

# The Wiener-Anspach Foundation Activity Report

2014



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# Message from the President



Pierre Francotte  
President of the Wiener-Anspach Foundation

In 2014, for the first time in its history, the Foundation's funding of scholarships, grants and research projects exceeded the €1 million mark. The main driver has been the ambitious new initiative taken in 2012 to support collaborative research projects between the Université libre de Bruxelles and the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, alongside our traditional funding of scholarships and grants for individual students.

These inter-university research projects have proven to be a great success. The support by the Foundation has grown quickly in importance and has already become one of the pillars of our activities. It has made it possible to expand substantially the collaboration between the ULB and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge and has allowed the research teams to deepen and accelerate their work.

The Foundation has continued in parallel to help graduate students as well as doctoral and post-doctoral researchers to further their education and research across the Channel through awards of full scholarships and grants. Requests submitted to the Foundation have continued to grow not only in number, but also in quality. At the same time, the proportion of the students from Oxbridge coming to Brussels has been steadily increasing, mirroring the deepening of the collaboration between the universities.

This collaboration was formalised when the ULB concluded its first Memorandum of Understanding with the University

of Oxford in 2008, followed shortly thereafter by a similar framework agreement with the University of Cambridge. These agreements proved successful in fostering collaboration between the universities' academic and research staff and the MoU with Oxford University was thus renewed in 2014. The Foundation was closely associated with this renewal, which is a sign of the role it has played in bolstering this inter-university collaboration. The MoU with Cambridge was similarly renewed at the end of 2014.

The Foundation also set the stage in 2014 to develop in coming years its relationship with its 500 or so Alumni. Their professional success, ranging from the fields of academia to the public or private sector, may owe a little bit to the Foundation's early support and they are our best ambassadors. We will seek to tighten the links between them and the Foundation and among themselves. And we hope that they will contribute to help the new generations of Alumni launch a successful career of their own.

The Foundation was set up in 1965 and we will therefore celebrate the 50th anniversary of its creation in the course of 2015. We will bring together in Brussels for this jubilee the highest academic authorities of the three universities involved in the remarkable adventure that the Foundation represents, together with other eminent personalities. We intend to take this opportunity to put forward once again the compelling value that international academic and research cooperation holds for the future of our young generations.

# 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 Fondation Philippe Wiener-Maurice Anspach was established by Phyllis A. Beddington in 1965 to honour the memory of her husband, Philippe Wiener, who died during World War II at Esterwegen, where he was imprisoned as a political opponent.

After the death of Maurice Anspach, Philippe Wiener's close friend who had taken care of her family during the war, Mrs Beddington modified the Foundation's statutes to add his name to her husband's.

The Foundation:

- Enables graduates and researchers from the ULB to access the leading research centres of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and vice versa.
- Supports two-year collaborative research projects.
- Organises lectures and chairs.
- Encourages contacts between researchers and academics by funding short-term visits.



## Board of Directors - 2014

**Mr Pierre Francotte**

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**Professor Catheline Périer-d'Ieteren**

*Vice-President*

**Professor Kristin Bartik**

*Executive Director*

**Professor Didier Viviers**

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**Dr Michel Goldman**

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**Professor Jean-Louis Migeot**

**Professor Christina Redfield**

**Mr Jean-Jacques Rey**

**Professor Jean-Pierre Spreutels**

**Professor Philippa Watson**

**Mr Fernand Wiener**

The Board of Trustees wishes to express its warmest thanks to Mr Jean-Jacques Rey, who served the Foundation from 1984 until 2014.

The Board is happy to welcome two new members, Professors Christina Redfield (University of Oxford) and Graeme Barker (University of Cambridge).

## Scientific Committee - 2014

**Professor Catheline Périer-d'Ieteren**

*President (until June 2014)*

*Faculty of Arts and Humanities, ULB*

**Professor Luc Lemaire**

*President (since June 2014)*

*Faculty of Sciences, ULB*

**Professor Kristin Bartik**

*School of Engineering, ULB*

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**Professor Pierre Desmarez**

*Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, ULB*

**Professor Michèle Galand**

*Faculty of Arts and Humanities, ULB*

**Professor Muriel Moser**

*Faculty of Sciences, ULB Professor*

**Professor Isabelle Rorive**

*Faculty of Law and Criminology, ULB*

**Professor Philippa Watson**

*City Law School, City University, London*

The Scientific Committee wishes to express its warmest thanks to Professor Catheline Périer-d'Ieteren, who presided the Committee for many years and actively encouraged the development of the Foundation.

# Reaffirming the ties: the renewal of the Memoranda of Understanding

The close ties between the Université libre de Bruxelles and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge were reaffirmed in 2014 through the renewal of the Memoranda of Understanding signed in 2008 (ULB/Oxford) and 2009 (ULB/Cambridge). The ceremonies were each followed by a Philippe Wiener Lecture delivered in Brussels by Professor Fiona Powrie (University of Cambridge) and in Cambridge by Professor Pierre Vanderhaeghen (Université libre de Bruxelles).

## **Université libre de Bruxelles, February 25, 2014** Renewal for the ULB/Oxford Memorandum of Understanding



Professor Didier Viviers, Rector of the ULB, and Professor Andrew Hamilton, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

## **University of Cambridge, November 24, 2014** Renewal for the ULB/Cambridge Memorandum of Understanding



Left: Prof. Serge Schiffmann, Vice-Rector Research at the ULB, and Dr Jennifer Barnes, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for International Strategy. Right (from left to right, second row): Dr Ángel Gurúa, of the International Strategy Office, Prof. Christina Redfield, Professor at the University of Oxford and Trustee of the Foundation, Dr Peter Hedges, Head of the Research Office, Dr Karina Prasad, Head of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, Prof. Kristin Bartik, Executive Director of the Foundation, His Excellency Guy Trouveroy, Ambassador of Belgium to the United Kingdom, Mr Pierre Francotte, President of the Foundation, Dr Toby Wilkinson, Head of the International Strategy Office, Prof. Mikhail Kissine (ULB), Mr Anthony Dangerfield, Head of the International Student Team, and Dr Napoleon Katsos (University of Cambridge), promoter with Prof. Kissine of a collaborative research project supported by the Foundation.

A photograph of two women in the foreground, smiling and looking towards the right. The woman on the left has dark hair and is wearing a grey jacket and a yellow scarf. The woman on the right has dark hair, wears glasses, a patterned scarf, and a blue shirt. They are holding glasses, suggesting a social gathering. In the background, other people are visible, including a man in a blue shirt and a woman with blonde hair. The setting appears to be an indoor event with a bookshelf in the background.

# Our fellowship program



# Fellowships and grants

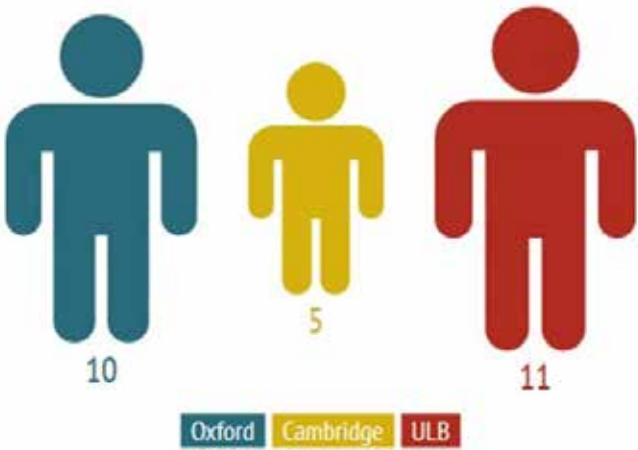
In line with its objectives, the Foundation promotes the development of academic activities between the ULB and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge by awarding fellowships to students and researchers. Applications are examined by the Scientific Board.

The Foundation awards:

- Postgraduate fellowships to ULB graduates to enrol in Oxford/Cambridge
- Doctoral fellowships to ULB doctoral students to undertake part of their research in Cambridge/Oxford and vice-versa.
- Postdoctoral grants to researchers who have obtained their PhD from the ULB to work in Oxford or Cambridge and to DPhil/PhD from Oxbridge to undertake research at the the ULB.

For the 2014/2015 academic year, the Foundation selected 26 Fellows.

## Breakdown by academic destination



### Postgraduate fellowships (10)



### Postdoctoral fellowships (16)



# 2014/2015 Fellows

## Postgraduate fellowships for Oxford



**MARIE DE WIT**  
Master in Archaeology  
and FNRS Research  
Fellow

MSt in Classical  
Archaeology



**ALICIA VAN HAM-MEERT**  
Master in Chemical and  
Materials Engineering

MSt in Archaeological  
Science



**ÂRASH AMINIAN TABRIZI**  
MA in Modern Languages  
and Literature

Second year of an MPhil  
in Modern Languages

## Postgraduate fellowship for Cambridge



**ISABELLE LORGE**  
Master in Linguistics

MPhil in Theoretical  
and Applied Linguistics



**VERONICA NTOUMOS**  
Master in French  
and FNRS Research Fellow

Research entitled "Poetic  
interpretation of history in Asian  
francophone post-colonial  
fiction", under the supervision  
of Dr Jane Hiddleston at the  
Faculty of Medieval and  
Modern Languages

## Doctoral fellowship for Oxford



# Doctoral fellowships for the ULB



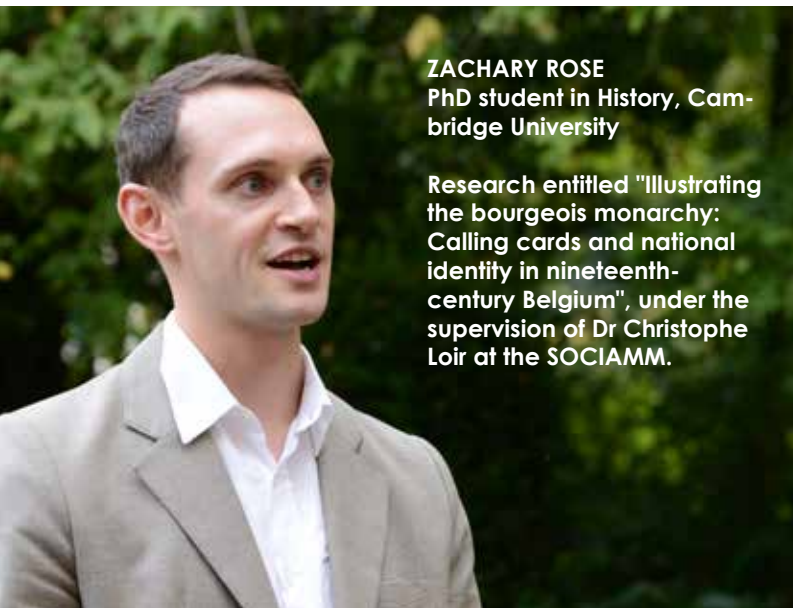
**PO-HSIANG OU**  
DPhil Student in Socio-Legal  
Studies, Oxford University

Research entitled "Climate change v Eurozone crisis: Risk communication among experts in the European Union", under the supervision of Prof. Benoît Frydman at the Perelman Centre for Legal Philosophy.



**ANDREAS HIRBLINGER**  
PhD student in Political  
Sciences, Cambridge University

Research entitled "The authority, legitimacy and power of transnational experts and bureaucrats in international development and peacebuilding", under the supervision of Dr Christian Olsson at the Département de Science politique.



**ZACHARY ROSE**  
PhD student in History, Cam-  
bridge University

Research entitled "Illustrating the bourgeois monarchy: Calling cards and national identity in nineteenth-century Belgium", under the supervision of Dr Christophe Loir at the SOCIAMM.



**MANO GABOR TOTH**  
PhD student in Political  
and International Studies,  
Cambridge University

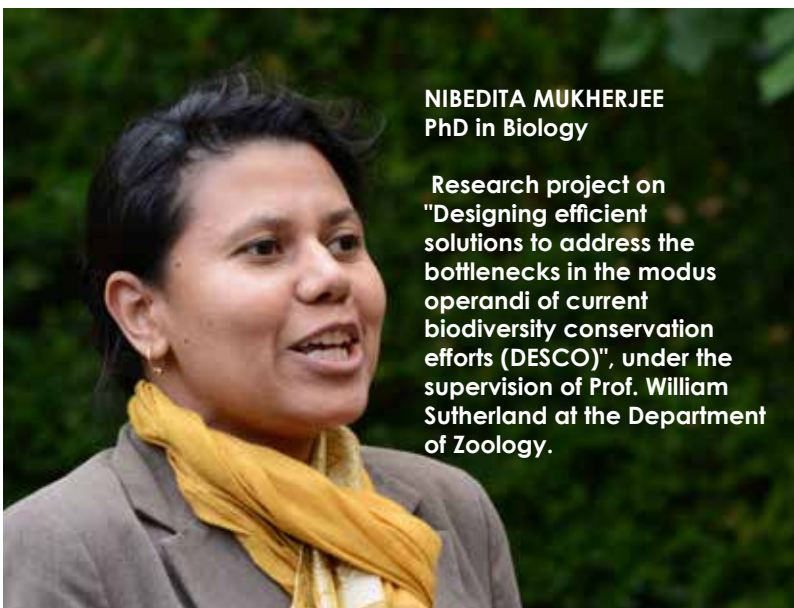
Research entitled "The European memory discourse: A Critique", under the supervision of Prof. François Foret at the Institute for European Studies.



**MARLENE SCHÄFERS**  
PhD student  
in Social Anthropology,  
Cambridge University

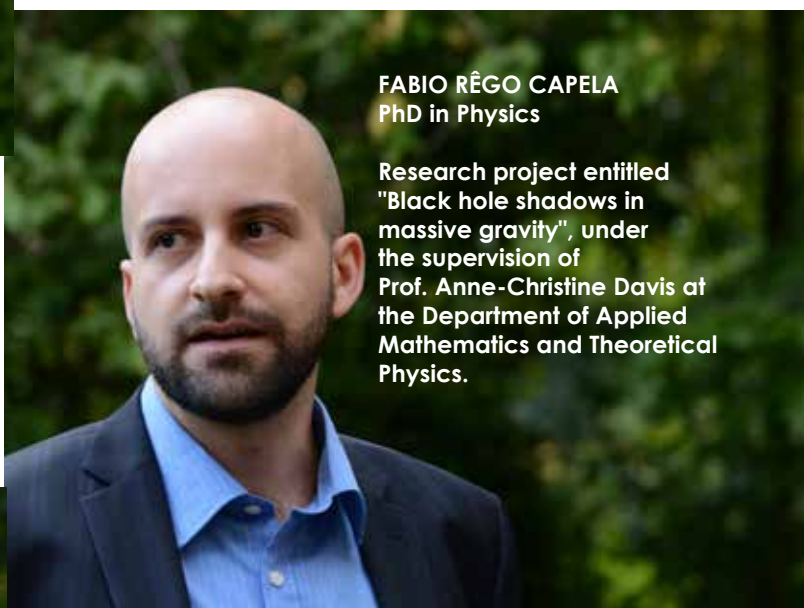
Research entitled "Singing with a 'burning heart': Making Kurdish female subjectivities in Turkish Kurdistan". under the supervision of Prof. David Berliner at the Laboratory of Anthropology of Contemporary Worlds (LAMC).

# Postdoctoral fellowships for Cambridge



**NIBEDITA MUKHERJEE**  
PhD in Biology

Research project on "Designing efficient solutions to address the bottlenecks in the modus operandi of current biodiversity conservation efforts (DESCO)", under the supervision of Prof. William Sutherland at the Department of Zoology.



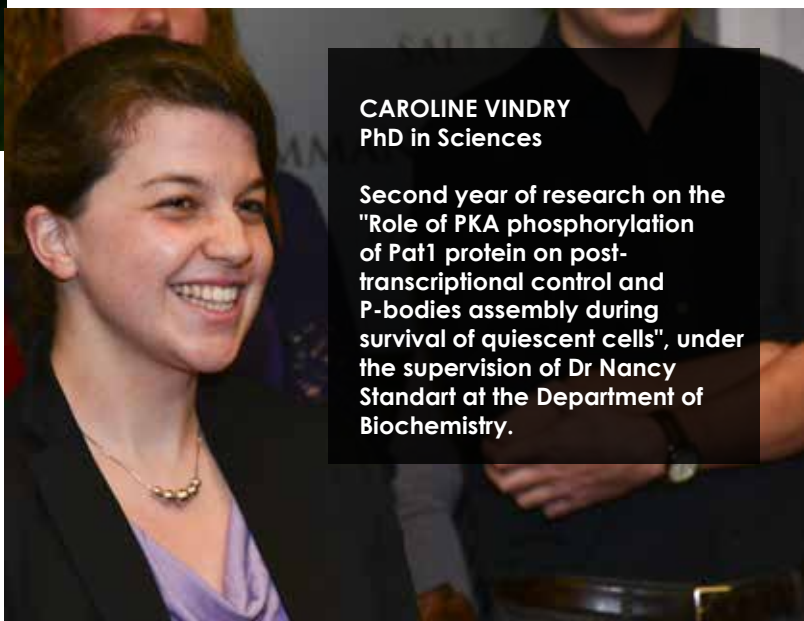
**FABIO RÊGO CAPELA**  
PhD in Physics

Research project entitled "Black hole shadows in massive gravity", under the supervision of Prof. Anne-Christine Davis at the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics.



**GUILLAUME SCHWEICHER**  
PhD in Engineering Science

Research entitled "Reaching silicon-like mobilities with organic semiconductors", under the supervision of Prof. Henning Sirringhaus at the Optoelectronics Group.

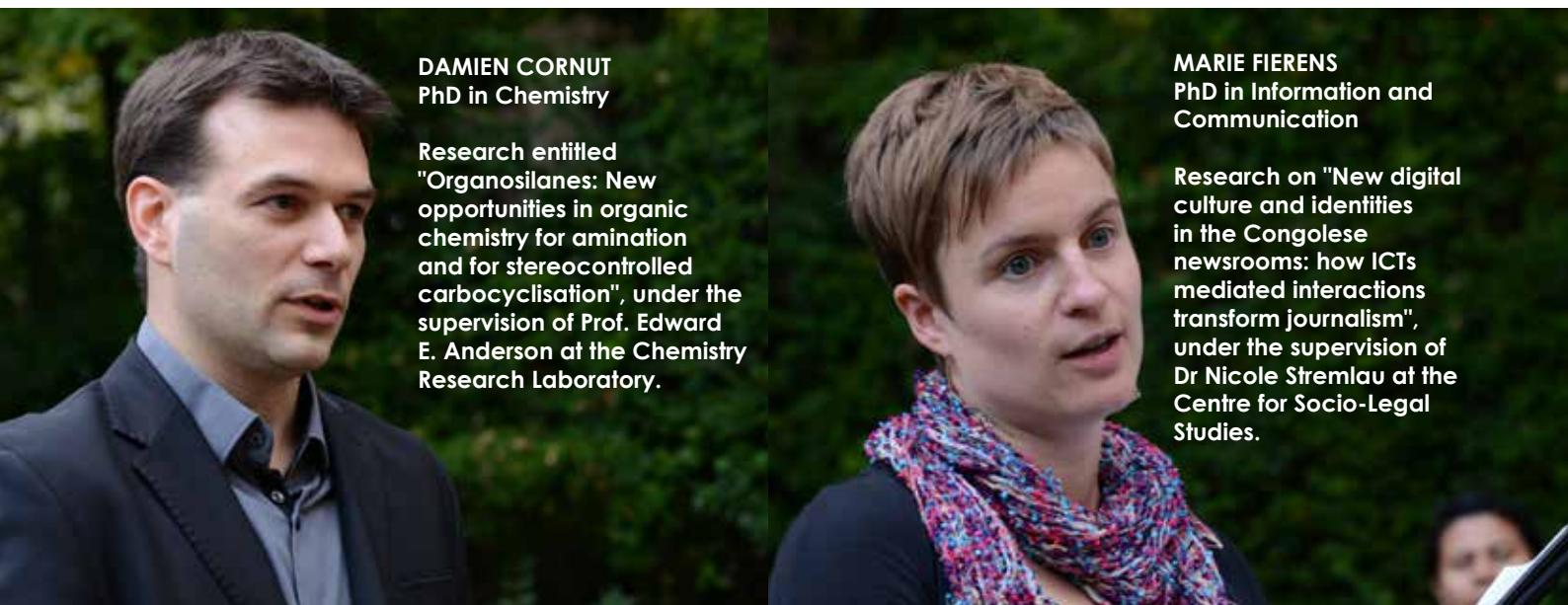


**CAROLINE VINDRY**  
PhD in Sciences

Second year of research on the "Role of PKA phosphorylation of Pat1 protein on post-transcriptional control and P-bodies assembly during survival of quiescent cells", under the supervision of Dr Nancy Standart at the Department of Biochemistry.



# Postdoctoral fellowships for Oxford



**DAMIEN CORNUT**  
PhD in Chemistry

Research entitled "Organosilanes: New opportunities in organic chemistry for amination and for stereocontrolled carbocyclisation", under the supervision of Prof. Edward E. Anderson at the Chemistry Research Laboratory.

**MARIE FIERENS**  
PhD in Information and Communication

Research on "New digital culture and identities in the Congolese newsrooms: how ICTs mediated interactions transform journalism", under the supervision of Dr Nicole Stremlau at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies.



**VICTOR FERRY**  
PhD in Arts

Research entitled "Exercising empathy: Rhetorics of others' points of view", under the supervision of Dr Fiona Macintosh at the Faculty of Classics.

**SANDY SCHUMANN**  
PhD in Psychology

"The Impact of Computer-mediated Intergroup Contact on Prejudices" under the supervision of Prof. Miles Hewstone at the Oxford Centre for the Study of Intergroup Conflict.



**SIMON DELLICOUR**  
PhD in Sciences

Second year of research entitled "Development of an analytical framework to compare viral genetic information and ecological landscape data", under the supervision of Prof. Oliver Pybus at the Department of Zoology.

**SHARON WEINBLUM**  
PhD in Social and Political Sciences

Second year of research on "The construction of the polity and the 'other'. The Israeli political discourse on the management of migrant workers and asylum seekers", under the supervision of Prof. Derek Penslar at the Department of Politics and International Relations.



# Postdoctoral fellowships for the ULB



**PAUL EARLIE**  
DPhil in French (Oxford University)

Research entitled "The return of sophists? Rhetoric and Sophistry in Postwar French Thought", under the supervision of Prof. Michel Meyer at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters.



**KATE FAYERS-KERR**  
DPhil in Social Anthropology (Oxford University)

Second year of research on a project entitled "'Our way of learning': knowledge of self, other and the environment in Mursi childhood education", under the supervision of Prof. David Berliner at the Laboratoire d'anthropologie des mondes contemporains.



**ALISON HUDSON**  
DPhil in History (Oxford University)

Research entitled "The social and political implications of saintly property ownership in Northwestern Europe, 900-1040", under the supervision of Dr Alexis Wilkin at the Groupe de Recherche en Histoire médiévale.



**HANNAH HOECHNER**  
DPhil in Development Studies (Oxford university)

Second year of research on a project entitled "Ambiguous adventures: traditional Qur'anic students in Nigeria and Senegal" under the supervision of Prof. Joël Noret at the Laboratoire d'anthropologie des mondes contemporains.



**ALEXANDRA KASSERI**  
DPhil in Classical Archaeology (Oxford University)

Research entitled "The economy of the archaic Northern Aegean through the study of commercial transactions. Cases studies: Methone, Mende, Poseidi, Argilos", under the supervision of Prof. Athéna Tsingarida at the CReA-Patrimoine.



**LUCY WADESON**  
DPhil in Archaeology (Oxford University)

Second year of research on a project entitled "Tombs with a view: The 'Royal' Necropolis of al-Khubthah at Petra", under the supervision of Prof. Laurent Tholbecq at the CReA-Patrimoine.

# 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 2014.

Université libre de Bruxelles, February 25, 2014

## Fiona Powrie

Sidney Truelove Professor of Gastroenterology, University of Oxford

"Dining out with friends: The intestinal microbiome in health and disease"



On February 25, 2014 Professor Fiona Powrie (University of Oxford) delivered a Philippe Wiener Lecture at the Université libre de Bruxelles. She was welcomed by Professor Muriel Moser (Faculty of Sciences, ULB). The lecture focused on the delicate balance between the gastrointestinal tract and its bacteria.

"The gastrointestinal (GI) tract is home to trillions of commensal bacteria that play an important role in nutrition, immune system development and host defence", writes Professor Powrie. "In inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), a chronic debilitating disease of the gastrointestinal tract, there is a breakdown in the healthy dialogue between our body and our microbial residents resulting in chronic immune attack in the bowel. Results from our laboratory have identified a population of specialised immune cells termed regulatory T cells that police the immune system in the intestine providing new possibilities to treat chronic inflammatory diseases".

The lecture was preceded by the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Prof. Andrew Hamilton, and the Rector of the Université libre de Bruxelles, Prof. Didier Viviers.



University of Cambridge, November 24, 2014

## Pierre Vanderhaegen

Neuroscience Institute, Université libre de Bruxelles

"From pluripotent cells to cortical circuits"



On Monday, November 24th, Professor Pierre Vanderhaegen delivered a Philippe Wiener Lecture entitled "From pluripotent stem cells to cortical circuits" at the University of Cambridge. He was welcomed by Professor Ole Paulsen (Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience).

As Professor Vanderhaghen explains,

"The cerebral cortex consists of several hundreds of different types of neurons, organized into specific cortical layers and areas, that display specific profiles of gene expression, morphology, excitability and connectivity. Embryonic (ES) and induced (IPS) pluripotent stem cells constitute a promising tool for the modelling and treatment of human neural diseases. We previously discovered an intrinsic pathway by which pluripotent stem cells, whether of mouse or human origin,

recapitulate in vitro the major milestones of cortical development, leading to the sequential generation of a diverse repertoire of neurons that display most salient features of genuine cortical neurons.

When transplanted into the cerebral cortex of newborn mice, ESC-derived cortical neurons develop specific patterns of axonal and dendritic projections corresponding to endogenous cortical projections in vivo. Following transplantation into lesioned adult mouse cortex, the grafted neurons also establish robust and specific long range projections and synapses corresponding to the damaged cortical circuits.

Corticogenesis from pluripotent stem cells constitutes an innovative tool to study cortical development, evolution, and disease, and could lead to the rational design of brain repair strategies".



Université libre de Bruxelles, December 2, 2014

## Chris Dobson

John Humphrey Plummer Professor of Chemical and Structural Biology  
University of Cambridge

### "The Molecular Nature of Neurodegenerative Diseases From Theory to Therapy"

On December 2nd, 2014 Christopher M. Dobson, John Humphrey Plummer Professor of Chemical and Structural Biology at the University of Cambridge, and Master of St John's College, gave a lecture entitled "The Molecular Nature of Neurodegenerative Diseases: From Theory to Therapy" at the Université libre de Bruxelles. He was welcomed by Professor Kristin Bartik.

"Neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases arguably represent the greatest challenge to the social fabric and health care systems of much of the modern world", writes Professor Dobson. "The predominant reason for their rapidly increasing prevalence is the increase in longevity that has resulted from the tremendous advances in public health and hygiene and in medical and surgical interventions over the last century.

The most common neurodegenerative disorders are associated with protein misfolding and aggregation, and they therefore differ in nature from most other types of disease and indeed there are at present no cures or even highly effective treatments. Very significant advances have, however, been made recently in our knowledge of the molecular origins of these conditions, and are now beginning to suggest new and rational therapeutic strategies by which to combat their onset and progression".



A photograph of a man in a dark graduation gown and glasses, clapping his hands. He is wearing a white shirt and a maroon tie. The background is blurred, showing other people in a similar setting. The text 'Ganshof van der Meersch Chair' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# Ganshof van der Meersch Chair

# Professor John Loughlin

University of Cambridge

Holder of the 2013/2014 Ganshof van der Meersch Chair



Fondation Philippe WIENER - Maurice ANSPACH  
Chaire Ganshof van der Meersch

**PROF. JOHN LOUGHLIN**  
Department of Politics  
and International Relations  
University of Cambridge


Opening Lecture  
**European Federalism  
in Times of Crisis**

Tuesday 11 March 2014, 18h00  
ULB - Room Pierre Drion (R42.5.503)  
Avenue F.D. Roosevelt 42 - 1050 Bruxelles

The lecture will be followed by a reception  
All welcome. Registration by March 7: [fwg@ulb.ac.be](mailto:fwg@ulb.ac.be)

**Following lectures and workshops**  
Wednesday 12 March, 14h00 - 15h00 (Room Spook, IEE)  
18h00 - 20h00 (Room AUV 1.10a, ULB)  
Thursday 13 March, 10h00 - 12h00 (Room Kant, IEE)  
14h00 - 17h00 (Room Spook, IEE)  
Friday 14 March, 10h00 - 13h00 (Room Spook, IEE)

More information: [fwg.ulb.ac.be](http://fwg.ulb.ac.be)



Professor John Loughlin joined the Fellowship of St Edmund's College in 2010 and is the Director of the Von Hügel Institute (VHI). In addition to his work at the VHI he is a Senior Fellow of the Department of Politics and International Studies of the University of Cambridge. Previously he was Professor of European Politics in Cardiff University, where he is now an Honorary Professor, and has held Visiting Professorships and Fellowships in Oxford, Paris, Florence and Princeton.

Prof Loughlin has carried out extensive research on territorial politics in Europe and on the relationship between religion and politics. He spent several years as a Cistercian monk at Our Lady of Bethlehem Abbey,

Portglenone in Northern Ireland where he carried out the usual studies for the priesthood in philosophy, theology and biblical studies. His current projects are on: Catholic Social teaching and the Big Society, religious freedom in international affairs, and the role of religious NGOs in the United Nations. He is also working at the Madison Trust funded project on the implications of the financial crisis on European federalism.

He is an Academician of the UK's Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS), a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (RHistS) and of the Royal Society of Arts (RSA). He was recently elected a Fellow of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts.

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, historical, political and legal aspects of European integration or on public law.





## Programme of the Chair

### Tuesday 11 March

Opening lecture of the chair: "European federalism in times of crisis"  
The audio recording of the lecture is available on our website.

### Wednesday 12 March

"From the nation-state to Europe (1)".  
"Territorial identities between nation and Europe".

### Thursday 13 March

"From the nation-state to Europe (2)".  
Panel: "Vers une fédération européenne: avec, contre ou sans Dieu?"

### Friday 14 March

Workshop: "A comeback of the 'Europe of regions'?"

## Abstract of the opening lecture

European federalism was originally conceived as a way to overcome the negative legacies of European nationalism which the founding fathers of Europe saw as responsible for the three major wars on European soil in the 19th and 20th centuries: the Franco-Prussian War (1870-1), and the two World Wars. These constituted the most serious crises of European history since the 16th century Reformation.

After the Second World War, European integration was launched in order to ensure that no such major conflict would occur again within Europe. Underlying this there was also a 'moral' vision, based on the notion of the absolute dignity of every single human person, which it was necessary to affirm after the genocide of the Holocaust and other atrocities committed during the Second World War. This led to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the UN in 1948 and the affirmation of democracy as a suitable political system within which to exercise these rights with the founding of the Council of Europe.

The federalism of the founding fathers of Europe - coming from very different traditions which derived from both Judeo-Christian and Enlightenment Humanism - was impregnated with this moral vision. For this reason, federalism was not simply a set of procedures for organizing a political system but also a humanistic philosophy - sometimes called 'le fédéralisme intégral' - which sought the optimal conditions for the flourishing of the human person. The history of European integration since 1945 shows that many aspects of this vision have been realised, not least the avoidance of any major war within the territory of the European Community.

However, it may be that the integration process has sometimes forgotten the humanistic vision to become simply a vast market or a technocratic and bureaucratic system to regulate this market. The 2008 financial crisis illustrates some of the consequences of such a limited vision. Today, Europe needs to return to that richer version of federalism that was held by the founding fathers albeit couched in terms relevant to today's realities.

# Research Projects





## ULB - Cambridge

Crossing boundaries, defining states: confession, music and territoriality in the Southern Netherlands and the Principality of Liège (c.1500-1650)



Antoon Sallaert (attribué à l'atelier de): L'infante Isabelle abattant l'oiseau au tir du Grand Serment, le 15 mai 1615 au Sablon à Bruxelles; Bruxelles, Musées royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, Inv. 172.

ULB Promoter: Marie-Alexis Colin (Faculty of Philosophy and Letters)

Cambridge Promoter: Iain Fenlon (Faculty of Music)

During the Renaissance, the Low Countries were a crossroads of ideas, notably religious and philosophical, a major centre of cultural exchange between different parts of the world, and the theatre of various confessional beliefs. The project aims to show how the process of musical composition, interpretation or diffusion served to associate a particular group with a specific confessional religion, and how this association may also have sometimes served to project a territorial claim.

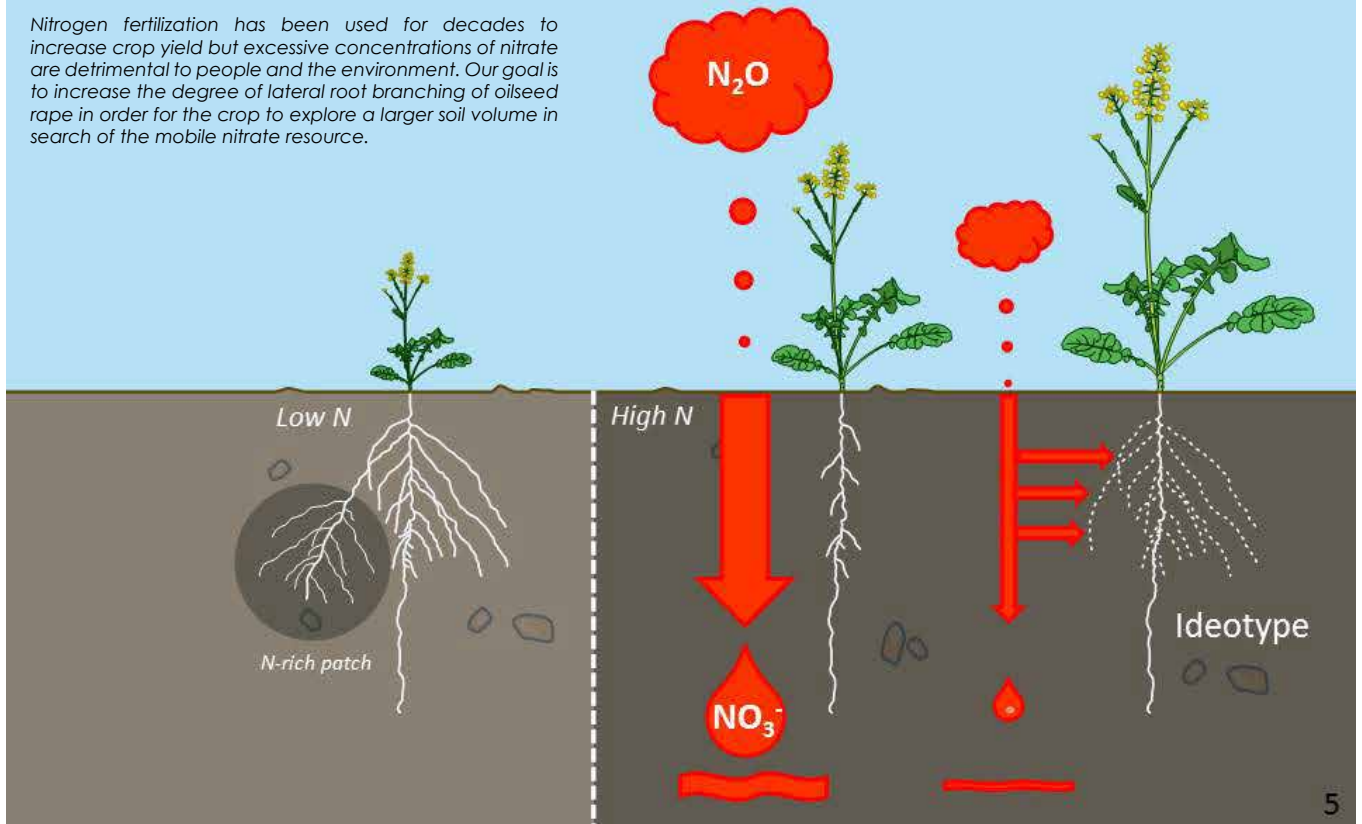
The ULB has a long tradition of early music studies. The numerous libraries in Belgium (notably the Royal Library), together with the National Archives of Belgium, preserve a large number of musical and historical sources useful for this project. Marie-Alexis Colin's interest in early music is concerned with France and the Low Countries between 1450 and 1650, particularly its stylistic, liturgical and essentially political dimensions. She is also interested in questions of the diffusion and circulation of music and texts.

Music has a long and distinguished history in Cambridge, particularly at King's College, where Professor Fenlon is a Fellow. The Faculty of Music lies at the heart of a vast network of musical study, research and practice, and musicological research is renowned both nationally and internationally, as demonstrated in the results of the 2008 and 2014 Research Excellence Framework exercises. Iain Fenlon's principal area of research is music from 1450 to 1650. His work on music and culture has been centrally concerned with how the history of music is related to the history of society, whether through the medium of patronage, print culture, civic or courtly life.



# Nitrate-related Root Architecture in the Model Species *Arabidopsis thaliana*

Nitrogen fertilization has been used for decades to increase crop yield but excessive concentrations of nitrate are detrimental to people and the environment. Our goal is to increase the degree of lateral root branching of oilseed rape in order for the crop to explore a larger soil volume in search of the mobile nitrate resource.



ULB Promoter: Christian Hermans (Laboratory of Physiology and Molecular Genetics of Plants)

Cambridge Promoter: (Jim Haseloff, Department of Plant Sciences)

Modifying root morphology to capture nitrogen more efficiently could represent a sustainable solution to maintain crop productivity whilst reducing the environmental impact of agriculture. Our project is to uncover mechanisms of lateral root growth stimulation or repression by nitrate availability in the model species *Arabidopsis* and parent oilseed rape. The Brussels partner identified candidate genes having a potential to redesign root architecture and further detailed characterization of those genes and isolated plant material is done in collaboration with the Cambridge partner, in particular for advanced confocal microscopy.



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.



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 screenshot shows the homepage of the BiBi project. At the top, there's a blue header with 'Nederlands' and 'English' in small text, and 'The BiBi project' in large white text. Below this, on the left, is a light blue box titled 'About this project' containing a detailed description of the project's goals and methodology. To the right of this box are links for 'Information for parents', 'Information for schools', 'Our team', and 'Send us an email'. At the bottom, there are logos for 'UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES', 'UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE', and 'Isaac Newton Trust', along with the text 'Homepage of the project's website'.

**ULB Promoter:** Mikhail Kissine (Centre de Recherche en Linguistique)

**Cambridge Promoter:** Napoleon Katsos (Theoretical and Applied Linguistics)

Speaking two or more languages is becoming the norm rather than the exception. It is therefore imperative to understand the impact of bilingualism on child development. Research to date reports negative effects of bilingualism on linguistic development (when the bilingual child is compared to monolingual peers), but positive effects on cognitive development.

Researchers from the University of Cambridge and the Université libre de Bruxelles are investigating the aspects of linguistic development, namely pragmatics and conversational skills, where bilingualism should have a positive effect.

For more information about the project, you can visit the website: <http://bibi.ulb.ac.be/Bibi/English.html>

Mikhail Kissine's research group comprises five PhD students and three post-docs and specialises in experimental and theoretical pragmatics. In addition to bilingualism, this groups addresses research topics such as: language in autism, irony, insinuations, speech acts and mood and modality. Mikhail Kissine's group belongs to LaDisco, the center of research that regroups researchers in linguistics at ULB.



Napoleon Katsos is Senior Lecturer at the Department of Applied and Theoretical Linguistics at the University of Cambridge. He studied linguistics in Athens (Greece) and obtained his PhD in applied linguistics in Cambridge (UK). He is interested in semantics and pragmatics, language acquisition, and bilingualism. Napoleon is one of the senior researchers in the BiBi-project.





ULB - Oxford  
Border Crossing, Trade and Trust  
Tracking clothing supply chains to Nairobi and Cotonou



*Clothing stalls along First Avenue, a main thoroughfare in Nairobi's Eastleigh estate in 2011. Photo credit: Kimo Quaintance.*

ULB Promoter: Andrea Rea (GERME)

Oxford Promoters: Nicholas Van Hear and Neil Carrier (Oxford School of Anthropology - COMPAS)

In an age of economic globalisation, how do business exchanges take place in situation of uncertainty when the state is missing or unable to guarantee basic institutional trust? This question will be addressed through the study of clothing, one of the most emblematic sectors of the global economy, in two important African business hubs. Through a comparative ethnographic approach, this research will be able to track many commonalities regarding the questions of trust, border crossing, transnational economic exchanges and trade diaspora.

Andrea Rea



Neil Carrier



At the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Emma Lochery will be working as a post-doctoral researcher in the Group for Research on Ethnic Relations, Migration & Equality (GERME). Her work will be supervised by Andrea Rea. Andrea has conducted extensive research on the trans-border movement of people and goods, investigating the impact of mobility on conceptions of citizenship, statehood, and belonging. Emma's work builds on GERME's past work on migration, border-crossing and trade in west and northern Africa.

At Oxford University, Martin Rosenfeld is working as a post-doctoral researcher under the supervision of Neil Carrier and Nicholas Van Hear. Neil Carrier is a lecturer at the African Studies Centre who has carried out extensive research work in Kenya. Nicholas Van Hear is Deputy Director of COMPAS, one of the world's leading research centres on migration. The three members of the project team are also members of the Oxford Diaspora Program, which links Oxford's three migration centres.



## Ménages paysans et changements paysagers (Europe de l'Ouest, 200-1200 AD)



**ULB Promoters:** Jean-Pierre Devroey and Alexis Wilkin (Sociétés anciennes, médiévales et modernes)

**Oxford Promoter:** Chris Wickham (Faculty of History)

This project aims to bring together archaeologists and historians. It will study the standards of living of peasant households as documented by archaeology and texts and according to various 'production modes'. It will also document the way their economical strategies had an impact upon the surrounding landscape.

Expected output of the project:

- Crossed workshops, lectures and winter schools in Oxford and Brussels
- The collective writing of a book offering an overall synthesis of the work

The teams involved are directed by Professors Jean-Pierre Devroey and Alexis Wilkin (Université Libre de Bruxelles) and chaired by Professor Chris Wickham (University of Oxford). Both teams share a common interest in the material and economical history of Western Early and High Medieval Europe, in the social history of peasantry, and aim to cross archaeological and historical evidences as well as works from different historiographical traditions to feed their reflection upon these topics.

Professors Devroey and Wilkin have published mainly upon the history of agricultural production, commercialization and famines and their institutional and political management.

Professor Wickham has published extensively upon the history of Medieval Europe (especially Early Medieval Italy), and aims to adopt comparative analysis in his works.



Jean-Pierre Devroey



Alexis Wilkin



Chris Wickham

## Beyond the polis. Ritual Practices and the Construction of Social Identity in Early Greece

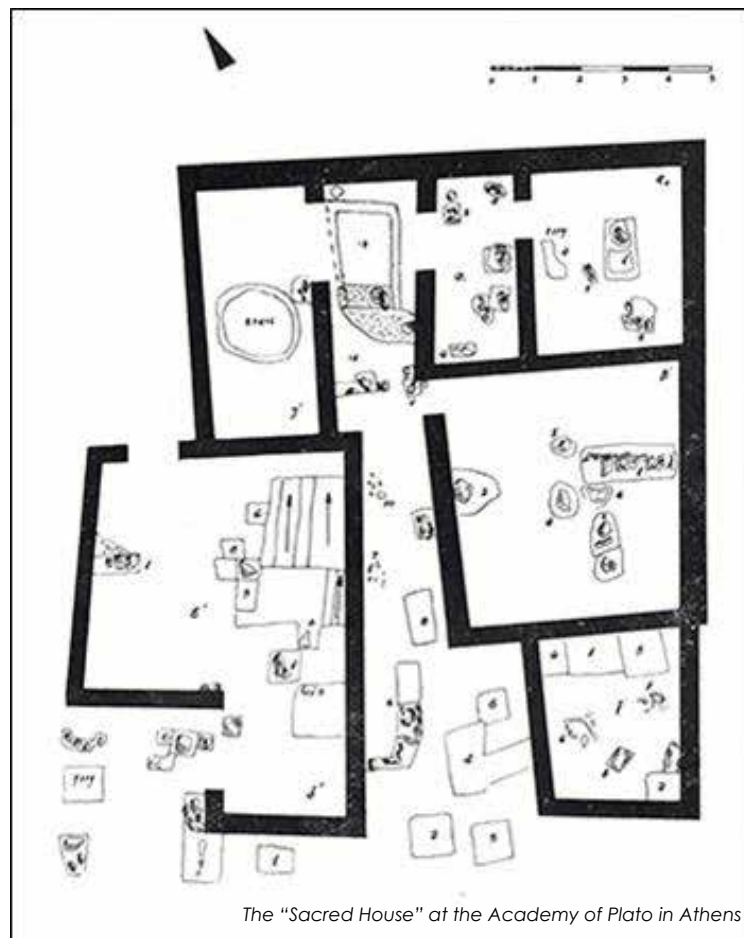
The project "Beyond the Polis" already benefited from the support of the Wiener-Anspach Foundation for a two-year research program that started in October 2012.

During this first program, the project focused on communal rites and feasting activities known from a selected number of geographical areas and sites in Mainland and Aegean Greece in order to understand the importance of collective practices and to define the social status of the groups who performed them. The results of the research are to be published in a collective volume in the peer-reviewed series *Kernos*.

The one-year extension granted to the project by the Foundation (2014-2015) has allowed us to expand the study to other geographical areas. Sites both from the core (Cyclades and Thessaly) and the fringe (Northern Aegean and Western colonial Greece) of the Greek world will be considered in order to complete our conclusions and answer to important questions, especially related with mixed cultural contexts where collective rituals are often used to build a new multi-cultural identity or to strengthen the power and territory claim of distinctive social groups (Greek colonists and indigenous population).

The project will further take into account new types of evidence such as the organization of sacrifices or the use of distinctive commodities (through archaeobotanical remains) in ceremonial eating and drinking.

For more information visit the website:  
<http://crea.ulb.ac.be/Polis.html>



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

ULB Promoter: Athéna Tsingarida (CReA-Patrimoine)

Oxford Promoter: Irene Lemos (Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies)

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.

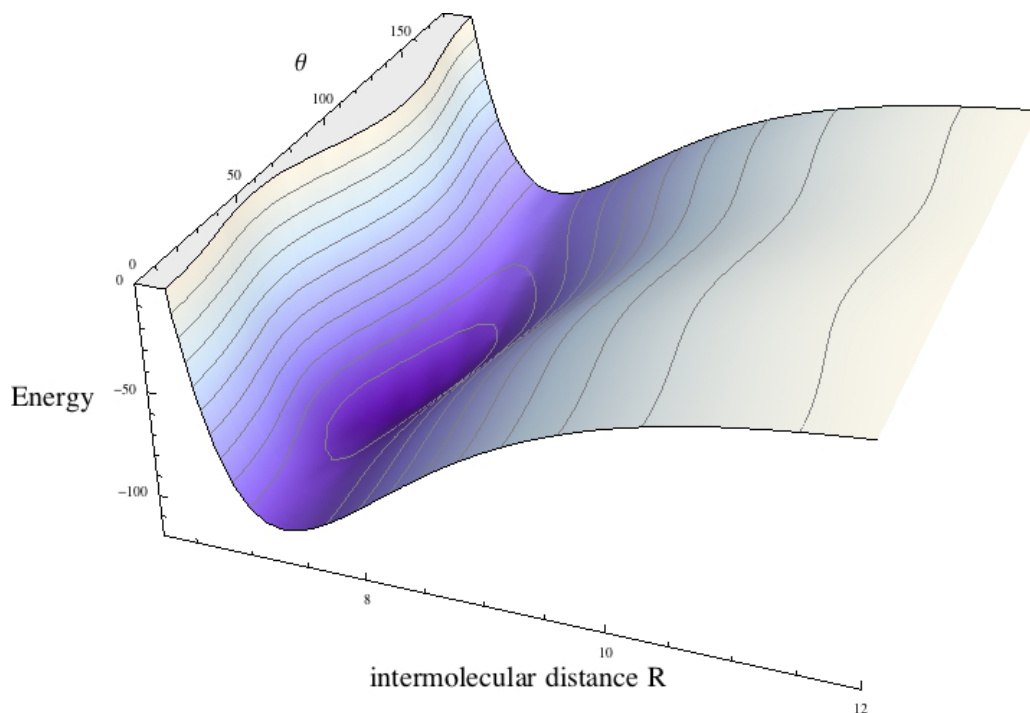
Athéna Tsingarida, a specialist of Archaic and Classical Greece, teaches Ancient Greek Archaeology and Art at the ULB. Her research mainly lies in the fields of Ancient Greek Pottery and Reception of Classical Art. Also a field archaeologist, she undertook excavations and field study in Greece (Siphnos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

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.







Potential energy surface of the ammonia-argon molecular complex, as calculated within the ACME project.

**ULB Promoters:** Michel Herman and Nathalie Vaeck (Service de Chimie quantique et Photophysique)

**Oxford Promoter:** Tim Softley (Department of Chemistry)

The ACME collaboration was initiated 2 years ago, aiming at understanding atomic and molecular collision mechanisms of ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) at interstellar space temperatures and beyond, towards a new chemistry to be controlled at the quantum level. The collaboration was very active, already leading to one joint Oxford-ULB scientific publication. The renewal project will build on the gained, joined expertise to focus on specific microscopic reaction mechanisms as well as to produce spectroscopic data relevant to atmospheric and space detection of ammonia.

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 XI, 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.

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.



Michel Herman



Nathalie Vaeck



Tim Softley

# The impact of web-based information on citizens' political knowledge and political behaviors

ULB Promoters: Jean-Benoît Pilet and Laura Sudulich (CEVIPOL)

Oxford Promoters: Helen Margetts and Jonathan Bright (Oxford Internet Institute)

Information is key for citizens to play their role in the democratic systems. And with emergence of a new digital era, access to information is being deeply transformed. Within this context, the project explore the effects of online-based news consumption on political knowledge and participation by means of innovative experimental methods. Notably, this study will highlight the dangers of misinformation intrinsically related to online environments and estimate their effects on the public. The findings would be of high relevance for the academic community and can also inform and guide the activities of policymakers, media regulators and practitioners.

The Centre d'étude de la vie politique is the main research unit in political science at the Université libre de Bruxelles. It is composed of 9 Faculty members, 10 post-doctoral researchers, and 25 PhD students working in the framework of research grants or teaching assistantship. The scientific staff and the Faculty of the Cevipol are strongly represented in the literature and very active in the discipline. Members of the Cevipol regularly contribute to events such as the ECPR Joint sessions, ECPR General & Graduate Conferences and Summer Schools, IPSA, MPSA, APSA, EPSA.

The Oxford Internet Institute (OII) is a social science department of the University of Oxford with a multi-disciplinary faculty. Its researchers use a diverse methodological toolkit, and develop cutting edge methods to understand digital life, such as experiments, social network analysis and big data approaches. The research community in the department is close-knit, with plenty of opportunity for collaboration and knowledge sharing, bringing the added benefit of different perspectives to the cross-disciplinary research taking place here.



Jean-Benoît Pilet

Laura Sudulich

Helen Margetts

Jonathan Bright

# Role of the Dmrt5 transcription factor in the development of the earliest cortical circuits

ULB Promoter: Eric Bellefroid (IBMM)

Oxford Promoter: Zoltán Molnár (Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics)

The subplate is an early generated, transient and heterogeneous population of neurons that has fundamental roles in the establishment of cortical circuitries and is implicated in various neurological disorders. Despite their importance, very little is known today about the mechanisms that control their specification. Our aim here is to understand how the zinc finger transcription factor Dmrt5 that has been shown recently by one of the partners of the project to be required for cortical SP neurons controls their generation.



Eric Bellefroid



Zoltán Molnár

Eric Bellefroid's group at the ULB studies the molecular mechanisms that control the transition from neural stem cell to neurons in the developing vertebrate nervous system. The focus is on the role of some transcription factors in the control of neural progenitor maintenance, differentiation, and the generation of neuronal diversity, especially the role of Dmrt transcription factors in early cerebral cortex development.

Zoltan Molnár's group at the Univeristy of Oxford is also trying to elucidate the molecular mechanisms that control neuronal migration and differentiation and the establishment of early cortical circuits, with a special attention to thalamocortical projections and subplate neurons. Another of the main objectives of the laboratory is to gain insights into the evolution and pathology of these developmental mechanisms.



# Our Alumni



# Our Alumni

After fifty years of activity the Wiener-Anspach Foundation counts today over 500 Alumni all over the world and working in many different fields. The Foundation is eager to stay in contact with its former fellows. To this end, it has created a group on LinkedIn and has been reaching out to its Alumni, among which it counts numerous prominent academics, senior executives in the private sector and influential civil servants and diplomats, such as Belgian politician Paul Magnette and British lawyers Sir Michael Wood and Christopher Vajda, who was appointed in 2012 as the UK Judge to the European Court of Justice.

## From Cambridge to Brussels, back in the Sixties...



*Sir Michael Wood, 1969/1970 Wiener-Anspach Fellow*

In March 2014 Sir Michael Wood, Senior Fellow of the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law (University of Cambridge), came to Brussels to give a lecture on international customary law. On that occasion he granted us an interview touching on his experience as a Wiener-Anspach fellow (one of the very first!), on European Law and on the United Nations International Law Commission, of which he is a member.

*You were a Wiener-Anspach Fellow in 1969/1970, when you came to study European Law at the Institute for European Studies (IEE). How did you come to be interested in such an issue at a time when France had opposed its second veto to Britain's EEC membership?*

At Cambridge, where I was for four years, I focused on public international law, which includes some aspects of European law. The course however wasn't just on European Community Law, but on European law more broadly: it included the Council of Europe, the European Atomic Energy, business, lots of different aspects of European law. I have to say that I did not anticipate working in this field in practice. When I came to Brussels, France had already said no twice and was probably going to say no again. Halfway through the year I was offered a Job at the British Foreign Office, so I knew I was going to deal with international law for the British government.

*How would you describe your experience at the IEE?*

It was different from Cambridge. It was very interesting the way in the Belgian system lessons were given. We had a lot of very eminent lecturers: Paul-Henry Spaak used to come and talk to us, people from the European commission, Daniel Vignes, a whole variety of names I had already heard of.

They were all busy, so they tended to come at eight o'clock in the morning or at seven o'clock in the evening, and I was just not used to this. But you learned very quickly from people who were dealing with these matters day-to-day. I was also impressed by how international the people were at the IEE: some were from Argentina and from other parts of Latin America. When I was here my one regret was that Michel Waelbroeck was on sabbatical in the United States, so I never met him. He was probably the most famous regular full professor at the time.

*Are you still in touch with some of the students you met at the time?*

Unfortunately I'm not in touch with any of them, but the relations were very good at the time. The people I got to know best were the Flemish students whom I shared a flat with near place De Brouckère.

*How did you find out about the Wiener-Anspach fellowships?*

By some professors, in particular Professor Clive Parry, who taught public international law at Cambridge University. One could say your career perfectly illustrates the idea that the IEE didn't focus only on the study of the EEC.





The Building H of the Université libre de Bruxelles in the early Seventies (photo credit: website of the ULB)

It's true that I've done a lot of other things than European law, in fact I did very little European law after being at the IEE. I came back to Brussels for two months at the time of our negotiation for the entry in Europe, in 1972. Since then I've come to Brussels very often but mainly for the more intergovernmental aspects of the community, including the committee on the law of the sea, the group on public international law. I also followed the European Court of Justice in matters involving public international law, like the recent Kadi case. So I've kept a certain interest in European Law but I wouldn't say it was the center of my career at the Foreign Office. It's different for many younger colleagues, because nowadays European law is the most important work of a foreign ministry legal adviser on a day-to-day basis. And when there's a big crisis like Iraq or Ukraine, public international law becomes important too.

*What is the role of the UN International Law Commission?*

The International Law Commission is a subsidiary body of the United Nations General Assembly. It's composed of 34 international lawyers who work in their private capacity and its role is to assist in codifying and developing international law. Its work has been the basis of some very important

treaties in the past, on the law of the sea, on diplomatic relations, on the law of treaties and some other instruments on matters like state responsibility and other central parts of international law. It has a very glorious past. Whether its present is as glorious is for others to judge.

*You are Special Rapporteur for this topic. What justified, in your opinion, the need to include it in the programme of work of the Commission?*

Customary law is an interesting and difficult topic for all public international lawyers, but my main concern was with lawyers who are not experts in public international law, who have to understand customary international law from time to time. I'm thinking particularly of judges in the domestic courts and in international courts such as the court in Luxembourg or the court in Strasbourg. My experience of addressing British courts on the subject is that they don't know where to look, they look into different books and these books all say something different. The International Law Commission, for better or for worse, carries a certain weight, and I thought it could be helpful if there was a simple, reasonably authoritative restatement of some of the basic issues in the field of customary international law.



# Other funded activities

## The 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 2014 the prize was awarded to Louise Fromont.

## Short stays

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

### 2014 Recipients

- In the framework of his doctoral research at the ULB, Tarik Roukny spent the month of February 2014 at the Institute for New Economic Thinking of the University of Oxford. He was welcomed by Doyne Farmer.
- Colin Renfrew (Senior Fellow of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge) gave a lecture entitled "Archaeology and Language: the Problem of Indo-European Origins" at the ULB on February 10, 2014. He was welcomed by Peter Eeckhout.
- Valentine Henderiks (Lecturer in History of Art, ULB) participated in the seminar series "Art in Transcultural Context", co-organised by Wiener-Anspach Fellow Sacha Zdanov at the University of Cambridge (March 2014).
- Michael Wood (Senior Fellow at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge) delivered a lecture entitled "La formation et l'identification du droit international coutumier" at the ULB on March 7, 2014. He was welcomed by Vaïos Koutroulis.
- Michael Waibe (Lecturer in International Public Law, University of Cambridge) took part in a simulated trial held at the ULB on March 21, 2014. He was welcomed by Olivier Corten.
- François Foret (Professor of Political Sciences, ULB) spent the month of April 2014 at the Von Hügel Institute, University of Cambridge. He was welcomed by John Loughlin.
- The Wiener-Anspach Foundation contributed to the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Institute for European Studies by partially funding the book which was published on this occasion.
- Irini-Fotini Viltanioti (Postdoctoral Researcher in Philosophy, ULB) spent one month at the University of Oxford in the framework of the project "Power Structuralism in Ancient Ontologies" (May-June 2014). She was welcomed by Anna Marmodoro.
- Hartmut Mayer (Fellow and Lecturer in Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford) spent the month of June 2014 at the Institute for European Studies. He was welcomed by Marianne Dony.
- Mario Telò (Professor of International Relations, ULB) gave a lecture entitled "The Future of British Politics" at the University of Cambridge on September 24, 2014. He was welcomed by Andrew Gamble.
- Johnny Steinberg (Associate Professor of African Studies and Criminology, University of Oxford) gave a talk entitled "The vertiginous power of decisions: Working through a paradox about forced migration" at the ULB on October 31, 2014. He was welcomed by Joël Noret.
- In the framework of his doctoral research at the ULB, Emmanuel Slautsky spent two months at Balliol College, where he was welcomed by Paul Craig.



Information about fellowships and grants

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