

## SPIES

**From 15 October 2019 to 9 August 2020**  
**at the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie**

*"This fall, fiction comes to life at the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie. Close your eyes and imagine finding yourself all of a sudden plunged into the heart of today's intelligence world. As a case officer, you will be in charge of a mission that will sweep you in a unique story of espionage. It all starts with what seems to be a low-intensity nuclear test abroad. What unfolds next is for you to experience in an original exhibition at the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie. For the first time, French intelligence agencies, for which discretion is second nature, agreed to lend their support to a presentation of this magnitude. As a result, the visitor's experience is as close as can be to the reality of those who work in intelligence professions today."* Bruno Maquart, president of Universcience.

*"The Bureau is a realistic series, a synthesis of fiction and reality that provides the general public with a rare look into the work of intelligence agencies. The partnership with the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie on this entertaining and innovative project has been an exhilarating challenge for the staff of the series, a continuation of the rich, complex universe created by Éric Rochant.*

Alex Berger, executive producer of *The Bureau*.

Who hasn't dreamt of discovering the best kept secrets of espionage? Clichés and fantasies abound about the work of intelligence agents, but where is the actual line between truth and fiction in these stories filled with hidden microphones, miniature cameras, uncertain identities, and clandestine operations? This new temporary exhibition proposes a unique storyline developed from a passionate, attentive study of espionage that reveals what goes on behind the scenes. The principle mission of the civil servants and military personnel who work for the six main French intelligence agencies – known by their acronyms (DGSE, DRSD, DRM, DGSI, DNRED and Tracfin\*) – is to anticipate and prevent threats to national security. The visitor will proceed step by step, like a secret agent, collecting information by using the different methods and tools of intelligence agencies. A unique experience mixing reality and fiction, co-produced by Universcience and TOE – The Oligarchs Editions, producer of the TV series *The Bureau*.

### The storyline / The mission

It all starts when a low-intensity underground nuclear test seems to have been detected in Western Republic, a (fictitious) country under surveillance as part of the fight against nuclear proliferation. This announcement is made by Marc Lauré, codename MAG, director of intelligence in the series *The Bureau*. Following this event, and at the request of the national intelligence coordinator, a summit meeting is organized with representatives of the six main intelligence agencies, known as the first circle. Together, they must act in a concerted manner to provide the French President with an intelligence report within 48 hours.

As soon as visitors enter the exhibition, they move from observers to actors as they step into the role of an intelligence agent. Going from service to service, they collect the information they need, as they successively play the part of a sound analyst, a tail, a satellite image analyst, a cryptographer, and so on.

Reinterpreting the different places of the story, the exhibition immerses the public in the espionage environment, recreating the office of a company director and the premises of the agency in *The Bureau*. Some 25 activities mobilize the ability of visitors to observe, listen, manipulate in ways that provide them with a better



**Une exposition conçue en co-production** with TOE (*The Oligarchs Editions*),

**in partnership** with the CNRLT, the DGSE, the DRSD, the DRM, the DGSI, the DNRED, Tracfin, **with scientific support** the CEA (Commission of Atomic Energy and Alternative Energies) **and in collaboration** with the CNES (National Centre for Space Studies) **with the participation** Deveryware and the Club des directeurs de sécurité et de sûreté des entreprises (CDSE).

Trilingual (French, English and Spanish).

Age 12 and up.

Accessible to the deaf and hearing-impaired.

Not accessible to the blind.

understanding of the protocols, scientific methods and ethics of this unfamiliar world. To top it off, interviews of 14 active intelligence officers and a selection of objects on exclusive loan from the intelligence agencies offer an extremely rare glimpse of a world that is secret by nature.

### Analysis and special affairs

The time has come to write the intelligence report requested at the start of the mission. Visitors enter the crisis room –identical to the one in *The Bureau*– and attend the meeting of the representatives of the six agencies. The information gathered through human and technological means is analysed and cross-checked; the picture is complete; the intelligence report can be transmitted to the French President. Mission accomplished!

The fiction ends here. But in real life, the work of intelligence agencies goes on. Any useful information triggers action. This method is illustrated by an analytical press review revealing the inside story of six contemporary espionage cases, including the assassination of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in Dubai on January 20, 2010, the cyberattack against TV5 Monde on April 10, 2015 and the poisoning of Sergei Skripal on March 4, 2018. This return to the real world brings to a close the immersive experience offered by the exhibition in the mysterious and often fantasized world of intelligence.

### In connection with the exhibition

#### Staff-led workshops for classes

##### Cryptomath

Am I the only one to read my emails? Is access to my online accounts secure? Through a historical exploration of cryptography, discover the key principles of coding, its role in securing personal data, and the place of mathematics and prime numbers in this science.

*For students aged of 15 to 18 / duration 1 hr*

##### A workshop for deciphering

What do Julius Caesar, Mary Stuart and Alan Turing have in common? They all used secret codes! Through events involving these historical figures, students will learn the mechanisms of cryptography by working to code and decode messages.

*For students aged of 12 to 15 / duration 1 hr*

##### Academy of Spies

Gilbert Renault, Vladimir Vetrov and Mata Hari: do these names sound familiar? They are great figures of espionage with one thing in common: they all trained at the Academy of Spies! Becoming a spy is not easy. Here young participants will have to apply their logic, observation, speed and concentration skills while managing their emotions.

*For students aged of 8 to 12 / duration 1 hr*

#### Publication for 12- to 14-year olds

##### ■ Des métiers très secrets

*Texts by Virginie Aldadjidi and Caroline Pellissier, illustrated by Charles Berbérian.*

Step into the shoes of a secret agent and discover the behind-the-scenes work of many intelligence professions. Taking as a starting point the questions that teenagers ask –Is it dangerous to work as an intelligence agent? Can you tell your spouse that you work for the secret services? Are lie detectors used?– this book discloses the more complex and less movie-like day-to-day life of these civil servants and military agents.

*On sale at ticket counters and boutiques in the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie and the Palais de la découverte, and online. 48 pages, €9.95.*



*“We never use the term spy in our jargon: we are known by the less exotic title of ‘case officers.’” François Waroux, ex-officer of the DGSE.*



## For those who do not yet know the series...

**Le Bureau des Légendes** is a French TV series, the first 4 seasons of which were aired exclusively on Canal + and myCanal. The English version *The Bureau* was released on iTunes in the United States and Amazon Prime in the United Kingdom. Filming of a 5th season began in June 2019. Viewers will recognize in the exhibition some of the characters from the series, including Marc Lauré alias MAG (“Moule à gaufres,” or “Waffle iron”), César and Sylvain Ellenstein, as well as some of the settings.

## What hides behind the secret service acronyms?

**CNRTL** National Centre for Counter-Terrorism created in 2017 at the request of French president Emmanuel Macron. It transmits instructions from the president to the heads of the intelligence services and to the ministers responsible for those services and ensures their effective implementation.

**DGSE** General Directorate for External Security, a branch of the Ministry of the Armies, is the French external intelligence agency, responsible for operations abroad, where it applies clandestine methods to gather information. In 2018, the agency had 6,500 employees, including military personnel, civil servants and contractors.

**DRSD** Directorate for Defence Information and Security, a branch of the Ministry of the Armies, is dedicated to counter-operations, countering subversion, terrorism, sabotage and organized crime. It has 1,300 employees, 22% of which are civil servants.

**DRM** Directorate of Military Intelligence, a branch of the Ministry of the Armies, has 1,800 agents. This agency provides information of military interest to assist forces engaged in operations and high political and military authorities in making decisions.

**DGSI** General Directorate for Internal Security, under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, a service of the French National Police, is charged with collecting, centralizing and exploiting information in metropolitan France and its oversea territories to protect the country’s national security or fundamental interests. In 2018, this agency employed 4,400 agents.

**DNRED** National Directorate of Intelligence and Customs Investigation, a division of the Directorate-General of Customs and Indirect Taxes (DGDDI) is subdivided into three directorates: the Directorate of Customs Intelligence, the Directorate of Customs Investigation (DED) and the Directorate of Customs Operations (DOD). Since 2008, the DNRED is one of the six French intelligence services.

**Tracfin** is a unit that fights money laundering and terrorism financing. It is under the authority of the Ministry for the Budget and Public Accounts. Since 2008, Tracfin is one of the six French intelligence services.



This exhibition is part of the programming series, *Crossroads / Science where you do not expect it*.

This editorial focus brings together exhibitions whose subject does not appear at first glance to be scientific or technical, but which lead there in one way or another, be it in a straight line or, more often, in a roundabout way. The point is to reveal science where we do not expect it, inviting to the table the large family of developers.

Reservation recommended for the exhibition **Spies**

### Practical Information

#### Cité des sciences et de l'industrie

30, avenue Corentin-Cariou - 75019 Paris  
M Porte de la Villette 3b

#### Opening hours

Every day except Monday from 10 am to 6 pm,  
and 7 pm on Sunday.

01 40 05 80 00

[cite-sciences.fr](http://cite-sciences.fr)

#### Admission rates

Full rate: €12 – reduced rate: €9 (over 65s, teachers,  
under 25s, large families and students).

Tickets include admission to the Argonaute  
and Planétarium.

→ Free for the under 2s, jobseekers and recipients  
of minimum social benefits, the disabled and  
their carers.

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