



# **Wiener - Anspach Foundation Activity Report 2012**



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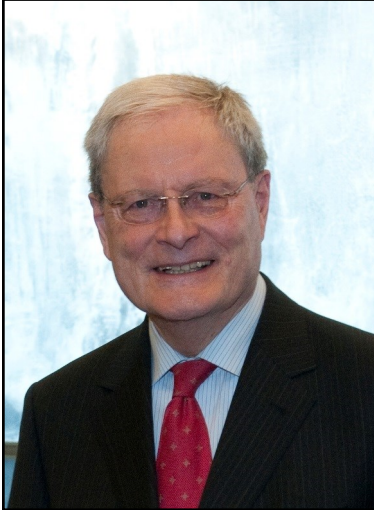
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# Message from the President



Jean-Victor Louis

President of the Wiener - Anspach Foundation

The activity report testifies that the Foundation, which will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015, has once again fulfilled its assigned objective to an extent that its founders could not have imagined. The Foundation has indeed continued to efficiently promote the collaboration between, on the one hand, the Université libre de Bruxelles, and on the other, the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford. Since four years now the Foundation operates in the framework of bilateral partnership agreements concluded by the ULB with the two British Universities.

Through its scholarships, fellowships and joint research programmes in a broad spectrum of disciplines, the Foundation is happy to offer to graduates and academics, on both sides of the Channel, an opportunity to specialise and to share common research objectives.

The Foundation is now well-known in most departments of the Universities concerned. The recent development of a bilingual website and the presence of the Foundation on social networks will contribute to better inform about its activities and to attract applications to its various programmes.

More than ever, the Foundation is convinced of its usefulness and it is happy to observe that the importance of its action is widely recognised.

# The Foundation

Since 1965, the Wiener - Anspach Foundation has been promoting scientific collaborations, in every field, between the Université libre de Bruxelles and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The synergies between these universities have grown over the years through mutual esteem and respect. These collaborations were recently strengthened through the signature of memorandums of understanding between the three academic institutions.

The Foundation enables graduates and researchers from the ULB to access the leading research centres of the two British universities. It also gives graduates and researchers from Oxbridge the opportunity to work at the ULB. In order to promote the interactions between these three universities, the Foundation organises conferences and encourages contacts between academics by funding short-term visits. It also supports collaborative research projects.



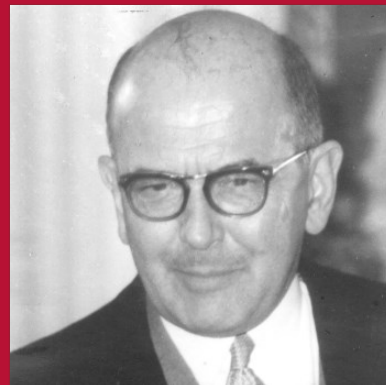
**Phyllis Agnès Beddington**

was born on July 12, 1903 and died on October 21, 1972. To honour the memory of her husband, Philippe Wiener, she established the Foundation in 1965. Two years later, after the death of Wiener's close friend, Maurice Anspach, who had taken care of her family during the war and administered her fortune, she modified the Foundation's statutes to add his name to her husband's.



**Philippe Wiener**

was born on November 30, 1904 in Brussels, where he worked as a stockbroker. In 1928 he married Phyllis Beddington. He was arrested by the German occupying forces on April 15, 1942 and charged with helping the enemy by transferring people out of occupied Europe. He was deported to Esterwegen, where he died on March 26, 1944 as a result of mistreatments.



**Maurice Anspach**

was Doctor of Law and a professor at the ULB. He was born on February 8, 1906 and became friends with Philippe Wiener in the 1930s. Following Wiener's arrest, he looked after his father, Charles Wiener, until his death. After the war, Mrs Beddington asked him to continue administering her finances in Belgium, which he did until his death in November 1967.



## Board of Trustees

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The Board of Trustees wishes to express its warmest thanks to Baron Alain Philippson, who served the Foundation from 1976 until 2012 and actively encouraged its development.

The Board is happy to welcome two new members, Professors Benoît Daenen and Jean-Louis Migeot.

## Scientific Board

Professor Catheline Périer-d'Ieteren	President Faculty of Arts and Humanities, ULB
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Professor Philippa Watson	City Law School, City University, London

# Scholarships and grants

In line with its objectives, the Foundation promotes the development of academic activities between the ULB and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge by awarding scholarships and grants. Applications are examined by the Scientific Board.

Specifically, the Foundation awards:

- Scholarships to graduates from the ULB wishing to pursue their studies at the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge.
- Scholarships to PhD students from the ULB wishing to spend one year at the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge as part of their PhD studies, or vice versa.
- One-year research grants, renewable under certain conditions, to postdoctoral researchers from the ULB to work at the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge.
- Two-year research grants to postdoctoral researchers from Oxbridge to come pursue their research at the ULB.

Information about eligibility requirements and application conditions is available on the Foundation's website.

## Breakdown by academic destination



2012/2013 Academic Year

- Postgraduate fellowships for Oxford
- Postgraduate fellowships for Cambridge
- Postgraduate fellowships for the ULB
- Postdoctoral grants for Oxford
- Postdoctoral grants for Cambridge
- Postdoctoral grants for the ULB





Fellows' meeting, Brussels, 12 September 2012





# 2012/2013 Scholars

## Postgraduate fellowships for Oxford



**MATHIAS LAMBERTY**

MA in Law (ULB)

MJur at Oxford University



**FRANÇOIS LAPERCHE**

MA in Sociology (ULB)

MPhil in Medical Anthropology at Oxford University (second year)



**VICTORIA VAN LENNEP**

MA in Economics (ULB)

MSc in Nature, Society and Environmental Policy at Oxford University

## Postgraduate fellowships for Cambridge



**NATHALIE LEYNS**

MA in Law (ULB)

Master of Law at Cambridge University



**KIMBERLEY WATT**

MA in Art History and Archaeology (ULB)

MPhil in Egyptology at Cambridge University



**NICOLAS ZAKS**

MA in Philosophy (ULB)  
FNRS Research Fellow

MPhil in Classics at Cambridge University

## Postgraduate research grants for Oxford



### CHRISTOPHE SNOECK

Master in Engineering Science, Chemistry and Materials Science (ULB)  
MSc in Archaeological Science (Oxon)

Second year of research on his doctoral thesis, entitled "*Cremated Bone: What Is Hidden within Its Isotopic Content*", under the supervision of Dr Rick Schulting at the School of Archaeology, University of Oxford.



### ROMAIN WEIKMANS

Master in Environmental Sciences and Management (ULB)

Research on his doctoral thesis, entitled "*Vulnerability to Climate Change: Beyond the Techno-economic Approach*", under the supervision of Dr Pam Berry at the Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford.

## Postgraduate research grants for the ULB



### HUBERTUS JUERGENLIEMK

Doctoral Student in Political Sciences at Cambridge University

Research on his thesis, entitled "*Institutionalising EU Security Policy-Making: Civilian Crisis Management in Kosovo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo*", under the supervision of Prof. Barbara Delcourt at the Institute for European Studies, ULB.



### UMBERTO MARENGO

Doctoral Student in European Politics at Cambridge University

Research on his thesis, entitled "*Europe as a 'Normative Power' through Commercial Negotiations and the Formation of a Common Commercial Culture and Identity. The Persian Gulf as a Comparative Case Study in the Field of Energy Interdependence*", under the supervision of Prof. Mario Telò at the Institute for European Studies, ULB.



## Postdoctoral grants for Oxford



**ALEJANDRA ALARCON HENRIQUEZ**

PhD in Psychological Sciences (ULB)

Second year of research on "*Intergroup Conflict and Reconciliation*" under the supervision of Prof. Miles Hewstone at the Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford.



**NICOLAS SCHROEDER**

PhD in History (ULB)

Research project on "*Society, Economy and Environment between the Ardennes and the Famenne (3rd – 14th Century)*", under the supervision of Prof. Christopher Wickham at the Faculty of History, University of Oxford.

## Postdoctoral grants for Cambridge



**THOMAS GERARD**

PhD in Chemistry (ULB)

Second year of research on "*Carbon Mitigation: A Contemporary Ecological and Scientific Challenge - Study of the Interactions between Fluid Flows and Dissolution Processes*", under the supervision of Prof. Andy Woods at the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge.



**STEFAN GOLTZBERG**

PhD in Philosophy (ULB)

Research on "*Two-dimensional Theory of Argumentation: Study of Neglected Arguments and Epistemology of Evaluative Concepts*", under the supervision of Prof. Geoffrey Khan at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge.



**VAIOS KOUTROULIS**

PhD in Law (ULB)

Research on "*The Qualification of Armed Conflicts by Domestic Courts in view of Applying International Humanitarian Law*", under the supervision of Prof. James Crawford at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge.

**LAURENT LEGRAIN**

PhD in Anthropology (ULB)

Research project on *"Songs, Hospitality and Tone. The Affective and Emotional Side of Social Networks in Rural Mongolia"*, under the supervision of Prof. Caroline Humphrey at the Mongol and Inner Asia Studies Unit of the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge.

**CAROLINE LONEY**

PhD in Agronomy and Biological Engineering (ULB)

Second year of research on the topic *"Study of Interaction between Cationic Lipids and Lipopolysaccharide Receptors"*, under the supervision of Dr Clare Bryant at the Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge.

**CLEMENCE MATHIEU**

PhD in Art History and Archaeology (ULB)

Research project on *"Cultures of Exchange. The Architecture of the Low Countries and Southern England in the 16th Century"*, under the supervision of Prof. Deborah Howard at the Department of Architecture, University of Cambridge.

**EMMANUELLE RAGA**

PhD in History (ULB)

Research on the topic *"Food and Clothing as Tool of Distinction in the 'Successor' Kingdoms, 5th - 8th Centuries CE"*, under the supervision of Prof. Rosamond McKitterick at the Faculty of History, University of Cambridge.

## Postdoctoral grants for the ULB

**MARCO DI NUNZIO**

PhD in Anthropology (Oxon)

Research project entitled *"Récit de la ville inégale. Contrôle politique et inégalité sociale à Addis-Abeba"*, under the supervision of Prof. Mathieu Hilgers at the Laboratoire d'Anthropologie des Mondes Contemporains, ULB.

**THOMAS WILLIAMS**

PhD in History (Oxon)

Second year of research on the topic *"Voir l'Europe occupée: le tourisme des soldats de la Wehrmacht pendant la Deuxième Guerre mondiale"*, under the supervision of Prof. Pieter Lagrou at the History Section of the Institute for European Studies, ULB.

# Research Projects

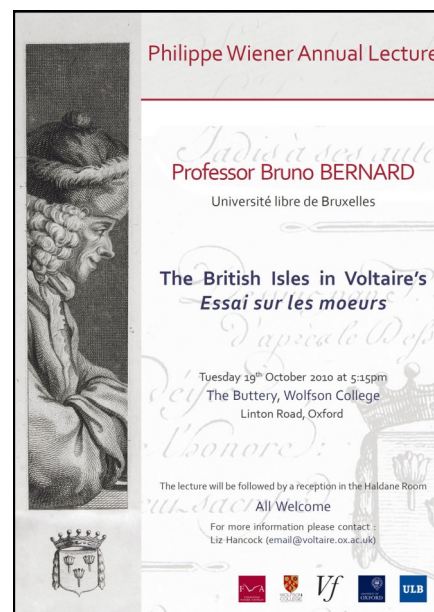
The Foundation supports two-year collaborative research projects in any field between the ULB and the Universities of Cambridge and/or Oxford.

## The Voltaire Project (2010-2012)

The *Essai sur les mœurs et l'esprit des nations* is one of Voltaire's most important works in history. Encompassing Europe from the 9<sup>th</sup> until the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the rest of the world since the Antiquity, this definitive edition of the *Essai* will contain 8 volumes (vol. 21 to vol. 27B, 600 pages each) in the *Oeuvres Complètes de Voltaire* collection published by the Voltaire Foundation.

The grant of the Wiener - Anspach Foundation has been used to fund some of the costs of the researches for three volumes (vol. 22 in 2010, vol. 23 in 2011, vol. 24 in 2012) as well as for the publication of volume 65a and the promotion of the project in Oxford (Bruno Bernard's conference at Wolfson College in October 2010) and Brussels (Bruno Bernard, Janet Godden and John Renwick's conferences at the Collège Belgique, Palais des Académies, in October 2012).

Three stays, funded by the Foundation, have been made in Oxford by Bruno Bernard in order to work in the Voltaire Room of the Taylor Institution's Library. In May 2011 Nicholas Cronk has stayed a few days in Brussels and read a paper on the project at a meeting of the Ecole Doctorale d'Histoire hosted by the ULB.



### ULB Promoter: Bruno Bernard

#### Groupe d'étude du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle



The Groupe d'étude was founded in 1973 by Roland Mortier and Hervé Hasquin as an interdisciplinary research unit in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the ULB. Its twenty-five scholars are now directed by Valérie André and Brigitte D'Hainaut. The Groupe d'étude is part of the research centre Histoire, Cultures et Sociétés (SOCIAMM). Since 1974, it has published 52 volumes in the series *Etudes sur le XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle*.

### Oxford Promoter: Nicholas Cronk

#### The Voltaire Foundation



The Voltaire Foundation is a research department of the University of Oxford. It publishes the definitive edition of the *Complete Works of Voltaire* (over 150 books since 1968) as well as the *Studies on Voltaire and the eighteenth century* (over 500 books since 1955) and the correspondences of several key French thinkers of the Enlightenment. Directed by Professor Nicholas Cronk, it employs on a permanent basis several scholars from England and abroad.



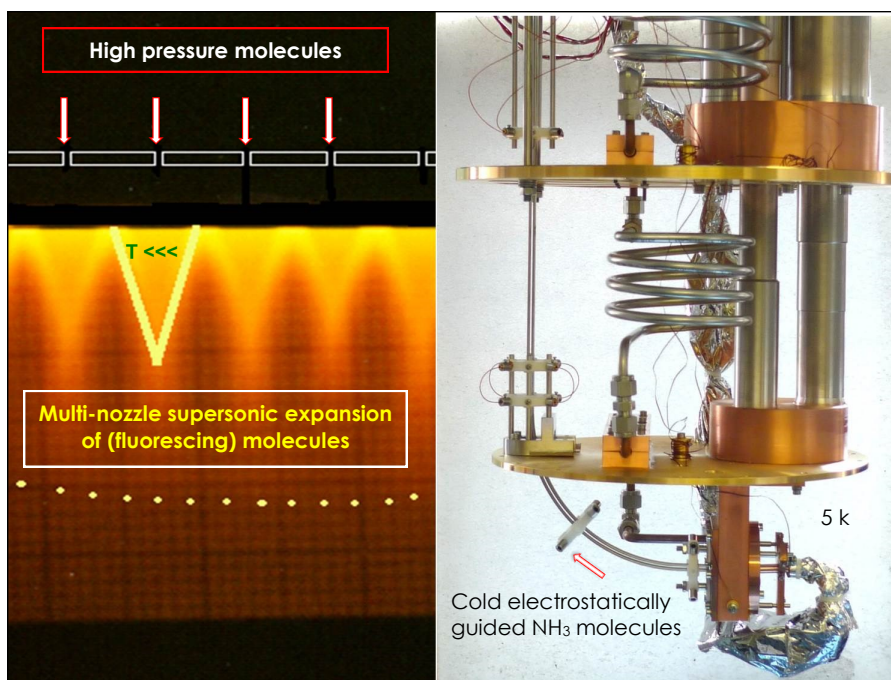
# Ammonia Collision Mechanisms - ACME (2012-2014)

**A**CME addresses fundamental questions in the fields of ultracold chemistry and chemical bonding. It faces challenges in astro and atmospheric chemistry.

We shall draw together the study of the ammonia dimer ( $\text{NH}_3$ )<sub>2</sub> and the study of low-energy collisions of two ammonia molecules  $\text{NH}_3 + \text{NH}_3$ , as well as of  $\text{NH}_3$ -rare gas van der Waals complexes. Complementary, sophisticated spectroscopic measurements will be made in the two laboratories, which can be related to common potential energy surfaces. They will be merged together in Brussels using computer codes applying time-dependent quantum theory.

The ULB computer codes will also help other results from Oxford to be interpreted, thus addressing different species. Transfer of technology know-how will be active, in both directions.

Three joint workshops will be organized.



Photograph of a supersonic expansion as will be used for the ACME project. The shape is highlighted using fluorescing molecules in the cold zone.

ULB Promoters: Michel Herman & Nathalie Vaeck

Service de Chimie quantique et Photophysique



Michel Herman and his team implemented high-resolution infrared spectroscopy at ULB. Particular attention was focused on experimental and theoretical problems related to overtone vibrational excitation in isolated and van der Waals species. State-of-the-art instrumental developments included high-resolution FTIR and ultra-

-sensitive laser cavity-enhanced and ring down spectroscopies coupled with jet cooling supersonic expansions.

Nathalie Vaeck and her team have developed, together with the LCP of the Université de Paris 11, a molecular non-adiabatic wave packet dynamics package for the calculation of collision or photodissociation cross sections.

All dynamical predictions are based on accurate molecular structure calculations of adiabatic and diabatic potential surfaces for which the most high-performance post-Hartree-Fock and DFT packages are used.



Oxford Promoter: Tim Softley

Softley Research Group

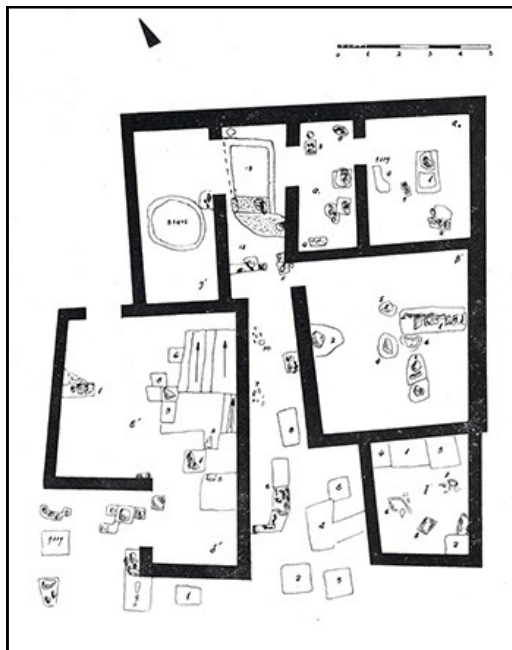


Located in the Chemistry Research Lab, the 15-member Oxford group, comprising researchers from seven countries, has developed novel approaches to studying collisions of molecules and ions at very low temperatures. Techniques used include Stark and Zeeman deceleration, laser cooling, threshold-energy photolysis, electrostatic velocity filtering and cryogenic cooling. They aim to unravel chemical mechanisms in this novel physical regime near absolute zero.

# Beyond the polis. Ritual Practices and the Construction of Social Identity in Early Greece (2012-2014)

The Greek polis, as a political and territorial entity, is a remarkable social organisation that emerged in the Greek world after the collapse of the Mycenaean palace system and the "transition" period that followed. Because of its very distinctive character within the ancient world, the city-state dominates the study of Greek history. As a result, earlier literature often links the polis with communal rites and feasting in sacred or public spaces. Scholars consider that these activities were a means to enhance the territory or group cohesion.

Previous scholarship has discussed cult and burial practices for periods earlier than the formation of the polis, but we have need of an up-to-date study of collective ceremonies from the Post Palatial period (ca 12<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> c. BC) to the Archaic period (6<sup>th</sup> c. BC). Recent archaeological discoveries and their interpretations therefore reveal complex communal practices that must be examined within a wider



The "Sacred House" at the Academy of Plato in Athens

Visit the website of the project:  
[crea.ulb.ac.be/Polis.html](http://crea.ulb.ac.be/Polis.html)

social context and, more importantly, beyond the structure of the Greek polis.

The project aims to study distinctive collective rituals which already occur in the Early Iron Age, and which extend into the Archaic period. Four significant study cases have been taken as a starting point : Lefkandi in Euboea, the Sacred House in the Academy of Athens, the EIA Amyklaion in Sparta and the Archaic Building Complex in Itanos in Crete. The project will address several important issues that can also be applied to other sites which display similar features and are located over a wide span of geographical areas. The final aim of the program will be to describe the variety of social structures that gave rise to such activities and to discuss the much debated issue about continuity in patterns of collective behavior from the Bronze Age to the rise of the polis, at least in certain distinctive areas of the Greek world.

## ULB Promoter: Athéna Tsingarida

### CReA-Patrimoine

The CReA-Patrimoine is a leading research centre of the Université libre de Bruxelles, promoting national and international programs on archaeology and cultural heritage. It constitutes the privileged partner between the university and the public authorities in charge of cultural heritage.



Athéna Tsingarida, a specialist of Archaic and Classical Greece, teaches Ancient Greek Archaeology and Art at the ULB. Her research mainly lies in the fields of Ancient Greek Pottery and Reception of Classical Art. Also a field archaeologist, she undertook excavations and field study in Greece (Siphnos and Crete) and Syria (Apamea). She is currently co-directing (with Didier Viviers) the excavations and restoration works at Itanos (Eastern Crete).

## Oxford Promoter: Irene Lemos

### Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies

The Stelios Ioannou School for Research in Classical and Byzantine Studies plays a central role in these studies at the University of Oxford. The University hosts an incomparable breadth and depth of Classical and Byzantine research, encompassing ancient philosophy, languages, literature, drama, art, history and archaeology across the millennia.



Irene S. Lemos is a specialist in Late Bronze and Early Iron Age Greece. She is the director of the excavations at Lefkandi (Euboea), is in charge of the publication of the Iron Age cemetery in Toumba, and has led the excavations on Xeropolis since 2003. Her other interests include state formation in Early Greece from the Late Helladic IIIC to the Archaic period and the exchange patterns in the Mediterranean world.



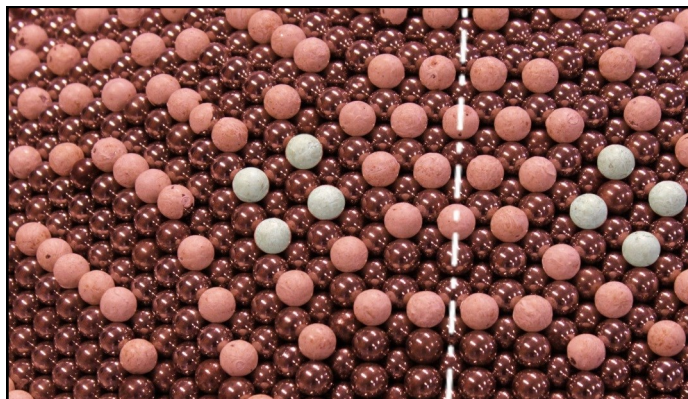
# Experimental and Theoretical Studies of Chiral Adsorption over Metallic Surfaces (2012-2014)

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If a cube, a sphere or a parallelepiped have a high degree of symmetry, there are more complex objects whose mirror image is not superimposable to the object itself. A hand falls in this category and the Greek root of the word "hand" gives its name to that feature: chirality.

Chirality is found at the molecular level and chiral molecules constitute the majority of organic compounds. DNA, amino acids, sugars are some but a few examples. The goal of this project is to identify interactions occurring between metal surfaces and chiral molecules. At the atomic level, metallic surfaces can be prepared so as to get regular atomic arrangements that also exhibit chirality. By a mechanism that could be called "lock and key", it is advanced that specific combinations of molecules and surfaces lead to exploitable features.

Considering the diversity of molecules and surfaces, such studies require complementary approaches. The team of Chemical Physics of Materials of the ULB possesses microscopes with atomic resolution for the simultaneous observation of a large number of surface atomic arrangements, making it possible to screen a number of molecule-surface combinations and to identify the most promising ones. The Surface Science Group of University of



Ball model depicting the structure of a hemispherical nanosized metallic crystallite of ~15 nanometer diameter. Each ball represents one single atom. The dashed line indicates one of the mirror symmetries of the crystal.

Cambridge has a recognized expertise in the experimental and theoretical methodologies required to precisely characterize the position of a chosen molecule over a well-defined surface along with the energies involved in these complex interactions.

## ULB Promoter: Thierry Visart de Bocarmé

The Chemical Physics of Materials Group



The research in the group is focused on the chemical physics at materials surfaces with an emphasis on heterogeneous catalysts. A strategy "from the bottom to the top and vice versa" is followed to cover aspects of knowledge oriented towards basic as well as applied research. Fundamental and applied methodologies for catalysis issues are used in a complementary

way to respectively provide information at the atomic scale and at the macroscopic level.

## Cambridge Promoter: Stephen John Jenkins

The Surface Science Group



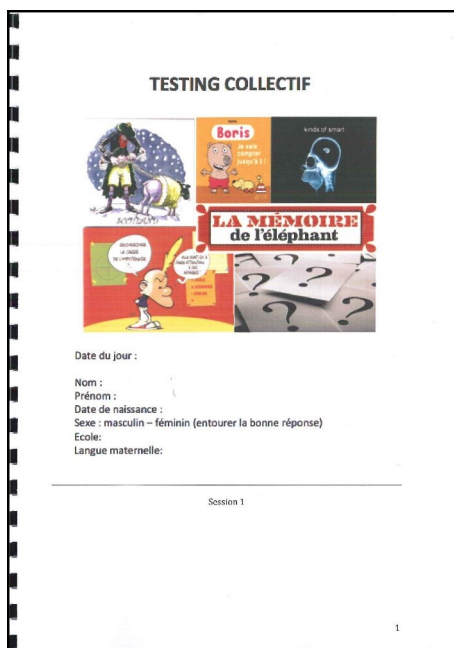
The group conducts research into fundamental properties and processes associated with crystalline surfaces. Emphasis is put on surfaces that are reactive, either because they readily induce chemical reactions in the adsorbed molecules and atoms; or because they themselves react when subjected to external stimuli.

In recent years, the group has become particularly interested in complex interadsorbate interactions, nanoscale surface phenomena, chiral surface systems, and the tuning of reactivity and catalysis.

# The Influence of Language on Numerical and Arithmetic Development. An Intervention Study (2012-2014)

Human mathematics is the fascinating product of thousands of years of cultural evolution and it is more important than ever in today's technologically advanced societies. Still, a considerable proportion of children have mathematical learning disabilities. Taking an Educational Neuroscience approach, our project aims at a better understanding of the relationships between language development and numerical abilities. Indeed, recent data showed that children with specific language impairment develop difficulties in arithmetic.

Our project is to investigate the links between knowledge of the counting sequence, counting skills, memory for elementary arithmetic facts, and language skills in children who are not language impaired. Our hypothesis is that language delays can lead to



Cover of the assessment books

arithmetic impairments through a causal chain of difficulties: delay in the acquisition of the counting sequence, which could affect the acquisition of counting, then impacting on the ability to store arithmetic facts and the ability to make exact calculations. We have already assessed language and numerical skills in 188 second graders. Among them, we will identify a small group of children with low language skills. Part of these low skilled children will receive a specific training aiming at enhancing arithmetic skills.

Improved knowledge about the relation between language and numerical skills will enable us to prevent and/or remediate cognitive and emotional mathematical learning problems. This will ultimately improve the level of mathematical competence in the whole of the population.

## ULB Promoters: A. Content and J. Leybaert

### Laboratoire Cognition, Langage & Développement



The Laboratoire Cognition, Langage & Développement (LCLD) is headed by Dr Content, and is part of the Research Centre in Cognition and Neuroscience at the Faculty of Psychology and Education (ULB).

The LCLD shares 8 experimental rooms, two eyelink systems for eye-movement recordings, and a EEG/EMG equipped room (65 channels).

The group has a long tradition of empirical research in cognitive/psycholinguistic/educational psychology both with typically-developing children and in special populations, including the development of diagnostic test batteries. The two promoters are active researchers in the field of numerical cognition.



## Cambridge Promoter: Dénes Szűcs

### Numerical Cognition Laboratory

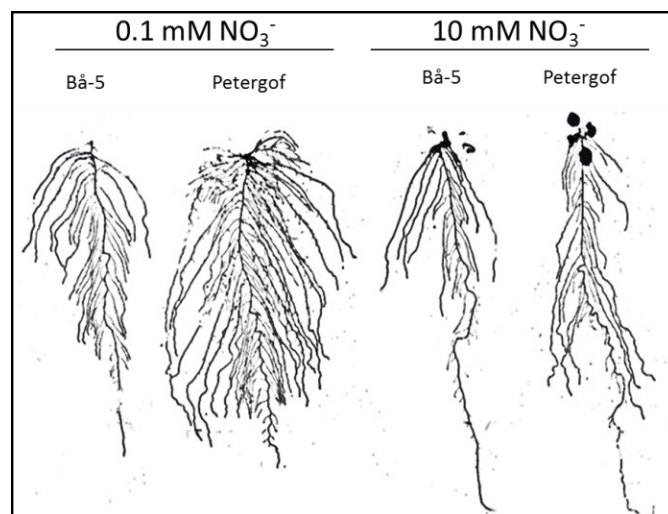


The Numerical Cognition Laboratory (NCL), headed by Dr Szűcs, is part of the Centre for Neuroscience in Education (CNE). The CNE has four in house EEG systems, a 52 channel near infrared system, an electro-myography system and a 1000 Hz time resolution Eyelink system, two sound attenuated electronically shielded testing rooms and an eye tracking and behavioural laboratory. All

facilities are child friendly. Dr Szűcs currently has four PhD students and he supervises the work of three postdoctoral researchers. The research group is currently running behavioural, electro-encephalography and magnetic resonance imaging experiments on numerical cognition in 9-11 year-old children.

# Nitrate-related Root Architecture in the Model Species *Arabidopsis thaliana* (2012-2014)

Nitrogen (N) is the quantitatively most important nutrient required by crops, however a considerable fraction of N fertilizer gets lost as runoffs with detrimental consequences to the environment. Faced with those pressing societal costs, innovation has to make a step change to improve nitrogen use efficiency of plants. While the root organ is largely out of sight, we aim at modifying root architecture (more branched system) to take up N sources in the soil more efficiently. The goal of our research is to first identify the genetic determinism that regulate N-related root morphology in a model species (*Arabidopsis*), then to use that information in a parent crop (oilseed rape) for redesigning its root architecture. In this project, naturally occurring genetic variability is studied in a diversity panel of 360 *Arabidopsis* populations collected around the world. The ULB partner is carrying a genome-wide association mapping strategy, in order to identify key genes that determine root morphology in response to nitrate supply. The Cambridge partner is providing a combination of unique genetic and microscopy techniques in concert with advanced 3D computer visualization methods for characterizing the role played by those identified genes in shaping root architecture. Two seminars and short stay visits by the principal investigators in each other institutions and the training of J. De Pessemier (FRIA PhD Student) for 3 months in Cambridge are foreseen during the two years project.



*Petergof* (Russia) accession develops a denser root system and therefore a greater surface area for the acquisition of nutrients than *Bå-5* (Sweden) accession.

## ULB Promoter: Christian Hermans

### Plant Physiology and Molecular Genetics



Christian Hermans is a bioengineer and a research associate from F.R.S-FNRS. Apart from the influence of nitrogen on root development, his research interest is also on the mechanisms of magnesium uptake and storage in plants. That research area could have significant implications for offering humans improved mineral sources (biofortification)

to help overcome malnutrition. The Laboratory of Plant Physiology and Molecular Genetics is chiefly studying plant adaptation to extreme metallic environments.

## Cambridge Promoter: Jim Haseloff

### Department of Plant Sciences



Jim Haseloff is a plant biologist. His laboratory is focused on the engineering of plant morphogenesis (development and differentiation of the plant structures and form) using microscopy, molecular genetics, computational and synthetic biology techniques in simple plant systems, like *Arabidopsis thaliana* or the lower plant *Marchantia polymorpha*. Advanced imaging techniques allow the visualisation of plant microarchitecture, and the cellular interactions that underlie plant morphogenesis.



# The 2012 Ganshof van der Meersch Chair



**Avi Shlaïm**

Emeritus Professor of International Relations  
University of Oxford

In 2012 the Chair Ganshof van der Meersch was held by Avi Shlaïm on the recommendation of Dr Jihane Sfeir, from the History Section of the Institute for European Studies, ULB.

Avi Shlaïm is Emeritus Professor of International Relations at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of the British Academy. He is based at the Middle East Centre at St Antony's College.

His main publications are *Collusion across the Jordan: King Abdullah, the Zionist Movement, and the Partition of Palestine* (1988); *War and Peace in the Middle East: A Concise History* (1995); *The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World* (2000); *Lion of Jordan: King Hussein's Life in War and Peace* (2007); and *Israel and Palestine: Reappraisals, Revisions, Refutations* (2009). He is co-editor of *The Cold War and the Middle East* (1997) and *The War for Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948* (2001, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2007).

Professor Shlaïm is a frequent contributor to various newspapers and a radio and television commentator on Middle Eastern affairs.

The chair was established in 1995 in memory of Walter J. Ganshof van der Meersch, founder and president of the Institute for European Studies, Professor of Public Law at the ULB, Attorney General at the Belgian Court of Cassation and vice-president of the European Court of Human Rights. Mr Ganshof van der Meersch, who understood from the very beginning the potential of the Foundation, was its second President after the death of its founder, Mrs Beddington.

The chair is held by a visiting professor from Oxford or Cambridge. The course must focus on the economic, political or legal aspects of European integration or on public law.

## "Europe and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict"

12 March 2012 Opening Lecture

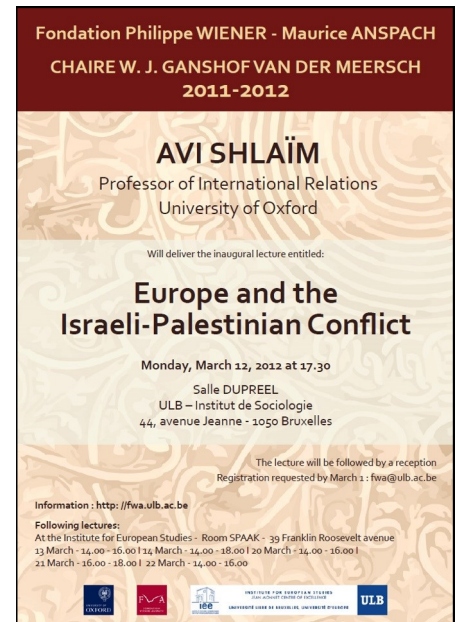
13 March 2012 Reflections on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

14 March 2012 Israel: The Strategy of the Iron Wall Revisited

20 March 2012 Israel Confronts its Past: The 'new historians' and their critics

21 March 2012 Film: 'American Radical: The Trials of Norman Finkelstein'

22 March 2012 Israel, America and the Arab-Israeli conflict





# The 2012 Philippe Wiener Lectures

Established in 2007, the Philippe Wiener Lectures are delivered at the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford by academics and researchers from the ULB, and vice versa.

Three Philippe Wiener Lectures were held in 2012.

## University of Cambridge, Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Didier Viviers, Professor of Ancient Greek History, Rector of the ULB

"Mind the gap! New archaeological evidence from Itanos about funerary practices in Ancient Crete"

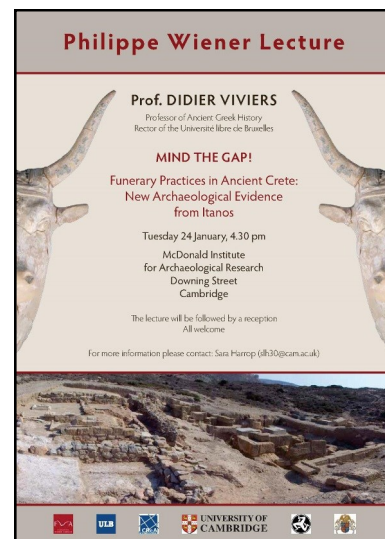


Professor Didier Viviers is Rector of the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) since December 2010. He also presides the board of the Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research (FRS-FNRS) and is Vice-President of the Francophone Rectors' Conference.

Didier Viviers is Member of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Letters and Fine Arts of Belgium. As a historian and archaeologist of the Ancient Greek World, he teaches Ancient Greek History and Archaeology at the ULB and supervises doctoral candidates in Belgium and abroad. He was previously Director of the Centre of Archaeological Research (CReA-Patrimoine) and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University.

Member of several Belgian and international scientific committees, Didier Viviers takes frequently part in assessments of scientific projects and institutions.

He was welcomed in Cambridge by Professor Graeme Barker, Director of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, and Professor Martin Millet, Laurence Professor of Classical Archaeology.



Université libre de Bruxelles, Wednesday, March 14, 2012

## Hermione Lee, President of Wolfson College, University of Oxford "From Memory: Literary Encounters and Life Stories"

Professor Hermione Lee is the President of Wolfson College, University of Oxford, and a Fellow of the British Academy. A teacher and a critic, she is a leading expert on biography. Her books include a major biography of *Virginia Woolf* (1996), the collection of essays *Body Parts: Essays on Life-Writing* (2005), and a biography of *Edith Wharton* (2007). Her most recent publication is an Oxford University Press "Very Short Introduction" on *Biography*.

Professor Lee has also been involved in the media, having reviewed regularly for *The Guardian* and having presented "Book Four", Channel Four TV's first literary programme.

She gave the 2012 Leslie Stephen Lecture at the University of Cambridge and is currently working on a biography of Penelope Fitzgerald, to be released in December 2013.

Professor Lee was welcomed at the ULB by Professors Marc Maufort and Franca Bellarsi, from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.





Université libre de Bruxelles, Friday, November 9, 2012

## Nicky Clayton, Professor of Comparative Cognition, Cambridge University "Food for thought: The Development and Evolution of Mental Time Travel"



Nicky Clayton is Professor of Comparative Cognition at Cambridge University and a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Her expertise as a scientist lies in the contemporary study of how animals and children think. This work has led to a re-evaluation of the cognitive capacities of animals, particularly birds, and resulted in a theory that intelligence evolved independently in at least two distantly related groups, the apes and the crows. She has also pioneered new procedures for the experimental study of memory and imagination in animals, investigating its relationship to human memory and consciousness, and how and when these abilities develop in young children.

In addition to scientific research and teaching, she is a dancer, specializing in tango and salsa. She is also Scientist in Residence at the Rambert Dance Company, collaborating with Mark Baldwin, the Artistic Director, on new choreographic works inspired by science (*Comedy of Change*, 2009; *Seven For A Secret, Never To Be Told*, 2011; *What Wild Ecstasy*, 2012).

Professor Clayton was welcomed at the ULB by Professor Axel Cleeremans from the Center for Research in Cognition & Neurosciences.



# Ganshof van der Meersch Prize

Established in 1994, the Ganshof van der Meersch Prize rewards a student from the Faculty of Law and Criminology of the ULB who achieved academic excellence in the study of public law and who obtained a Master's degree in this field with at least a "Grande Distinction" (*magna cum laude*).



In 2012 the prize was awarded to Caroline Van Gansbeke.

## Other funded initiatives

Academics and researchers from the ULB, Oxford and Cambridge who wish to conduct research for a limited period of time or participate in conferences organized by one of these universities can apply for funding.

### 2012 Recipients

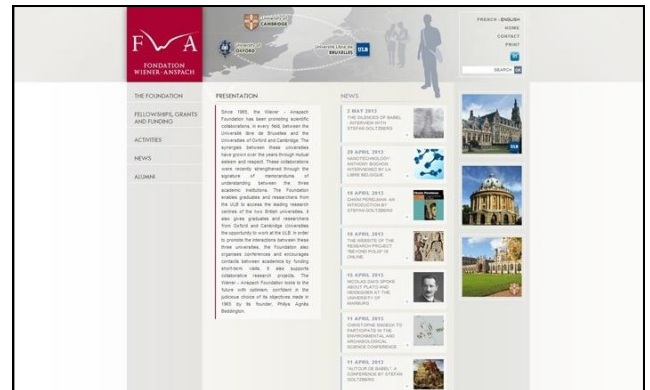
- Professor Bryan Ward-Perkins (Fellow in History and Lecturer in the History Faculty Oxford University) participated in the international symposium "Religious Practices and Christianization of the Late Antique City", held at the ULB on January 19-21, 2012. He was welcomed by Dr Aude Busine.
- Professor Marco Becht (Solvay Brussels School) spent one month at Oxford University, where he gave a seminar at the Faculty of Law ("Why Bank Governance is Different", February 16, 2012) and started working on a research project on corporate acquisitions with Mr Andrea Polo (Saïd Business School).
- In the framework of her PhD project at Oxford University, Ms Anne-Sofie Diener spent one month on the ULB's excavation site in Itanos, Greece, under the supervision of Professor Athéna Tsingarida (July 2012).
- Dr Bruno Perreau (Newton International Fellow, Cambridge University) gave a seminar entitled "Penser l'adoption" at the ULB (October 24, 2012). He was welcomed by Dr David Paternotte.
- In the framework of her PhD project in Private International Law at the ULB, Ms Silvia Pfeiff spent six weeks at Queen's College (Cambridge University). She was welcomed by Professor Richard Fentiman (November 2012).
- Professor Martin Seeleib-Kaiser (Head of the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, Oxford University) participated in the international workshop "Quo Vadis, Social Europe? The internal market and socio-economic issues in times of crisis", held at the ULB on December 6-7, 2012. He was welcomed by Dr Amandine Crespy.

# Communication

In 2012 the Foundation stepped up its communication strategy by welcoming an Alumni and Communications Officer. The Foundation's website is now regularly updated with news about our events and the activities of our Fellows and Alumni. It is also - finally! - available in English.

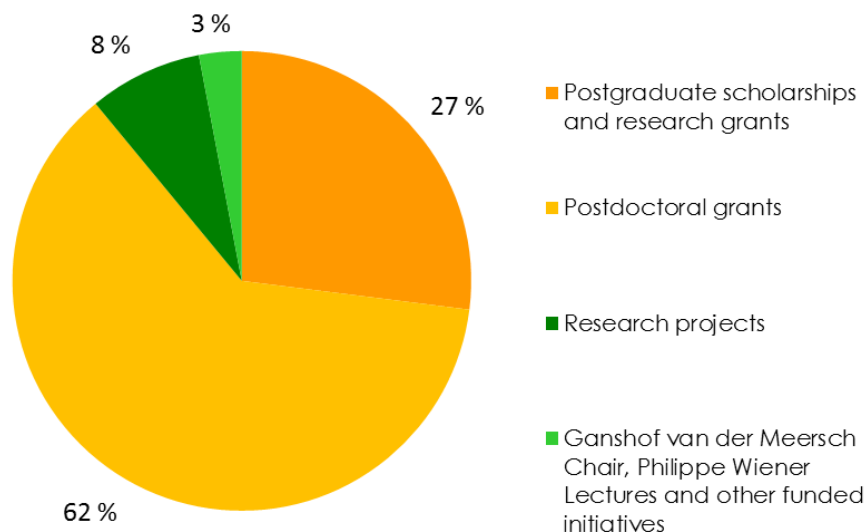


The Foundation is on LinkedIn, with a network of over 150 connections and a growing Alumni Group.



The Foundation also developed new communication material (card, flyer, fellows' vademecum).

## Breakdown of expenses





## **The year in numbers**

10 postgraduate fellowships

11 postdoctoral grants

6 research projects

1 Ganshof van der Meersch Chair

3 Philippe Wiener Lectures

7 other funded initiatives



Information about scholarships and grants:

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Alumni and communications officer:

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