

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR THROUGH THE AGES

FINDING NEW LINKS BETWEEN HUMANITARIAN TREATMENT,
CAPTIVE EXPERIENCES, AND PUNISHMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR
BETWEEN THE 19TH AND 21ST CENTURIES

With ongoing geopolitical challenges and tensions, war has been rekindled as a part of public discourse. Alongside problems of sending aid, rearmament, and civil preparation for potential humanitarian eventualities, there is a pressing need to also bring the observation of international law in the conduct of war as well as, of course, the treatment of disarmed and captured enemy soldiers, into focus. Many of the normative frameworks that are still active in the present and that inform public debates on the treatment of captured persons were formulated in the aftermath of the Second World War. These developments are ultimately linked in many ways, because they stem from the same mixture of humanitarian concern and military self-interest. Consequently, it is paramount to highlight the multifaceted nature of international humanitarian law by finding the links between historical and present-day conflicts. The goal of this workshop is to highlight the blind spots in research on humanitarian work, particularly the role of neutral states such as Spain, Denmark, the Netherlands, United States and Switzerland during World War I, the development of the notion of "protecting powers" and the issue of retaliation in prisoners-of-war (POW)-camps.

The workshop brings together early-career researchers from institutions in Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Germany, Portugal and Spain, who are studying various countries and contemporary research questions within the fields of humanitarianism, the role of neutral states, and the treatment of POWs.

The workshop serves as a preparatory event for the upcoming conference "Committed Neutralities. A Transnational History of Spanish Humanitarianism in a Global Context from the First World War to the 1920s" scheduled for Spring 2026.



19 SEPTEMBRE 2025

📍 CASA DE VELÁZQUEZ



WORKSHOP

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Archivo General de Palacio, *Prisionero sufriendo castigo de poteau*, 1915



Archivo General de Palacio, *Arreste Korrektionsobjekt. Les arrets et la baraque de correction*, 1917

Coordination

Nina RÉGIS

EHEHI - Casa de Velázquez

Nicolas STASSAR

Freie Universität Berlin

Organisation

École des hautes études hispaniques et ibériques, Casa de Velázquez (Madrid)

Arbeitskreis Militärgeschichte e.V (AKM), Freie Universität Berlin

Lieu de célébration

CASA DE VELÁZQUEZ

C/ Paul Guinard, 3

Ciudad Universitaria

Madrid

Participation en ligne ou en personne dans la limite des places disponibles : [Inscription obligatoire ici avant le 15 septembre](#)

Contacts

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VENDREDI 19/09

9h

Ouverture

Nancy BERTHIER

Directrice de la Casa de Velázquez

Introduction

Nina RÉGIS

EHEHI - Casa de Velázquez

Nicolas STASSAR

Freie Universität Berlin

9h30-12h45

Modération

Nina RÉGIS

EHEHI - Casa de Velázquez

Beatriz VALVERDE CONTRERAS

Universidade de Coimbra

The Relationship Between Humanitarianism and Legal Assistance to Prisoners of War: the Work of German Civilian Lawyers in the Defence of French Prisoners in Germany during World War I and Spain's Intervention

Nicolas STASSAR

Freie Universität Berlin

Detainment and Discipline:

Military Justice Applied to Prisoners of War in Japanese Hands (1894-1945)

Nicolás COMBARRO

AFM - Casa de Velázquez

The Question of Silence: Images of Franco's Concentration Camps (1937-1947)

15h-18h15

Modération

Nicolas STASSAR

Freie Universität Berlin

Nina RÉGIS

EHEHI - Casa de Velázquez

Bread as a Tool for Retaliation: Punishments and Food Restrictions in Spanish and Red Cross Camp Reports during World War I

Chrystalle ZEBDI-BARTZ

Université de Lorraine, Université du Luxembourg

Being Held Prisoner at the Stalag XII F (1940-1944): between Forced Labour, Mistreatment, Punishment and Torture

Diletta MARCHESI

International criminal lawyer and scholar

Contemporary Issues of the Denial of Fair Trials against Civilians and Prisoners of War during Present-day Conflicts

18h15-18h30

Conclusion

Nina RÉGIS

EHEHI - Casa de Velázquez

Nicolas STASSAR

Freie Universität Berlin