



Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study
in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Internment, Incarceration and Detention: Captivation histories in Europe around the First and Second World War

Workshop @ NIAS, Wassenaar 3 November – 4 November 2011

Organisers: [NIOD](#) & [NIAS](#)

On 3 and 4 November 2011 NIAS and [NIOD](#), Institute for War-, Holocaust- and Genocide Studies organizes an exploratory workshop on 'Internment, Incarceration and Detention. Captivation histories in Europe around the First and Second World War'.

Description

Aim: broadening the focus and inciting new archival research

Prisons and prison like institutes are an essential element of Western criminal justice. As an instrument for social control, penal institutions have become representations of the existing political and social values. When political, social and economic changes occur, they immediately have an effect on the prison system. These changes are more noticeable in times of war and peace while these are times when the prison system occupies an important place in the incarceration of enemies of the (former) regime. Therefore, during the first half of the twentieth century, when the First and Second World War occurred, the detention of both criminals and political prisoners has been highly dynamic.

However, in transitional justice history, 20th century war history and criminal justice history the practice of the prison system in the 20th century is often neglected. Studies on the prison in criminal justice history focus mainly on philosophical theories and less on archival research. In 20th century war history, the focus is usually on the concentration and extermination camps. Studies concerning transitional justice often only focus on the use of law and do not regard the prison system. This workshop consequently aims to broaden the scope of case studies on captivation histories in Europe around the First and Second World War.

Nikolaus Wachsmann offers a great starting point for this aim with his book *Hitler's Prisons. Legal Terror in Nazi Germany* (Yale University Press: New Haven/London, 2004). In this groundbreaking study Wachsmann investigates the function of the state prisons during the Third Reich. In doing so, he argues that the Nazi prison cannot be understood without knowledge of the penal system during the Weimar Republic. In other words, studying imprisonment practices during regime changes involves paying attention to lines of continuity and discontinuity.

Focus: practices, ideologies and long-term developments

The workshop explores the historical practice of incarcerating enemies of the (former) regime, the changes that occur in the existing penal system by doing so, the emergence of new types of correctional institutions and their practical implementation in imprisonment cultures. Different types of prisons should be considered, the most important being: the regular prisons, workhouses, internment camps and different types of concentration camps. The topics that will be addressed are practices of everyday life, ideology and regime change and long-term developments.

Programme

Thursday, November 3, 2011

10.00-11.00: Arrival, coffee and registration
11.00-11.15: Welcome and introduction by organizing committee

Section I: Practices of everyday life, chair: Nikolaus Wachsmann

11.15-12.45:

- Heiko Brendel, *Penal and pre-emptive internment in occupied Montenegro, 1916-1918*
- William Murphy, *We hear of truce. We know not what it is: imprisonment and transition, Ireland, 1921*
- Joost Augusteijn, *Dealing with hungerstrikes. The changes in prison regimes for hungerstrikers in the UK, 1909-1921*

12.45-14.00: Lunch

14.00-16.00:

- Alicia Quintero Maqua, *'Gloomy dungeons': provisional prisons in Madrid in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War (1939-1944)*
- Anna Tijsseling, *The political legitimacy of detaining political prisoners, 1940-1945*
- Patrice Arnaud, *Life, work and loneliness of french civil workers in prisons in nazi Germany*
- Christian G. De Vito, *Italian prisons, 1943-1951*

16.00-16.15: Coffee, tea

16.15-17.45:

- Helen Grevers, *From 'traitors' to 'good patriots'. The imprisonment of collaborators in Belgium and the Netherlands after the Second World War.*
- Aurore François, *A triumph for the protectional model? How Belgian institutions for delinquent children dealt with young collaborators (1944-1950)*
- Jonas Campion, *Gendarmeries' relationship to internment during and after World War II (Belgium, France, Netherlands)*

17.45-19.30: Refreshments

19.30 Dinner

Friday, November 4, 2011

09.00-10.00: Coffee, tea

Section II: Ideology and regime change, chair: NIAS Fellow, David Baragwanath

10.00-12.00:

- Herbert Reinke, *From inmates to enemies, from penal justice to state security. Prisons and the rise of the communist regime in Eastern Germany after the Second World War*
- Andrew Beattie, *Dachau 'was and remained a hell'. German responses to British and American internment in Germany after World War II and the question of (dis)continuity*
- Gregory Weeks, *Regime change and civilian detainees in Vienna, 1938-1945*
- Francis Graham-Dixon, *War criminals or political prisoners? Justice, fair play and the British prison at Zuchthaus Werl, 1949-1955*

12.00-13.15: Lunch

Section III: Long term developments, chair: Anna Tijsseling

13.15-15.15:

- Thomas Irmer, *The detention of social outsiders between social reform and intent annihilation - The municipal workhouse Berlin-Rummelsburg 1919-1945*
- Femi Sufaj, *Interdependence of punishment, system and policy in Albania, 1912-1991*
- Padraic Kenney, *Who is the political prisoner? Community and identity in Polish prisons across three regimes*
- Kimberly Partee, *A century of forced internment and concentration camps. The history and evolution of concentrated terror*

15.15-15.30: Coffee, tea

Section IV: Colonial Perspectives, chair: Helen Grevers

15.30-17.00:

- Daniel Steinbach, *Whites behind wire: The internment of 'enemy aliens' in German East Africa during the First World War*
- Sarah Ann Frank, *Colonial prisoners of war and Vichy France: experiences and politics, 1940-1942*
- Esther Zwinkels, *For the benefaction of mankind. The treatment of political delinquents in the Netherlands Indies after the Second World War*

17.00-18.00: **Round table discussion.**

Concluding remarks: Peter Romijn, Nikolaus Wachsmann

18.00: Refreshments