

JUDGING

E X T R E M E V I O L E N C E

JUNE 10 2025

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC DAY OF RICEVE
IN COLLABORATION WITH CREG

**UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE
BRUXELLES**

10:00 AM-06:00 PM

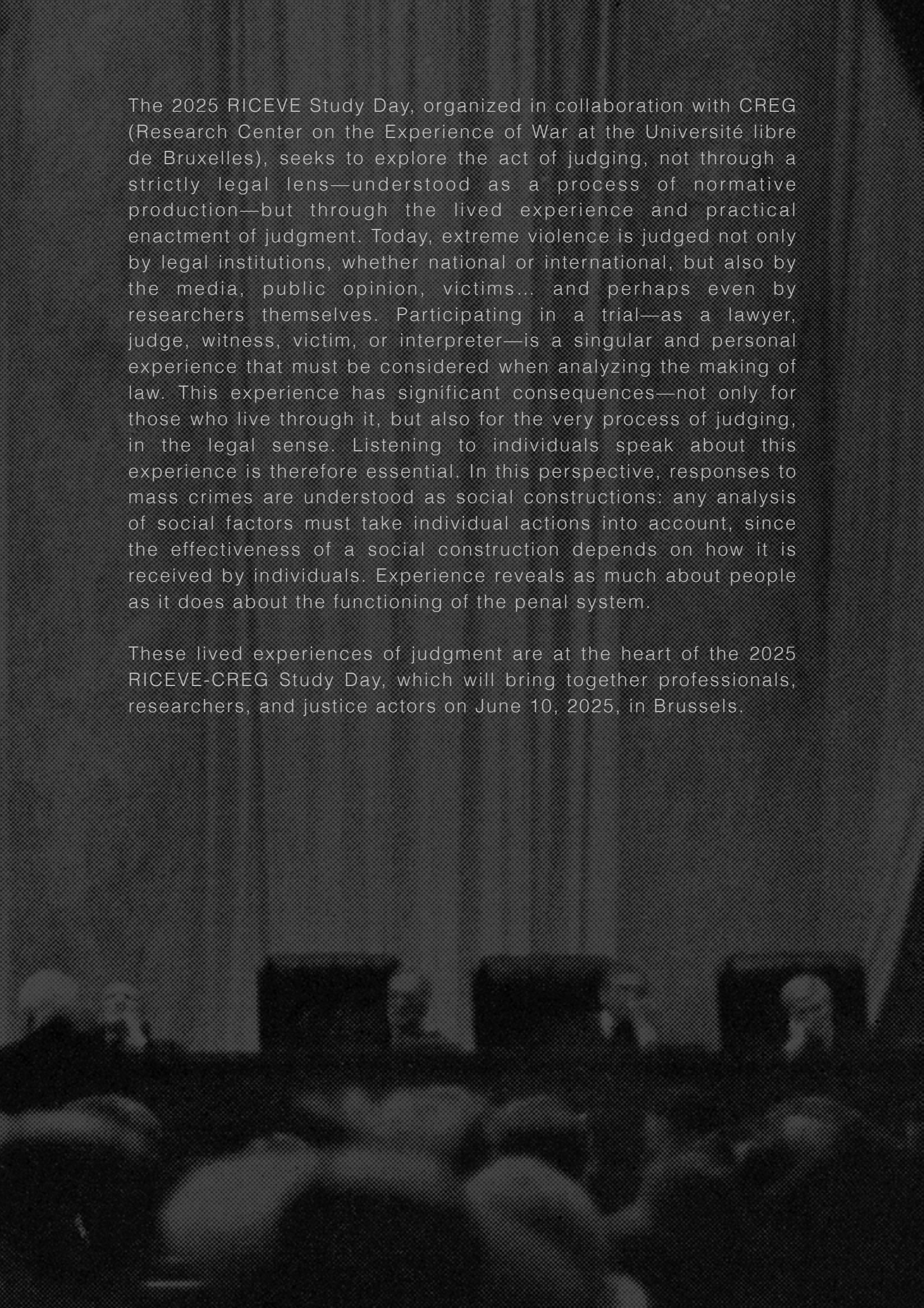
Rokkan Room (S.12.234),
Building S, 12th Floor ULB
Solbosch Campus 44
Avenue Jeanne

Free seminar, registration
required at creg@ulb.be

| **RICEVE**

ULB

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LIBRE
DE BRUXELLES



The 2025 RICEVE Study Day, organized in collaboration with CREG (Research Center on the Experience of War at the Université libre de Bruxelles), seeks to explore the act of judging, not through a strictly legal lens—understood as a process of normative production—but through the lived experience and practical enactment of judgment. Today, extreme violence is judged not only by legal institutions, whether national or international, but also by the media, public opinion, victims... and perhaps even by researchers themselves. Participating in a trial—as a lawyer, judge, witness, victim, or interpreter—is a singular and personal experience that must be considered when analyzing the making of law. This experience has significant consequences—not only for those who live through it, but also for the very process of judging, in the legal sense. Listening to individuals speak about this experience is therefore essential. In this perspective, responses to mass crimes are understood as social constructions: any analysis of social factors must take individual actions into account, since the effectiveness of a social construction depends on how it is received by individuals. Experience reveals as much about people as it does about the functioning of the penal system.

These lived experiences of judgment are at the heart of the 2025 RICEVE-CREG Study Day, which will bring together professionals, researchers, and justice actors on June 10, 2025, in Brussels.

09:30 AM

INTRODUCTION

RICHARD RECHTMAN

09:45_10:45

DISTANCES

TIMOTHÉE BRUNET-LEFÈVRE & MARIE BASSINE

This first pair of speakers will address the multiple forms of “distance” that international justice must contend with in the pursuit of judgment—whether temporal, geographical, or linguistic. Above all, these distances are crystallized in the gap between the social worlds of judges and those of the accused and the victims. How can one judge despite these distances—or perhaps through them? How can justice be served in spite of the strangeness that separates the courtroom from the places where extreme violence erupted?

10:45_11:45

EMOTIONS

ANASTASIA FAIRCHILD & AHMED EL KHAMLOUSSY

Extreme violence does not only challenge institutions or legal norms: its raw reality and singular brutality—amplified by the act of testifying—are felt by all those who come into contact with it and who are called upon to judge it, in every sense of the word. The echoes of such violence provoke emotional responses, both individual and collective—but what kind of responses? What role do emotions play in the experience of judgment? And what role should they be given? This second discussion will focus on these emotional dynamics—at the heart of the courtroom and in the reverberations of emotion beyond the judicial setting.

11:45_01:15

LUNCH BREAK



01:15_02:15

EXPERIENCES

MARIE WILMET & NICOLAS COHEN

This third pair will address the central issue of the lived experience of judgment: how do trial participants — both laypeople and legal professionals — experience and navigate the courtroom process? For victims, what does it mean to be required to testify about extreme violence? How does such violence affect the criminal procedure and its primary actors, whether they be witnesses, judges, lawyers, or clerks? This discussion will thus offer an opportunity to examine the multiple consequences of judgment at every level.

02:15_03:15

TRACES

CLOÉ DRIEU & STÉPHANIE MAUPAS

Extreme violence leaves behind traces that are nonetheless often subject to systematic erasure by those who perpetrate it. Faced with this denial—elevated to the level of state policy—how can the facts be told? How, from these traces of extreme violence, can one document, raise awareness, and construct a narrative around forms of violence that are frequently rendered invisible? The conversation between a historian specializing in the Uyghur People's Tribunal and a journalist will examine the methods of such investigations and how their findings are presented within and beyond the courtroom.

03:15_03:30

CONCLUSION

DAMIEN SCALIA

03:30_04:00

COFFEE BREAK

04:00_06:00

SCREENING AND DISCUSSION
“ÉLEVAGE DE POUSSIÈRE”

SARAH VANAGT