

THE RESEARCH UNIT 'SOCIAL HISTORY SINCE 1750' (GHENT UNIVERSITY) CURRENTLY HAS A POSITION AVAILABLE FOR A:

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHER (PHD STUDENT)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: DENUNCIATION IN BELGIUM DURING THE TWO WORLD WARS. POWER RELATIONS, ACTORS AND MOTIVES

The historical research on denunciation as a social practice remains largely limited to the context of established dictatorial regimes. By proffering an analysis of the practices of denunciation in Belgium during both World Wars, this study aims to remedy part of this lacuna. This study starts from the central premise that the complexity of the power constellation within an occupation context generates a specific pattern of reporting/denouncing. The question as to what degree occupied Belgium was a 'self-policing society' will be discussed. A quantitative analysis of the socio-economic, gender, and ideological profiles of the informers is needed. Qualitative analysis of the denunciation processes and of the relationship between denunciators and the individuals informed upon makes it possible to investigate the motives that drove the denunciators. The search for the specificity of denunciation within an occupation context will be answered by a systematic confrontation with the results of studies on how the police and the judiciary were used by the population in liberal-democratic contexts and with the findings of growing research into the practices of denunciation in Central and Eastern European dictatorial regimes.

This PhD-project is funded by the Interuniversity Attraction Poles (IAP) of the Belgian Science Policy Office and is part of the project 'Justice & Populations'.

QUALIFICATIONS

- The candidate has a Master's degree in History or a Master's degree with demonstrable interest in historical research
- The candidate has experience with qualitative and quantitative research
- The candidate masters Dutch, French and English
- The candidate has a passive knowledge of German
- The candidate is an enthusiastic and inventive team player

OFFER

- A 4-year contract as a full time scientific staff member of Ghent University
- Contact with national and international research groups
- Opportunity to follow an individualized PhD program at the UGent Doctoral School of Arts, Humanities and Law or the Doctoral School of Social and Behavioural Sciences, including language courses
- Extra benefits: free public transport between home and work place; biking fee; access to university sports facilities and university restaurants

Start of the project: October 1st, 2012

APPLY

If you are interested in joining us, please send your CV and a short research plan (maximum 2500 words) describing how you would conduct the research (in Dutch, French, German or English), before August 31, 2012 to: prof. dr. Antoon Vrints (antoon.vrints@ugent.be)