

Third GERN-(Post)colonial policing workshop

Policing, surveillance and political transformations in the (former) Dutch and Belgium Empires. KITLV, Leiden & Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL)

**Location:
KITLV, Leiden, The Netherlands
16-17 September 2010**

This workshop focuses on the organization, methods and effects of policing, surveillance and incarceration in the (former) Dutch and Belgium empires, in the context of (post)colonial state formation, local political transformations and international security politics.

A recent revival of academic interest in colonial policing focuses on the international dimension of colonial policing, and on the question how the exchange of personal, techniques and knowledge of policing and surveillance can lay bare the interconnectedness between the metropole and (former) empires – both in the colonial and in the postcolonial era. Attention is also directed towards the continuities and discontinuities between institutions and practices of policing and surveillance in the colonial and the postcolonial state, and towards the transfer of knowledge and means of policing and surveillance during periods of regime change and decolonization.

This workshop takes up these two broader frameworks of space and time, with a focus on the practices of policing and surveillance within the Dutch and Belgium overseas empires and their postcolonial successors. General questions are: how did the institutions of policing, surveillance and incarceration function within the context of (post)colonial state formation or during periods of political transformation? How were they informed by ‘metropolition’, colonial or local means and notions of policing and security? And how were they influenced by international security politics? The aim of the workshop is to get further insight in the questions how the (post)colonial state was embedded in society through its security politics, and what was colonial about colonial policing and surveillance.

With these general questions in mind, speakers are invited to discuss continuities and discontinuities in formal organizational aspects of policing, surveillance and/or incarceration, or to focus on cases that can provide insight in the actual practice and effects of these institutions. Both senior and junior scholars working on the history of police, security politics, crime or justice in the (former) Dutch and Belgium empires are invited to contribute.

Deadline for summaries: **1 May 2010**

Deadline for papers: **15 July 2010**

This is the third of a series of workshops that, over a period of two years, will look at aspects of policing in the European empires during the nineteenth and twentieth century. The conference will begin with a summary of the previous one in Paris.

1. Policing the British empire – Milton Keynes – September 10/11 2009
2. Policing the French empire – Paris – November 2009
3. Policing the Dutch and Belgium empires – Leiden –September 2010
4. Policing the Portuguese empire – Porto - 2011

Organising committee: Georgina Sinclair (Open University, Milton Keynes, UK), Chris Williams (Open University, Milton Keynes, UK), Emmanuel Blanchard (GERN, Paris, France)

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