

Prisons and Prisoners in the History and Sociology of Knowledge

June 12-13, 2025

Room 2122, Miséricorde 02

Convenors

Laure Piguet, Léa Renard & Alix Heiniger

Programme

Thursday, 12 June

9:30-10:00 Welcome coffee

10:00-10:15 Introduction

10:15-12:30 Session 1

Agency and knowledge

Gwenola Ricordeau (California State University)

Reclaiming space is not enough. Doing research about the prison system as a relative of prisoners and an abolitionist

Kiran Mehta (University of Leicester)

Producing knowledge from inside the prison: England, 1770-1840

Viviane Borges (University of the State of Santa Catarina)

Incarcerated voices: Writings by common prisoners in the 20th century

Chair: Cézane Beretta (University of Fribourg)

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Session 2

Observing penal work in colonial contexts

Nadia Biskri Berkane (University Paris 1-Panthéon Sorbonne)

Penal work and the colonization of Algeria

Kai F. Herzog (Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg)

Knowledge, ignorance, violence. Imprisonment, convict labour, and colonial capitalism in Great Namaqualand (1896-1903/04)

Chair: Léa Renard (Heidelberg University)

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-18:15 Session 3

Science, health and experimentation on detainees

Caroline Montebello (University of Geneva)

Anthropology under duress: Sero-anthropological investigations in Swiss internment camps during the Second World War

Oxana Kosenko, Florian Steger (Ulm University)

Between discipline and punishment. Health care for political prisoners in the remand prison of the Ministry of State Security in Berlin-Hohenschönhausen in the 1970s-80s

Klára Pinerová (Dresden University of Technology/Czech Academy of Sciences)

The success and limits of the use of psychological research in Czechoslovak prisons in the years 1967-1980

Chair: Alix Heiniger (University of Fribourg)

19:00 Dinner

Friday, 13 June

9:00-12:30 Session 4

Investigating prisons and detainees

Nathalie Dahn-Singh (University of Lausanne)

"Horrible dungeons, of which humanity prohibits all use". Knowledge production and prison materiality in the Helvetic Republic (1798-1803)

Camille Meyre (International Committee of the Red Cross)

Capturing war detention: How were International Committee of the Red Cross visit reports turned into searchable data?

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

Anaïs Lefèvre (Sorbonne University)

"Somebody please come down here": Investigations of prison work camps and prisoner resistance in the State of Georgia (1930s-1960s)

Valentine Dewulf (Free University of Brussels)

Investigation, reform and internationalism. Missions in Congolese prisons after the Second World War during the Belgian colonization

Chair: Anne-Françoise Praz (University of Fribourg)

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-17:30 Session 5

Knowledge in reform and abolition movements

Lorenzo Coccoli (University of Catania), Andrea Giuliani (University of Rome Tor Vergata), Chiara Lucrezio Monticelli (University of Rome Tor Vergata)

Italian houses of correction as a model? Rome and Milan in 18th and 19th century prison tourism and public debate

Anouk Essyad (University of Fribourg)

The carceralists. Actors and circulations of a "penitentiary science" at the crossroads of several disciplines

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

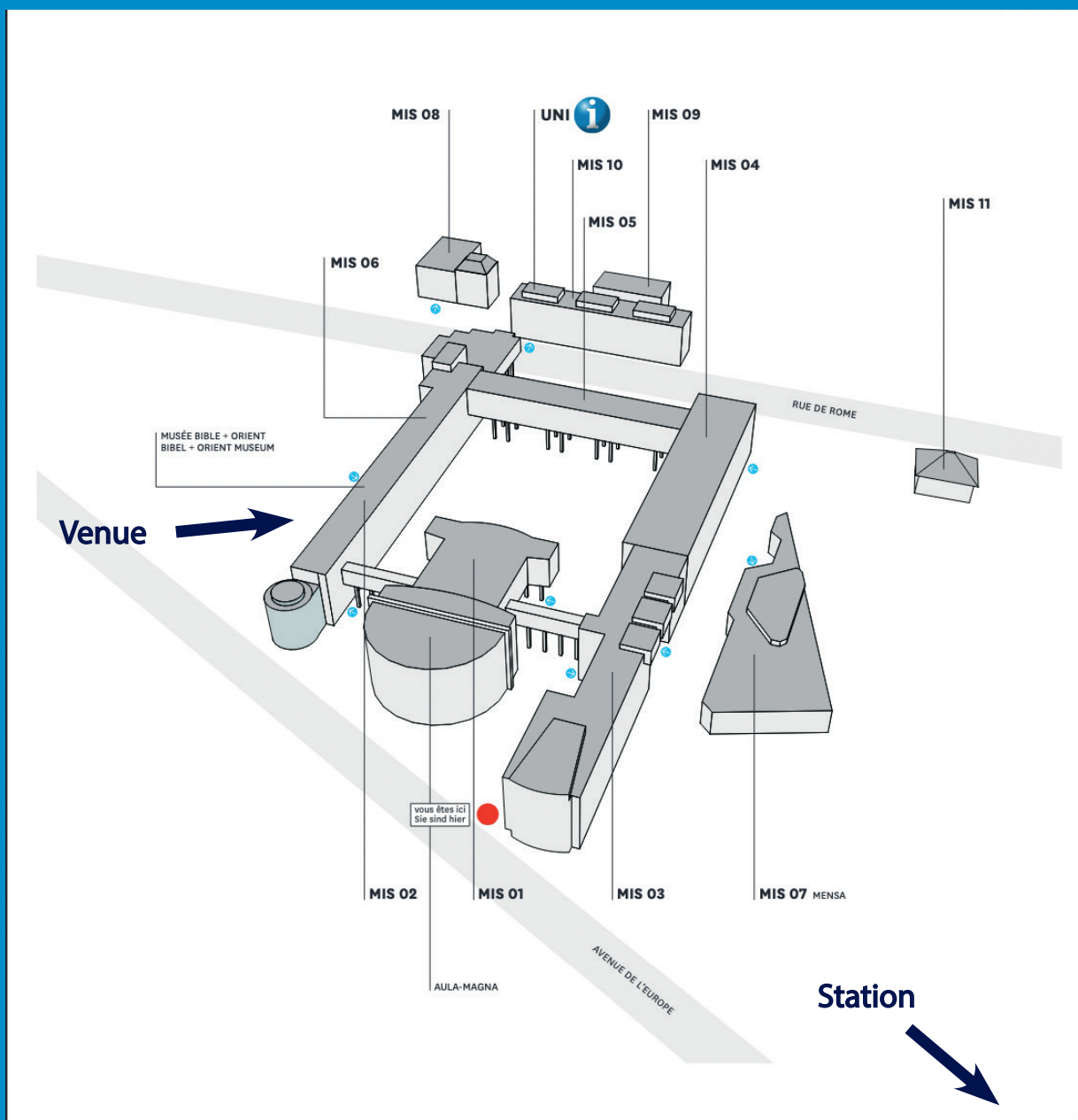
Erin Hazan (University of the Witwatersrand)

"Gradually the features and methods of penal systems of the past are being abandoned": Jacob de Villiers Roos and the South African Prisons and Reformatories Act of 1911

Shaïm Morisse (University of Paris-Saclay)

Thomas Mathiesen (1933-2021): A life of unfinished action research against prison

Chair: Laure Piguet (University of Fribourg/Centre Marc Bloch, Humboldt University)



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