

All over the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, citizens in Europe broadened their scope towards what happened in foreign and distant countries in the Global South, the Americas or – closer to their homes – to dictatorships in Eastern or Southern Europe. International solidarity has mobilized a great variety of actors in both the Netherlands and Belgium and both countries have profiled themselves as transnational sites of international campaigns over peace and solidarity.

The aim of this conference is to stimulate innovative research on the rise of international solidarity movements in the Low Countries – Belgium and the Netherlands – over the long twentieth century. It wants to put these movements in a broader comparative and transnational perspective, and embed them in other research fields, such as the history of the Cold War, decolonization, European integration, and communism.

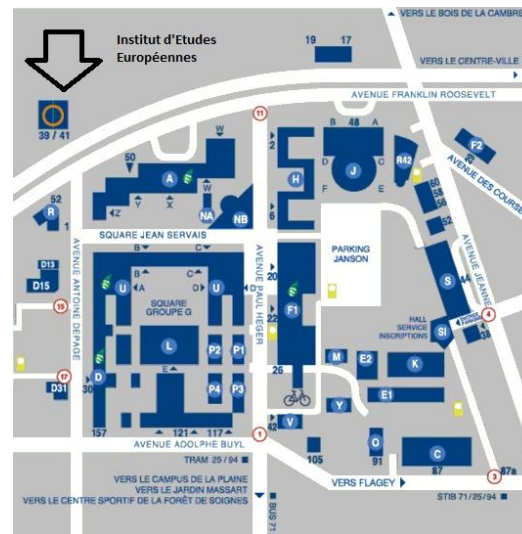
Organization:

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**International History Conference**

**International Solidarity Movements in the  
Low Countries during the  
Twentieth Century**

**New Perspectives and Themes**

**Brussels**

**26-27 May 2016**



**Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> May**

**10h45 : Welcome and Introduction**

**11h00 – 12h30**

**Panel I: Communist Globalization?**

**Chair: Kim Christiaens (KU Leuven)**

Wouter Linmans (Leiden): International Solidarity between Dutch and German Communists (1918-1923)

Roel op 't Ende (Leiden): Dutch Campaigns for the Release of the Scottsboro Boys (1931)

Nicolas Lépine (Lakehead University): Belgian Solidarity during the Spanish Civil War

**12h30 – 13h**

**Keynote**

Kasper Brasken (Åbo Akademi): Globalising Transnational Solidarity: Cultures, Movements and Practices of Communist Internationalism during the Interwar Period

**13h-14h30: Lunch**

**14h30 – 16h**

**Panel II: From Europe to the Global South (1)**

**Chair: Pieter Lagrou (ULB)**

Victor Fernandez (ULB): Human Rights Campaigns on behalf of Spain, 1960s-1970s

Kim Christiaens (KU Leuven): Inspired by the East? International Solidarity Movements in Cold War Belgium, 1950s-1960s

John Nieuwenhuys (ULB): Decolonizing Palestine: The Fedayeen and Human Rights in Belgian Solidarity, 1960s-1970s

**16h : Coffee Break**

**16h15 – 17h45**

**Panel II: From Europe to the Global South (2)**

**Chair: Christophe Verbruggen (UGent)**

Charel Roemer (ULB): Anti-Apartheid in Belgium and Germany: Comparative Approaches

Wouter Goedertier (KU Leuven): Belgian Students against Apartheid: Guilt in the University?

Benjamin Steegen (KU Leuven): Reinventing Indian Village Communities: Belgian Solidarity and the Representation of Beneficiaries (1970 - ...)

**17h45: Coffee Break**

**18h – 19h**

**Panel II: From Europe to the Global South (3)**

**Chair: Charel Roemer (ULB)**

Joren Janssens (VUB): The Quest for Solidarity without Victory: Constraining the Guatemalan Guerilla

Eline Van Ommen (LSE): Dutch Solidarity, Sandinista Nicaragua, and the Global Cold War (1981-1983)

**Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> May**

**10h – 11h30**

**Panel III: Back to Europe? 1970s-1980s**

**Chair: John Nieuwenhuys (ULB)**

Benoit Bastin (ULG): Belgian Mobilizations to support the British Miner's strike (1984-1985)

Bart De Sutter (UGent): Belgium and the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (1975-1991)

Idesbald Goddeeris (KU Leuven): Solidarity with the Eastern Bloc: A Comparison of Hungary in the late 1950s with Poland in the early 1980s

**11h30: Coffee Break**

**11h45 – 13h15**

**Panel IV: Solidarity without territory?**

**Chair: Idesbald Goddeeris (KU Leuven)**

Paul Van Trigt (Leiden): Dutch Disability Activism and the Human Rights Revolution since the 1970s

Giselle Nath (UGent): Consumer rights, Western Approaches and postcolonial Tensions (1960-2000)

Peter van Dam (UVA): In search of a postcolonial Marketplace: The transnational History of Fair Trade, 1964-1997.

**13h15 – 13h45 : Final Discussion**

**13h45 – 15h : Lunch**

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