baerten, Put 1992) and a catalogue spanning the numbers 979 to 1330. Simultaneously, the PhD student explored the historiography related to the institutional, political, and social role of litigation during the Revolutions, as well as within the broader context of the late ancient regime. It was during this initial phase that the thesis shifted its focus from trial files to the places of confinement (prisons, convents) in Brussels and the Duchy of Brabant.

In the subsequent phase, following the inventory stages executed by the HOTSPOTS project archivists (Harald Deceulaer, Tom Bervoets with the assistance of three volunteers Paul Behets, Joris De Beul and Martine Slachmuylders) and Marc Libert (Libert 2019), a comprehensive consultation of the Brabant Fiscal Office archives was undertaken. The volume of archives related to these prisons is considerable, necessitating an approach that extends beyond the Fiscal Office's portfolio to fully capture the fiscal officers' roles and contributions. Additional resources, such as those from the Austrian Privy Council, the Chamber of Accounts, and the Finance Council, were also examined. These contain pivotal documents and insights crucial for a holistic understanding of the subject. Consequently, the source collection was enriched with archival materials from various repositories throughout Belgium. Among others:

- State National Archives (Forest): Brabant Fiscal Office, Council of Brabant, State of Brabant, Chancellery of Brabant, Drossarderie of Brabant, General notariat of Brabant, Registers of 'écrou'
- State National Archives (AGR|1): Austrian Privy Council, Finance Council, Chamber of Accounts, Office of 'Ouvrages de la Cour', General Government Council, Secretariat of State and War, United Belgian State
- Brussels Archives: historical archives and trials collections
- Archives, Library and Museum of 'Centre Public d'Action Sociale' (Brussels): Supreme Charity
- KADOC (Leuven): Alexians archives
- State National Archives (Namur): various printed material
- University of Gent: various manuscripts, plans
- Royal Library of Belgium (Brussels): various manuscripts and printed material
- War Heritage Institute (Brussels): various manuscripts and diaries
- Museum of Dr. Guislain (Gent): letters

To make the best possible use of the data from these various archival materials, the PhD student has up a database relating to the two Brussels prisons under the control of the Brabant Fiscal Office (Halle Gate and *Treurenberg*). The idea is to exploit the full potential of the lists of prisoners, the registers of 'écrou' and the minutes of carceral visits. On the one hand to quantify the number of people who pass through the prison, whether civil or criminal, and the length of time they stay there. On the other hand to quantify and describe escapes or attempted escapes: moments, location, number of prisoners involved, strategies, consequences - for the prisoners but also for the jailer. Other specific information will also be considered: specific requests from prisoners (lawyer, prosecutor, clothing, special treatment, etc.), behavior of prisoners and jailers, petitions, etc. This work is only possible for the end of the 18th century because the lists of prisoners were only kept from 1768 onwards and only few registers of 'écrou' have survived: for the Halle Gate prison (1759-1781) and for the *Treurenberg*, (1789-1795). In this perspective, all the data available for the years 1759-1795 have therefore been encoded. The same prosopographical approach was carried out for the inmates of the cellite friars' convents in Diest and Brussels, thanks to the encoding of the minutes of visits conducted by the attorney-general of Brabant (1775-1794).

The initial findings, derived from the analysis of archives and literature, were systematically utilized for participation in workshops, conferences, and article publications. Simultaneously, the writing of several thesis chapters occurred in parallel.

5. SCIENTIFIC RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Archival science

As we started working on the uncatalogued court cases of the attorney-general, it became clear that this archival holding consisted in fact of three different parts, which had to be distinguished. In these court cases of the attorney-general, an hitherto unknown part of the Fiscal Office political and administrative archives were discovered, which had been mixed in the 18th century. Furthermore, the attorney-general also conserved court-files of cases between other parties, in which he or the Fiscal Office were not involved, but which had potentially political significance.

Therefore, we decided to create three different finding-aids. These catalogue together 91 meters of hitherto unknown material: 6259 archival descriptions in 649 pages, and online. As a part of the court-files of the attorney general of the 18th century was already published in 2019 (Libert 2019), all the files of the attorney-general are now catalogued and available for research.

Table: Finding Aids created in the context of this project

Title	meter	Units	pages
Tom Bervoets, Paul Behets and Harald Deceulaer, <i>Inventaris van de Raad van Brabant. Dossiers van de procureur-generaal (1390), 1461-1794</i> , Inventarissen Rijksarchief te Brussel 93, Brussels, 2022.	51	2631	269
Harald Deceulaer and Paul Behets, <i>Inventaris van de Raad van Brabant: Officie-Fiscaal Supplement, 1483-1794</i> , Inventarissen Rijksarchief te Brussel 94, Brussels, 2022.	20	1162	153
Paul Behets, Joris De Beul, Harald Deceulaer and Martine Slachmuylders, <i>Inventaris van de Raad van Brabant, dossiers van particulieren, bewaard door de procureur-generaal, 1452-1794</i> , Inventarissen Rijksarchief te Brussel 96, Brussels, 2022.	20	2466	227
Total	91	6259	649

This is a durable and structural contribution to the archival landscape of the early modern institutions and society of the Low Countries, which enables all kinds of research.

Furthermore, the project also helped us to identify certain weaknesses in other existing finding aids of the Fiscal Office. First, we noticed that some 400 late 18th century files of the attorney general were described as ‘missing’ in an older catalogue (Baerten, Put 1992) although the records do exist. Archivist Harald Deceulaer therefore started to catalogue these ‘missing’ files, which will result in a new, completed finding aid, to be published in 2024. Second, the 6 volumes of handwritten 18th century catalogues of the first 7324 archival descriptions of the Fiscal Office have been digitized in a word document, which enables more efficient research, and which will form the basis for a new catalogue.

5.2. Research : first results

The procedures of the carceral surveillance

The main legislative basis for prison surveillance, in effect during the 18th century, relies on the criminal ordinance of July 5, 1570, which stipulates that Fiscal Officers must visit prisons within their jurisdiction every month. In practice, only an annual visit takes place on Good Friday, alongside the

granting of imperial pardons in commemoration of Christ's death. From the last quarter of the 18th century, the frequency of these visits significantly increases, with disparities depending on the places of confinement and the circumstances. However, they always follow a scandal that shakes the prison microcosm and reaches up to the central authorities. Depending on these circumstances and the very nature of these establishments, different strategies are at play since the visits do not pursue the same objectives.

In the civil prison, the focus of control lies in the function of the jailer. Authorities aim to moderate their behavior so that prisoners stop complaining about mistreatment. But they also want to ensure that escapes are minimized. These two concerns are crucial for the proper functioning of the prison as a tool of constraint for debtors and, consequently, as security for creditors. It is essential that, in the eyes of the population, this prison is safe. In the criminal prison, initially, the effectiveness of justice officers is sought. This is to prevent excessively long detentions from depleting royal finances. Subsequently, reforms center around the conditions of prisoner detention. Frequent visits are implemented to ensure that jailers comply with the new regulations. The situation in the convents of the Cellite and Croisier friars is different because here the reform process involves the establishment of visits where there were none before. The control of these structures occurs very gradually because it is legally less legitimate, as the judicial power does not have true supervision over religious institutions. The number of visits is somewhat proportional to the problem: internments must occur legally and, above all, without causing a stir among the public.

However, the contrast between the ambitions of official regulations and prison practices is evident for the confinement places in Brabant. The new requirements are indeed never scrupulously followed. The attorney-general and the commissioners of the Council of Brabant allow themselves some freedom in applying the prescriptions.

The multifaceted implications of these surveillance

To maintain public order and ensure proper functioning of the justice system, prison visits play a crucial role. However, there is also significant work done beforehand by justice officers and the attorney-general. Before each visit, justice officers must provide a detailed list of the prisoners they have incarcerated. This list includes information such as examination dates, any sentences already pronounced, and a summary of the case along with reasons for the duration of detention. The scrutiny particularly falls on the work of the drossard of Brabant and the prévôt de l'hôtel, who are responsible for arresting vagabonds. Not only are they the main contributors to the criminal prison population, but the costs incurred by the trials they support are covered by royal finances. The attention given to prisoners' complaints against their justice officers is also growing. Delays in procedures, negligence by justice officers, unwillingness to care for those seeking justice—when it's not a matter of collusion and corruption—these complaints tarnish the "honor of the judiciary" (Piant 2015). Their work is meticulously monitored and, if necessary, sanctioned. In general, while Fiscal Officers attempt to address the issue through mediation, some cases are still decided through formal legal proceedings before the Council of Brabant.

Indeed, the time spent by the attorney-general examining lists and interviewing detainees, as well as the energy expended in handling problematic cases, underscores the importance of this oversight mission concerning Brabant justice officers within the prisons.

The role of the jailer is also closely monitored by Fiscal Officers. On one hand, it involves ensuring proper detention conditions for prisoners, and on the other hand, it concerns the diligence of the jailer, who is responsible for prisoner safety and must prevent escapes. Authorities are increasingly demanding when it comes to prison staff, and situations that were tolerated in the first half of the century now become problematic. Escapes are also subject to meticulous investigations by Fiscal Officers, whose primary goal is to determine whether the jailer can be held accountable. At the *Treurenberg* prison, this heightened control results in several trials for jailers who will systematically be removed from their positions.

During the second half of the 18th century, the role of jailers began to professionalize. In an effort to recruit reliable and honest personnel, jailers were selected based on their reputation and skills. Fiscal Officers gradually realized that to secure the services of honest and diligent jailers, they needed to provide them with adequate means to meet their needs. The lack of proper income became a genuine concern for the authorities because it was considered the primary reason behind the delinquent behavior of jailers. Fiscal Officers consistently supported granting more decent compensation.

6. DISSEMINATION AND VALORISATION

6.1. Participation in conferences, seminars and workshops:

2018

- Glogowski Inès, 'Un mystérieux carnet dans l'affaire De Hondt', *L'archive insolite, l'insolite dans les archives judiciaires et des régulations sociales (XV^e-XX^e siècle)*, 28 April 2018, Genève, Université de Genève.
- Glogowski Inès, 'Presentation of Hotspots's project. Social Hotspots. High Courts of Justice files, sources for Low Countries history', poster presentation for *Creating 'Law and Order' in the Low Countries. The role of institutions in creating legislation (1550-1700s)*, 18 October 2018, Brussels, UGent/UCLouvain.
- Glogowski Inès and Rousseaux Xavier, 'Entre prisonniers, geôliers et officiers. La prison Bruxelloise à la fin du XVIII^e siècle, lieu de confrontation des pouvoirs?', *Towards a new history of prison and confinement, International Workshop*, 7 and 8 November 2018, Paris, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS).

2019

- Glogowski Inès, 'L'enfermement chez les frères cellites au travers des archives de l'Office fiscal de Brabant (fin 18^e siècle). Panorama et pistes de recherche', *Alienations, expertises et enfermements. La régulation sociale de la différence en Suisse et en Belgique (18^e-20^e s.)*, 6 June 2019, Louvain-la-Neuve, Université de Genève/UCLouvain.
- Rousseaux Xavier, 'De la potence à la maison de correction. Les réformes de l'enfermement dans les Pays-Bas habsbourgeois (1750-1795)', *Les lieux d'enfermement, espaces multifonctionnels en Europe occidentale et en Russie (16^e-19^e siècle)*, 4 and 5 September 2019, Moscow, IHA/CEFR.

2020

- Glogowski Inès, 'Le maintien de l'ordre public dans le duché de Brabant à la fin du XVIII^e siècle, à travers les archives de l'Office Fiscal de Brabant', *Atelier de l'Historien*, 10 February 2020, Louvain-la-Neuve, UCLouvain.
- Glogowski Inès, 'Un personnel fort peu scrupuleux : le procès des géôliers à Bruxelles au XVIII^e siècle', *Séminaire d'Histoire Moderne*, 19 February 2020, Brussels, ULB.

2021

- Glogowski Inès, 'Surveiller et transformer les lieux d'enfermement dans le duché de Brabant à la fin du XVIII^e siècle à travers les archives de l'Office fiscal', *Séminaire Histoire des enfermements (XVI^e-XXI^e siècle)*, 11 June 2021, Paris, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS).
- Glogowski Inès, 'Entre la ville et les verrous. Les prisons bruxelloises à la fin du XVIII^e siècle', *Atelier doctoral interdisciplinaire de l'Ecole Française de Rome. Sociétés carcérales. Espaces, circulations, connexions*, 25-29 October 2021, Rome, Ecole française de Rome/École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales.
- Glogowski Inès, 'L'enfermement dans le duché de Brabant dans la seconde moitié du XVIII^e siècle. Panorama carcéral et stratégies de contrôle', 18 November 2021, presentation of the project HOTSPOTS in the Cercle d'Histoire de Saint-Ghislain.

2022

- Glogowski Inès, ' "Vous occupez, Monsieur, une place qu'on appelle celle de père des malheureux." L'implication du procureur général de Brabant face aux expériences de l'enfermement à la fin du XVIII^e siècle', *Vivre l'enfermement : une nouvelle histoire (13^e-19^e siècle). Troisième journées d'étude internationales de l'Em#C (Enfermements modernes / Early Modern Confinement)*, 12-14 May 2022, Montréal, Université du Québec à Montréal.
- Rousseaux Xavier, 'Prendre soin du détenu : Compagnies de la Miséricorde, Conseils charitables et Commissions des prisons dans l'espace belge à travers les Révolutions (1750-1830)', *Vivre l'enfermement : une nouvelle histoire (13^e-19^e siècle). Troisième journées d'étude internationales de l'Em#C (Enfermements modernes / Early Modern Confinement)*, 12-14 May 2022, Montréal, Université du Québec à Montréal.
- Deceulaer Harald, 'De Brusselse gevangenis: geschiedenis en archief', *Familiekunde*, 24 May 2022, Leuven.
- Deceulaer Harald, 'Het project "Social Hotspots" en de ontsluiting van de archieven van de Raad van Brabant (15de-18de eeuw)', *Social Hotspots 'Artificial Intelligence and Citizen Science in legal archives from the Old Regime*, 16 September 2022, Brussels, General State Archives Brussels.
- Glogowski Inès, 'Projet Hotspots (1750-1794). De l'Office fiscal aux lieux d'enfermement bruxellois : bilan et perspectives', *Social Hotspots 'Artificial Intelligence and Citizen Science in legal archives from the Old Regime*, 16 September 2022, Brussels, General State Archives Brussels.
- Glogowski Inès, Mazy Vincent and Rousseaux Xavier, 'Registres d'écrou et listes de détenus (Bruxelles, fin XVIII^e siècle). Tentative de caractériser les détentions des prisonniers criminels de la porte de Hal', *Social Hotspots 'Artificial Intelligence and Citizen Science in legal archives from the Old Regime*, 16 September 2022, Brussels, General State Archives Brussels.
- Deceulaer Harald, 'De Brusselse gevangenis: geschiedenis en archief', *Familiekunde Dilbeek en de Andreas Masius Kring van Lennik*, 14 December 2022.

6.2. Organisation of an international workshop

Social Hotspots 'Artificial Intelligence and Citizen Science in legal archives from the Old Regime, General State Archives Brussels, 16 September 2022. (See Annexe)

Three representatives of the project gave a presentation:

- Deceulaer Harald, 'Het project "Social Hotspots" en de ontsluiting van de archieven van de Raad van Brabant (15de-18de eeuw)'.
- Glogowski Inès, 'Projet Hotspots (1750-1794). De l'Office fiscal aux lieux d'enfermement bruxellois : bilan et perspectives'.
- Glogowski Inès, Mazy Vincent and Rousseaux Xavier, 'Registres d'écrou et listes de détenus (Bruxelles, fin XVIII^e siècle). Tentative de caractériser les détentions des prisonniers criminels de la porte de Hal'.

6.3. International networks and expertise

The first results of doctoral research by Inès Glogowski, as well as the research conducted in parallel by Pr. Xavier Rousseaux, were shared thanks to their integration into international networks. Indeed, they joined in 2018 the *Early Modern Confinement* (Em#C), an international research network dedicated to studying various forms, practices, techniques, and knowledge related to confinement during the Early Modern period (15th-19th century). This network is part of the historiographical renewal that challenges traditional analytical frameworks by emphasizing the 'multifunctionality' of confinement practices. The HOTSPOTS project was represented during four international conferences organized by this collective from 2018 to 2023: Paris in 2018 (A new history of prisons and confinement?), Moscow in 2019 (Confinement places, multifunctional spaces in Western Europe and Russia 16th-19th century), Montreal in 2022 (Living confinement, 13th-19th century), and Ventotene in 2023 (Is every prison an island? Isolation, exclusion, and relegation in confinement spaces, 15th-19th century). Inès Glogowski also integrated a second international network composed of doctoral students working on the theme of confinement. In this context, she notably participated in an interdisciplinary doctoral workshop organized by the French School of Rome in October 2021 (Carcerals societies. Spaces, circulations, connections).

Furthermore, the expertise of these two researchers has also been put to use with the aim of opening up scientific research to a wider audience. Xavier Rousseaux has joined the non-profit organization 9m², which aims to create an educational museum within the former Forest prison to raise awareness among the public about the prison environment. On the other hand, Inès Glogowski has contributed her expertise to the scientific team at the Halle Gate Museum, as part of a future publication on the history of the Halle Gate, as well as in the development of a project to enhance the museum's exhibits (with a greater focus on the building's prison history).

6.4. Databases

The databases developed as part of this doctoral research will soon be available online and in the repositories of the State National Archives. Their accessibility will open up new perspectives for scientific research and facilitate genealogical investigations. Furthermore, these databases can be subsequently expanded to create a comprehensive directory of detainees in Brussels during the 18th century, and even into the early 19th century if we include the French period.

7. PUBLICATIONS

7.1. Archival science

- Bervoets Tom, Behets Paul and Deceulaer Harald, *Inventaris van de Raad van Brabant. Dossiers van de procureur-generaal (1390), 1461-1794*, Inventarissen Rijksarchief te Brussel 93, Brussels, 2022.
- Deceulaer Harald and Behets Paul, *Inventaris van de Raad van Brabant: Officie-Fiscaal Supplement, 1483-1794*, Inventarissen Rijksarchief te Brussel 94, Brussels, 2022.
- Behets Paul, De Beul Joris, Harald Deceulaer and Slachmuylders Martine, *Inventaris van de Raad van Brabant, dossiers van particulieren, bewaard door de procureur-generaal, 1452-1794*, Inventarissen Rijksarchief te Brussel 96, Brussels, 2022.
- Deceulaer Harald, "Wegwijs in het archief van de Raad van Brabant. Ontsluiting, representativiteit en agenda voor de toekomst", *Eigen Schoon en de Brabander Tijdschrift voor Brabantse Geschiedenis*, special issue on 'Geschillen en processen in het vroegmoderne Brabant', 106, 2023, 1, p. 113-132.

7.2. Research

- Bervoets Tom and Glogowski Inès, 'Un bordel public'? De Brusselse Treurenberggevangenis op het einde van het Ancien Regime', *De Achttiende Eeuw: Documentatieblad Werkgroep Achttiende Eeuw*, vol. 52, 2020, p. 99-111. Online: <https://www.aup-online.com/content/journals/10.5117/DAE2020.1.008.GLOG>
- Glogowski Inès, « Entre normes et pratiques. La surveillance des lieux d'enfermement de Bruxelles dans la seconde moitié du XVIII^e siècle », *Cahiers bruxellois*, LII, 1, 2021, p. 229-269. Online: <https://www.cairn.info/revue-cahiers-bruxellois-2021-1-page-229.htm>
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- Glogowski Inès, 'Interactions entre les détenus et le procureur-général de Brabant. Regards croisés sur les expériences de l'enfermement (Bruxelles, 2^e moitié de XVIII^e siècle)', *Criminocorpus. Revue d'Histoire de la justice, des crimes et des peines*, 2023, 23, Special issue on 'Enfermements : Pratiques, expériences et parcours de détention (XVI^e-XIX^e siècles)'. Online: <http://journals.openedition.org/criminocorpus/13270>
- 'Une histoire globale de la prison est-elle possible ? Entretien avec Marie Houllémare et Xavier Rousseaux, mené par Natalia Muchnik et Falk Bretschneider', *Socio*, 14, 2020, pp. 37-51. <https://journals.openedition.org/socio/10481>
- Rousseaux Xavier, 'Prendre soin du détenu, surveiller l'enfermement. Les Compagnies de la Miséricorde dans l'espace belge de l'Ancien Régime aux Révolutions (1600-1830)', *Criminocorpus. Revue d'Histoire de la justice, des crimes et des peines*, 2023, 23, Special issue on 'Enfermements : Pratiques, expériences et parcours de détention (XVI^e-XIX^e siècles)'. Online: <http://journals.openedition.org/criminocorpus/13498>
- Rousseaux Xavier (ed.), *A global history of crime in the Age of Enlightenment*, London/New York/Sidney, Bloomsbury, 2023. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/global-history-of-crime-and-punishment-9781472584847/>
- Rousseaux Xavier, 'Crime, Justice, and Punishment on the Eve of the Global Age, 1650–1800', Rousseaux Xavier (ed.), *A global history of crime, at the Age of Enlightenment*, London/New York/Sidney, Bloomsbury, 2023, pp. 1-28. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/global-history-of-crime-and-punishment-9781472584847/>

- Rousseaux Xavier, 'Ксавье Руссо. Дисциплинировать, исправлять, наказывать. Многоликость тюремного заточения в Габсбургских Нидерландах (1550–1795) [Discipliner, corriger, punir. Les variations de l'enfermement dans les Pays-Bas habsbourgeois (1550-1795)] in Makhotina Ekaterina, Bretschneider Falk, Muchnik Natalia (eds), *Монастырь и тюрьма места заключения в западной европе и в россии от средневековья до модерна* (Monastery and prison. Places of confinement in Western Europe and Russia from the Middle Ages to the present day)', *Studia Europaea Historia Rossica*, Moscou, Deutsches Historisches Institut, 2023, pp. 110-130. https://www.nlobooks.ru/books/studia_europaea/25735/
- (On press) Rousseaux Xavier, 'Du cloître à la prison : le couvent des Visitandines comme espace d'enfermement, de 1796 à 1867', *Mons, MuMons*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5xrBOJl6cs>

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ANNEX

Atelier "Social Hotspots"

Intelligence artificielle et sciences participatives dans les archives judiciaires d'Ancien Régime

A- A A+

Le 16/09/2022

Archives générales du Royaume - Rue de Ruysbroeck 2 - 1000 Bruxelles

Tarifs : Entrée libre

Contact : vincent.mazy@uclouvain.be

Le secteur archivistique est en révolution. A l'aide d'archives souvent centenaires, plusieurs initiatives sont prises pour mettre sur pied une toute nouvelle infrastructure de recherche. Davantage de sources sont mises à disposition via la numérisation, le bénévolat, les sciences participatives (Citizen Science), l'application de l'intelligence artificielle et la création de fichiers et de bases de données avec moteurs de recherche. Les possibilités de recherches deviennent donc de plus en plus amples. Rendez-vous ce 16 septembre 2022 aux Archives générales du Royaume si vous souhaitez en savoir plus sur ce type de projets.

L'atelier sera notamment l'occasion de présenter les premiers résultats concrets du projet Social Hotspots : les dossiers de procès, sources pour l'histoire des Pays-Bas modernes. Mené de 2017 à 2022, ce projet s'est occupé des archives du procureur général (le pendant moderne de nos ministère public et juge d'instruction) du Conseil de Brabant. Il en est issu trois nouveaux inventaires et une étude sur les prisons bruxelloises de la fin du XVIIIe siècle. Les résultats seront explicités ce 16 septembre 2022, mais un regard sera également porté sur les perspectives d'avenir du projet.



Programme

9h : Accueil

9h20 : Mot de bienvenue par Sébastien Dubois, directeur opérationnel des Archives de l'État

9h30-10h45 : exposés

- Harald Deceulaer (Archives de l'État à Bruxelles)
Het project 'Social Hotspots' en de ontsluiting van de archieven van de Raad van Brabant (15de-18de eeuw).
[Lire la suite](#)
- Inès Glogowski (Vrije Universiteit Brussel / Université Catholique de Louvain)
Projet Hotspots (1750-1794). De l'Office fiscal aux lieux d'enfermement bruxellois : bilan et perspectives.
- Inès Glogowski, Vincent Mazy en Xavier Rousseaux
Registres d'écrou et listes de détenus (Bruxelles, fin XVIII^e siècle). Tentative de caractériser les détentions des prisonniers criminels de la porte de Hal.

10h45-11h00 : pause café

11h00-12h00 : exposés

- Wouter Ryckbosch (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
Burgervetenschapsproject Getuigenissen: van archiefvonds naar onderzoeksdata (présentation du projet Getuigenissen. Verhoren van verdachten en getuigen uit Belgische rechtbanken (1700-1900) onderzocht).
- Sabrina Michel (Université Lille-2)
Parleflandre, outil numérique de valorisation des archives d'une cour souveraine (1668-1790). [Lire la suite](#)

12h00-13h30 : lunch

13h30-14h20 : exposés

- Klaas Van Gelder (Vrije Universiteit Brussel/Archives de l'État à Bruxelles)
De paradox van de overvloed: het archief van de Raad van Brabant en de uitdagingen van onderzoek naar de toegankelijkheid van het vroegmoderne gerecht (présentation du projet ACCESS to court files and access to justice. The Council of Brabant during the early modern era)
- Gert Gielis (Archives générales du Royaume)
Bruggen bouwen, beentjes tellen, bergen verzetten. Of: hoe je met moderne middelen oude bronnen ontsluit. De casus PARDONS (présentation du projet PARDONS - Topographies of Pardon Tales: Contextual Mapping of Pardon Letters in the Southern Low Countries, 15th-17th c).

14h20-14h35 : pause café

14h35-15h25 : exposés

- Hylkje De Jong (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
Van soevereiniteit naar eenwording: op zoek naar identiteit in de historische flow van het recht (HUF-Project).
- Matthias Van Rossum (Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis Amsterdam)
Globalise. Mogelijkheden van onderzoeksinfrastructuur koloniale en gerechtelijke bronnen. [Lire la suite](#)

15h25 : Questions et discussion

Informations pratiques

La participation est gratuite. Intéressé e ? Veuillez vous inscrire [par e-mail](#) pour le 07 septembre 2022.