

# Conference:

# The

# Transnationality

# of

# Social

# Movements

20 & 21 May 2010

Dimensions - Visions - Discourses  
19th & 20th century

### Invited Speakers :

Joachim Berger *University of Mainz*  
Kim Christiaens *K.U. Leuven*  
Emmanuel Deonna *University of Lausanne*  
Ben Dorfman *Aalborg University*  
Idesbald Goddeeris *K.U. Leuven*  
Wouter Goedertier *K.U. Leuven*  
Padraic Kenney *Indiana University*  
Kostis Kornetis *Brown University*  
Katharina Ludwig *University of Mainz*  
Andrew Tompkins *Oxford University*  
Weston Ulrich *London School of Economics*  
Jan Van de Poel *Vrije Universiteit Brussel*  
Guy Vanthemsche *Vrije Universiteit Brussel*  
Benjamin Ziemann *Sheffield University*

### Information :

[www.vub.ac.be/HIST](http://www.vub.ac.be/HIST)

### Registration :

[Kim.Christiaens@arts.kuleuven.be](mailto:Kim.Christiaens@arts.kuleuven.be)



If you  
could see  
their  
national  
sport,  
you might be  
less  
keen  
to see  
their  
cricket.\*

# The Transnationality of Social Movements

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

LEUVEN, 20 - 21 MAY 2010

In recent years, an interdisciplinary community of scholars has engaged in a debate about the transnational scope of social movements with an international focus. Some of them argue that many of the current “anti-globalization” movements’ features, such as transnational cooperation, the use of media, and the mobility of activists, have been prefigured by earlier social movements of the Cold War era. Others argue that the nation state was, and still remains, the primal context of social movement mobilization. Despite common political goals, cultural symbols, patterns of protest, and synchronization of mobilization waves, social movements are presented by many as primarily national phenomena. These debates are part of a larger debate on “globalization” and the role of NGOs therein. In an effort to historicise this process, a host of scholars are re-examining the projects of “internationalism” that have been propagated by NGOs and within inter-governmental bodies since the later decades of the nineteenth century. Far from being a straightforward affair of spatial reconfiguration, this turn towards architectures of “global governance” has spawned many complementary and competing projects under the rubric of Westernization, Europeanization, Third Worldism, etc.

The conference gathers historians and social scientists having an expertise in the study of social movements in order to discuss the issues of national differentiation, cross-border cooperation and transnational identity construction. It is especially concerned with transnational contact within the Atlantic World of Europe and northern America and aims to analyze social movement structures, networks, identities, and praxis. It encourages comparative analyses of a diachronical or synchronical nature.

## Organizing institutions

History Department  
(Vrije Universiteit Brussel)  
[www.vub.ac.be/HIST/](http://www.vub.ac.be/HIST/)

Research Unit Modernity & Society 1800-2000  
(Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)  
[www.arts.kuleuven.be/onderzoek/oe/geschiedenis/MoSa/](http://www.arts.kuleuven.be/onderzoek/oe/geschiedenis/MoSa/)

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies  
[www.ggs.kuleuven.be](http://www.ggs.kuleuven.be)

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## Scientific Committee

Gita Deneckere (Universiteit Gent)  
Idesbald Goddeeris (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)  
Padraic Kenney (Indiana University)  
Cedric Ryngaert (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)  
Guy Vanthemsche (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)  
Benjamin Ziemann (University of Sheffield)

## Practical Information

Language: English

Date: Thursday 20 & Friday 21 May 2010

Place: The conference will take place in Leuven at Vergaderzaal KADOC (Vlamingenstraat 39, Leuven)

Information & Registration:  
[Kim.Christiaens@arts.kuleuven.be](mailto:Kim.Christiaens@arts.kuleuven.be)

## PROGRAMME

### Thursday 20 May 2010

Theme 1: Transnational Dimensions of Social Movements

#### Morning Session

09H30: Welcome and General Introduction by Idesbald Goddeeris (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

09H45: The Transnational in Europe since Solidarity, by Padraic Kenney (Indiana University)

10H30: The Transnationality of Struggles for Recognition in the Interwar Period: The Early History of the World Jewish Congress as Paradigm, by Emmanuel Deonna (University of Lausanne)

11H15: Coffee Break

11H30: Solidarity without Borders: International Ties between 'Northern' NGO's for Development Cooperation, Jan Van de Poel (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

12H15: Lunch

#### Afternoon Session

13H30: Transnational Trade Union Co-operation: German Support for Spanish Trade Unions during the Transition to Democracy (1970s/1980s), by Katharina Ludwig (University of Mainz)

14H15: Revolutionary State Networks during the Cold War: The Cuba and Sandinista Solidarity Movement in Belgium, by Kim Christiaens (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

15H00: Coffee Break

15H15: Transnationality as Liability? The Anti-Nuclear Movement at Creys-Malville, by Andrew Tompkins (University of Oxford)

16H00: Discussion

19H00: Dinner

### Friday 21 May 2010

Theme 2: Transnational Visions and Discourses

#### Morning Session

09H15: Welcome by Guy Vanthemsche, (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

09H30: "The Family of Man". Metaphors of Transnational Activism, by Benjamin Ziemann (University of Sheffield)

10H15: Globalization, Social Movements and Historical Thought, by Ben Dorfman (Aalborg University)

11H00: Coffee Break

11H15: Universal Tolerance and Anticlerical Passion: Transnational Encounters of European Freemasons, 1850-1930, by Joachim Berger (University of Mainz)

12H00: Lunch

#### Afternoon Session

12H45: The Construction of Anti-Apartheid Solidarity in Belgium, by Wouter Goedertier (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

13H30: "Grèce Generale": Symbolic Appropriation and Internationalization at the December 2008 Riots in Athens, by Kostis Kornetis (Brown University)

14H15-15H00: Final Discussion and Conclusions