F.R.S. FNRS-Welchange Project *The Cradle of War Crimes? Questioning military violence in 15th Century European societies: a comparative study of Papal control over the Marche and Burgundian control over Upper-Alsace*
(funded 2024-2028)

International Workshop
Occupation or Legitimate Authority? The Behaviour of Soldiers on Trial, 14th–16th Centuries
UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles
43 boulevard du Jardin Botanique, 1000 Brussels
Room P61
Friday, 21 March 2025

Opening Words, by Pr. E. Bousmar

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the team, it is my pleasure to welcome you all for this international workshop on *Occupation or Legitimate Authority? The Behaviour of Soldiers on Trial, 14th–16th Centuries.*

This is the public launching event of a research project founded by the Belgian Funds for Scientific Research, the FNRS. This project is called *The Cradle of War Crimes?* and it is funded through a brand-new type of grant, the so-called Welchange program that focuses on funding research in the humanities and social sciences with a distinctive social impact. This project was written by Christophe Masson (University of Liège), Quentin Verreycken (UCLouvain) and myself. We are proud to be part of the first promotion of Welchange grantees. We all know that Medieval History has a deep social relevance, but it is far from easy to convey that conviction to an interdisciplinary evaluation committee. Well, this time it seems we succeeded. Christophe and Quentin will tell you more in a few minutes about the project itself.

We are meeting on the premises of the Saint-Louis campus of the University of Louvain.

The Saint-Louis campus has a rich history dating back to its foundation in 1858. It has been a university in its own right, known as Université Saint-Louis, before its merging in 2023 with the Catholic University of Louvain, aka UCLouvain, a multi-campuses university spread over several provinces in French-speaking Belgium. And there we are now, happy to welcome you.

But… to make things more enjoyable and more complicated, this workshop is organized by a team combining researchers from the UCLouvain and from the University of Liège.

The Liège squad is made of Dr Christophe Masson and Ms Perrine Stennier. They both belong to a research unit in Medieval and Renaissance studies called Transitions, with an interdisciplinary signature and a dedicated interest in Italian history, among other fields of specializations.

The Saint-Louis part of the team is made of Dr Quentin Verreycken, Dr Michael Depreter and myself. We belong to the CRHiDI, this acronym stands for Research Centre in Legal History, Political History and the History of Societies. CRHiDi has a long tradition in Low Countries Medieval History and Burgundian History. CRHiDI is also a partner in the newly founded Louvain Lab for Law, History & Societies.

The very idea of this workshop is to expose our main working hypothesis and research questions to the discussion of a panel of experts, in order to listen to their comments and to enrich our research.

Hence today's agenda. First of all, **Christophe Masson and Quentin Verreycken** will present the outlines of the research project, and how we intend to articulate case-studies with a general working hypothesis and social relevance, which is crucial to our funding scheme, as you are aware.

The second speaker will be **Michael Depreter**. He will talk about *The Political Trial of History's First War Criminal? Peter von Hagenbach Facing Historical and Historiographical Judgment*, which is the lead theme of his postdoctoral research within the project.

The third speaker will be **Perrine Stennier**. She is starting her doctoral research at the University of Liège. She will tell us about *A Journey through the Archives of Communal Trials of the Papal Soldiers in Central Italy during the 15th Century*, which is at the core of her investigation within this project.

After that, we will have time for an in-depth discussion.

Then we'll take a well-deserved coffee-break.

Our first English speaker of the day will be Pr. **Anne Curry**. Professor Anne Curry is Emeritus Professor of Medieval History, and a former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, at the University of Southampton. She is a specialist of medieval English military history, she was deeply involved in the commemorations of Agincourt ten years ago and continued to work in the field of public history by working to the creation of an onsite museum in Agincourt and by preparing the great 1420 exhibition in Troyes, commemorating the birth of the dual monarchy. She was responsible for the creation of the database *medievalsoldier* and, in its final stages, for an online publication of the Gascon Rolls. She recently published a calendar of Henry V's Norman Rolls. She wrote a biography of Henry V and is doing extensive research on Lancastrian Normandy. She is also Arundel Herald Extraordinary. We will be delighted to hear her speak about *English Military Disciplinary Ordinances, Late 14th-Early 16th Centuries.*

It will be then time for lunch. Better take some strength, because two more papers will be delivered in the afternoon.

Rémy Ambühl is Associate Professor at the University of Southampton. A specialist of late medieval France, England and Burgundy, his research interests are the politics and the ethics of war, with of focus on the laws of war, notably through the fate of prisoners of war and the issues relating to surrender of garrisons and cities. Today, we'll listen to his talk on the *Recriminations against English captains after the fall of Lancastrian Normandy (beg. of the 1450's)*.

Our last speaker will be Pr. **Neil Murphy.** Neil Murphy is a Professor of History at Northumbria University. A specialist of late medieval and early modern France, he wrote books on the ceremonial entries of the king and on the captivity of Jean le Bon after 1356. He also focuses on war and foreign relations during the reign of Henry VIII, with a book of Henry VIII's occupation of Boulogne (published in 2019) and a research on his war on Scotland. He recently worked on plague management in early modern France. He is now working on the capture of Francis I and his defeat in Pavia, 1525. Today, he will give a paper on *Soldiers, Civilians and Henry VIII's Wars of Occupation.*

Time for a cup of tea or coffee, or some fresh water. Lastly, we will engage in our **final discussions** until 5 p.m. What about late-medieval justice practices and the regulation of military violence in contexts of occupation? What about the long-term impact of these judicial practices on perceptions of armed violence, the customs of war, and ultimately, the development of international law?

This program is really thrilling. I hope you share my enthusiasm for this workshop. Please, enjoy yourself.



Brussels, 21 March 2025

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