

The Wiener-Anspach Foundation Activity Report

2015



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Message from the President



Pierre Francotte

President of the Wiener-Anspach Foundation

The Fondation Philippe Wiener - Maurice Anspach turned fifty in 2015. Born out of the remarkable generosity and foresight of Phyllis Beddington Wiener, the Foundation has grown and strengthened in a half century and it has proven to be a powerful catalyst of cooperation between the Université libre de Bruxelles and the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford.

The year 2015 is testament to this, with €1,140,000 granted in support of scientific activities, up from just over the €1 million mark last year. The funding has continued to be balanced between fellowships to post-graduate students and to doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, in addition to the financing of collaborative research projects between teams from the ULB, Oxford and Cambridge.

What drives the granting of the funds is, however, not a pre-set allocation key between these categories of initiatives, but the quality of the submissions and their contribution to the goals of the Foundation. We are pleased that this quality has been sustained over the last several years, even as the financial means of the Foundation expanded.

The Foundation's support continues to stretch across all fields of higher education and research, from chemistry to archaeology, from political science to mathematics, from law to anthropology.

The year 2015 was also marked by the start of the cross-Channel celebrations of the Foundation's jubilee. In October, we gathered close to 70 alumni and friends of the Foundation in the Belgian Embassy in London at the kind invitation of Belgium's Ambassador Guy Trouveroy.

It enabled many Alumni to reconnect with fellow Alumni and with the Foundation in general, as well as allowing us to pay tribute to the seminal role of Phyllis Beddington Wiener, with several representatives of the Beddington and Anspach families in attendance.

We had intended to hold a gala evening in late November in Brussels, but the security conditions in the city at that time compelled us to postpone the event. This however did not deter us and the gala evening has been rescheduled for May 25, 2016, allowing us fortuitously to stretch our celebration well into our 50th year. We will be privileged to have Commissioner Moedas deliver a keynote address on the importance of European research for 21st century global challenges, as well as interventions by the Vice-Chancellors of Cambridge and Oxford and the Recteur of ULB. A rare treat indeed.

These two events also effectively initiate our efforts to develop stronger links with, and between, our Alumni, which is one of our major goals for the years to come.

As I have stressed previously, the Foundation's support has been a springboard for the careers of over 500 Alumni. Some have excelled in academia, others in public service, and yet others in the private sector. And the younger generation is not any less talented. Our ambition is to leverage this exceptional pool of wisdom, talent and goodwill for the benefit of future generations of Fellows. This is how we hope to help Alumni help future Alumni achieve their dreams, just like theirs were fulfilled.

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 - 2015

Mr Pierre Francotte

President

Professor Catheline Périer-d'Ieteren

Vice-President

Professor Kristin Bartik

Executive Director

Professor Didier Viviers

Rector of the ULB

Professor Graeme Barker

Mr Benoît Daenen

Professor Michel Goldman

Professor Luc Lemaire

Professor Jean-Louis Migeot

Professor Christina Redfield

Professor Jean-Pierre Spreutels

Professor Philippa Watson

Mr Fernand Wiener

Scientific Committee - 2015

Professor Luc Lemaire

President

Faculty of Sciences, ULB

Professor Valérie André

Faculty of Letters, Translation and Communication, ULB

Professor Kristin Bartik

School of Engineering, ULB

Professor Axel Cleeremans

Faculty of Psychological Sciences & Education, ULB

Professor Pascal Delwit

Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, ULB

Professor Pierre Desmarez

Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, ULB

Professor Muriel Moser

Faculty of Sciences, ULB

Professor Isabelle Rorive

Faculty of Law and Criminology, ULB

Professor Philippa Watson

City Law School, City University, London

The Scientific Committee is happy to welcome a new member, Professor Valérie André (Université libre de Bruxelles). The Scientific Committee wishes to express its warmest thanks to Professor Muriel Moser, who, on becoming Dean of the Faculty of Sciences in October 2015, stepped down.

The Start of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations Belgian Embassy, London, 22 October 2015

The Foundation's 50th anniversary celebrations commenced at the Belgian Embassy in London on 22 October 2015 where the attendees were welcomed by His Excellency, Guy Trouveroy, Belgium's Ambassador to the United Kingdom. Among those in attendance were former and present members of the Foundation's Board of Directors, family members from both the Wiener-Beddington and the Anspach families, professors from the ULB and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge and of course, alumni and current fellows. Words of welcome were expressed by Ambassador Trouveroy, followed by an introductory speech given by the Foundation's President, Pierre Francotte and a commemorative address by Phyllis Bedington-Wiener's niece, Jenny Beddington, in honour of her aunt's establishing the Foundation.

In her speech, Ms Beddington recalls her fond memories of her aunt Phyllis from early childhood well into adulthood, describing her as "everyone's favourite aunt", a woman "who loved to be with young people" and who often not only had "a mischievous look on her face" but also an ever-present "twinkle in her eyes". Ms. Beddington also recounted the origins of the Foundation, describing how it was borne out of the sorrow of the loss of her dear husband, Philippe, during the Second World War in order to serve as a memorial to him and to her trusted friend, Maurice Anspach, whose invaluable support sustained Phyllis during turbulent times and long afterwards. It was a moving tribute not only to a unique woman and to two families, but as a result also to the legacy the Foundation has forged since its inception in 1965, building academic bridges and fostering ties between three great institutions of higher learning.

Additionally, a short film was screened, highlighting the history of the Foundation together with excerpts from interviews with a number of alumni who share their experiences and their gratitude for the opportunities the Foundation granted them to further their studies and ultimately their careers.

In conjunction with the Foundation's 50th anniversary, a commemorative brochure was published shortly after the London celebrations, including texts written by Pierre Francotte, former FWA President Jean-Victor Louis, and Jenny Beddington.





On opposite page: 1. FWA President, Pierre Francotte; 2. His Excellency Guy Trouveroy and Professor Kristin Bartik; 3. second from the left, former FWA President, Jean-Victor Louis, seated with alumni; 4. Ms. Jenny Beddington.

On this page: 1. view of reception hall; 2. from left to right, Kristin Bartik, FWA Communications Officer, Francesca Spinelli, Jenny Beddington, Elizabeth Mills-Beddington, and Professor Christina Redfield; 3. Francesca Spinelli and FWA Secretary, Nicole Bosmans; 4. from left to right, current fellows Violette Pouillard and Celine Paquet, alumni Christophe Snoeck and Frédéric Piel; 5. current fellows and alumni.

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 2015/2016 academic year, the Foundation selected 20 Fellows.

Breakdown by academic destination (all fellowships)



Postgraduate fellowships (7)

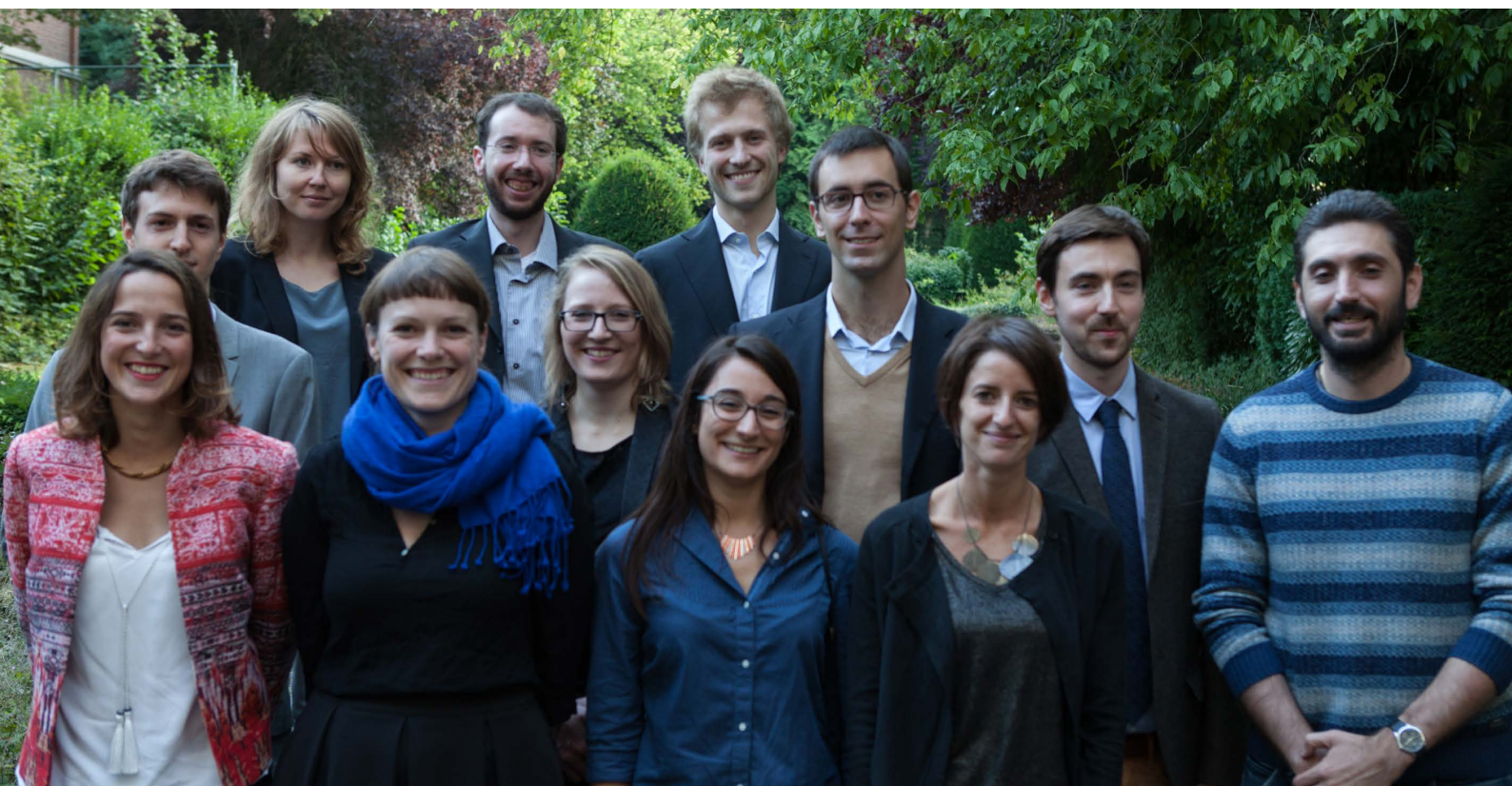


● Oxford ● Cambridge ● ULB

Postdoctoral fellowships (13)



● Oxford ● Cambridge ● ULB





Annual Fellows' Meeting - September 9th 2015

Institut d'études européennes, ULB

On September 9th, 2015 the Wiener-Anspach Foundation organised its annual fellows' meeting. Most of our 2015/2016 fellows attended and had the opportunity to present their respective projects. Member of the FWA's Board of Directors and its Scientific Committee were also in attendance. The ULB promoters of the nine research projects funded by the Foundation also attended, together with academic authorities and some of our Alumni.



2015/2016 Fellows

Doctoral fellowship for Cambridge



BLAGOJE OBLAK
PhD student in Physics

Research entitled "Holographic aspects of asymptotically flat gravity in 3 and 4 dimensions", under the supervision of Prof. Harvey Reall at the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics.

Postgraduate fellowships for Cambridge and Oxford



LOUISE RAYNAUD
MA in Linguistics

MPhil in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics at Cambridge



ANNABELLE OLIVA
MA in Archeology

MPhil in Archeology at Cambridge



GUILLAUME VALETTE
MA in Engineering Science

MSt in Applied Mathematics at Cambridge



CELINE PAQUET
MA in Archeology


MSc in Archeological Science at Oxford

Doctoral fellowships for the ULB

A portrait of Ruadháil Dervan, a young man with dark, curly hair and a light beard, wearing a brown t-shirt. He is standing outdoors in front of a brick building and some trees.

RUADHAI DERVAN
DPhil student in
Mathematics (Oxford)

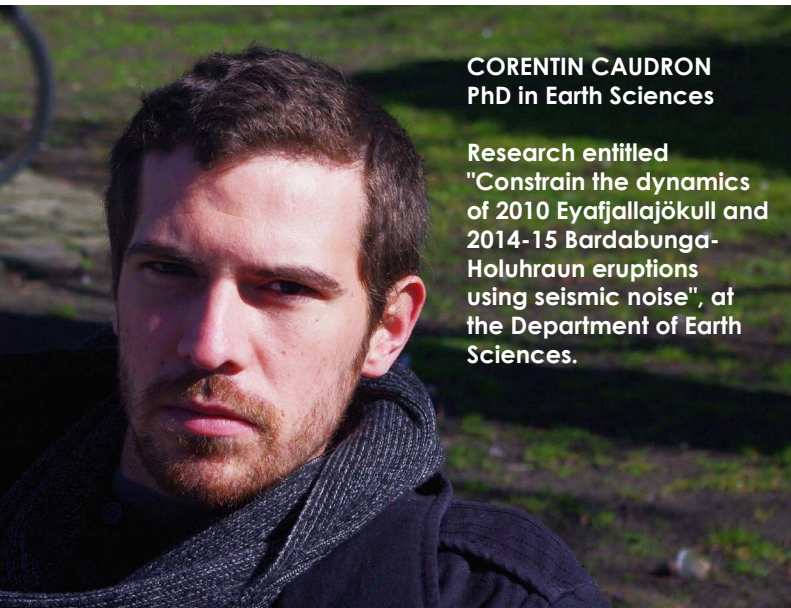
Research entitled
"Continuity methods in
Kähler geometry" under
the supervision of Dr Joel
Fine at the Department
of Pure Mathematics and
Mathematical Statistics.

A portrait of Matthew Willner-Reid, a man with a receding hairline, a mustache, and a goatee, wearing a light blue shirt. He is smiling and standing in front of a wooden wall.

MATTHEW WILLNER-REID
DPhil student
in International
Development (Oxford)

Research entitled
"To what extent is
UNHCR's intervention in
Afghanistan influenced
by incentives in
the humanitarian
marketplace?" under
the supervision of Prof.
Barbara Delcourt at the
Department of Political
Science.

Postdoctoral fellowships for Cambridge

A portrait of Corentin Caudron, a man with short dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark jacket and a grey scarf. He is looking slightly to the side.


CORENTIN CAUDRON
PhD in Earth Sciences

Research entitled
"Constrain the dynamics
of 2010 Eyafjallajökull and
2014-15 Bardabunga-
Holuhraun eruptions
using seismic noise", at
the Department of Earth
Sciences.

A portrait of Flore Keymeulen, a woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a dark blazer. She is smiling and standing in front of green foliage.


FLORE KEYMEULEN
PhD in Engineering Science

Research entitled "Bio-
inspired Synthétic Molecular
Devices for the development
of Drug delivery Systems and
Sensors" under the supervision
of Prof. Christopher Hunter at
the Department of Chemistry.

A portrait of Nibedita Mukherjee, a woman with dark hair, wearing a grey blazer and a yellow scarf. She is looking to the side.

NIBEDITA MUKHERJEE
PhD in Biology

Second year of research on
"Designing efficient solutions
to address the bottlenecks
in the modis operandi
of current biodiversity
conservation efforts" under
the supervision of Prof.
William Sutherland at the
Department of Zoology.

A portrait of Guillaume Schweicher, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a grey suit, a light purple shirt, and a dark tie. He is looking to the side.

GUILLAUME SCHWEICHER
PhD in Engineering Science

Second year of research
on "Reaching silicon-like
mobilities with organic
semiconductors", under
the supervision of Prof.
Henning Sirringhaus in the
Department of Physics.

Postdoctoral fellowships for Oxford

MICHAEL DEPRETER
PhD in History

Research entitled "External state Action and Power relationships between Princes, Cities and Noblemen" under the supervision of Dr Steven Gunn at the Faculty of History.



FEDERICA INFANTINO
PhD in Social and Political Sciences

Research entitled "Inside UK Immigration Detention and Deportation: Analysing Street-Level Policymaking" under the supervision of Dr Franck Düvell at the Centre on Migration, Policy, and Society.



SANDY SCHUMANN
PhD in Psychology

Second year of research on "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.



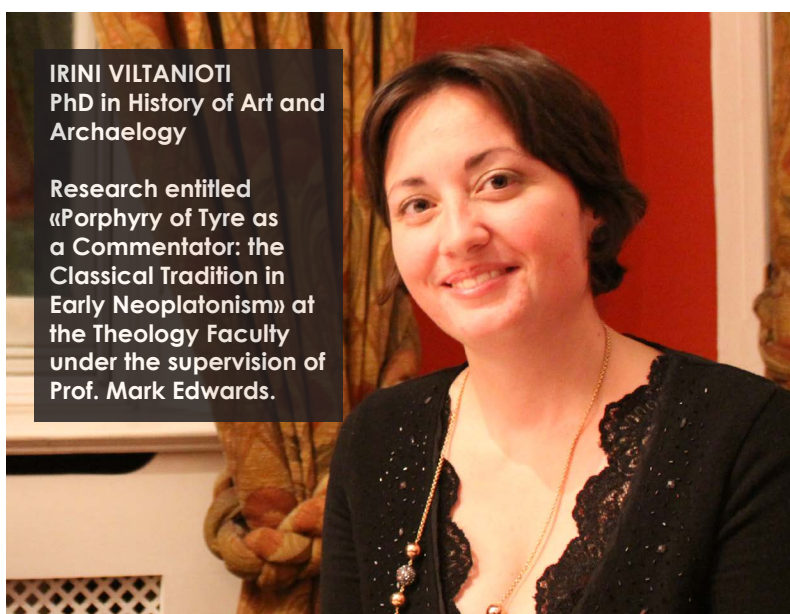
VIOLETTE POUILLARD
PhD in History

Research entitled "The Imperial Zoo. The official supply of African fauna to the London Zoological garden (1828- 1960)" under the supervision of Prof. Miles Larmer at the African Studies Center.



IRINI VILTANIOTI
PhD in History of Art and Archaeology

Research entitled «Porphyry of Tyre as a Commentator: the Classical Tradition in Early Neoplatonism» at the Theology Faculty under the supervision of Prof. Mark Edwards.



Postdoctoral fellowships for the ULB

KYRIAKOS ANTONIOU
PhD in Theoretical and
Applied Linguistics

Research entitled
"Bilingualism, pragmatics
and cognition in children
with autism" under the
supervision of Prof. Mikhail
Kissine at the Centre de
recherche en linguistique.



PAUL EARLIE
DPhil in French

Second year of 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 Social
Sciences.



DUNCAN HARDY
DPhil in History

Research entitled "Leagues,
diets, and councils: political
culture in the towns of the
Holy Roman Empire and the
Burgundian Low Countries,
c. 1350-1550" under the
supervision of Prof. Michel
de Waha at the Groupe
de Recherche en Histoire
Médiévale.

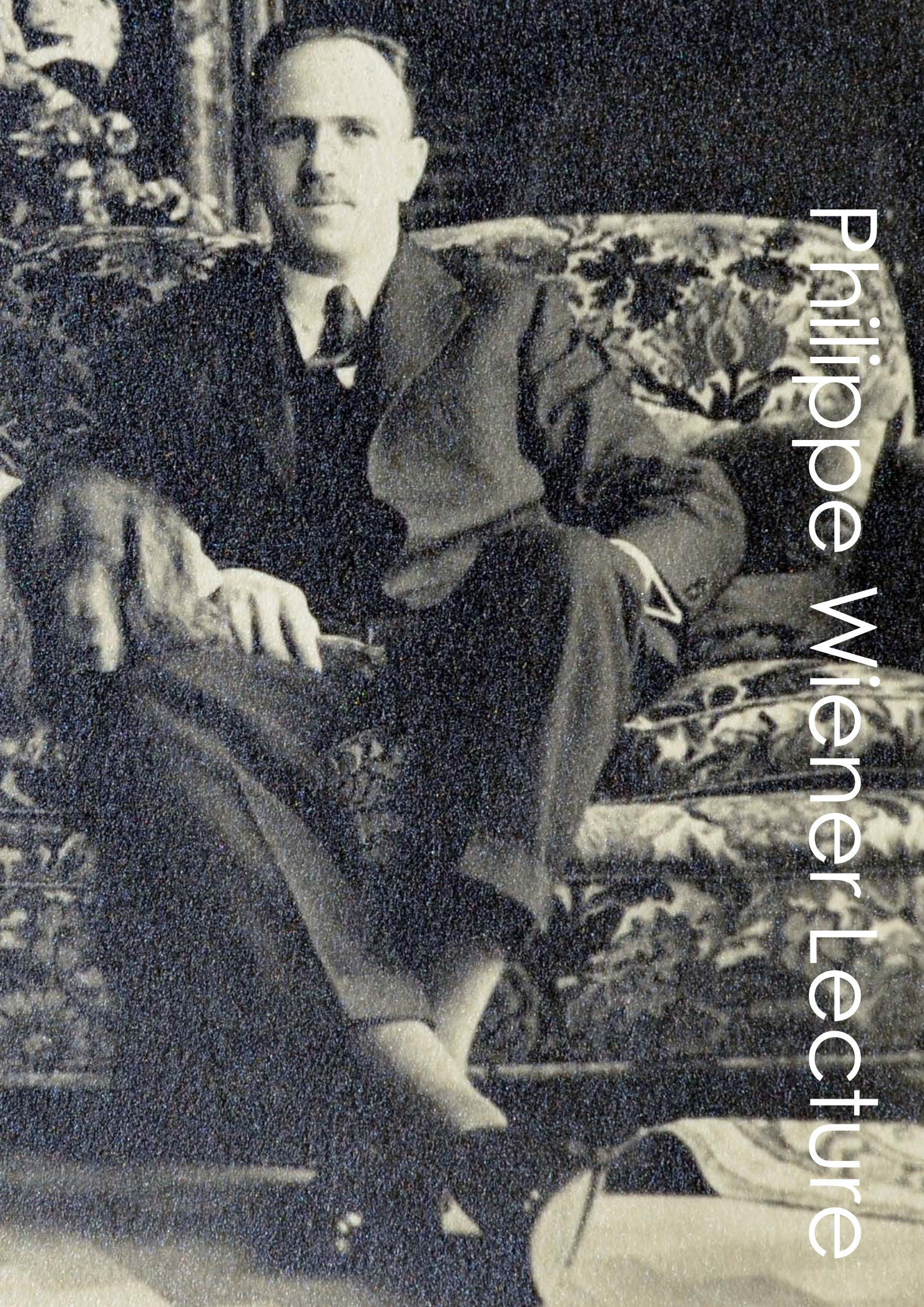


GABRIELA FREI
DPhil in History

Research entitled
"War, law and the
emergence of
an international
economic order,
1914 - 1939" under
the supervision of
Prof. Olivier Corten
at the Centre de
Droit international.



Philippe Wiener Lecture



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.

University of Oxford, June 1st, 2015

Mathias Dewatripont

Executive Director of the National Bank of Belgium

Professor at the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management

"Which protection for bank liabilities?"



Fondation Philippe Wiener - Maurice Anspach
Saïd Business School - University of Oxford

PHILIPPE WIENER LECTURE IN OXFORD

PROF. MATHIAS DEWATRIPONT

National Bank of Belgium
Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management
Université libre de Bruxelles

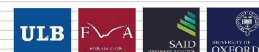
Which protection for bank liabilities?

Monday 1st June, 5 pm

Lecture Theatre VI
Saïd Business School
Park End Street, Oxford

Lecture followed by drinks reception
in the Skoll Club lounge. All welcome.

More information: fwa.ulb.ac.be
Contact: fame@sbs.ox.ac.uk



Mathias Dewatripont was appointed Executive Director at the National Bank of Belgium in May 2011, where he is responsible for prudential policy and financial stability. In this capacity, he is a member of the Supervisory Board of the European Central Bank, of the Board of Supervisors of the European Banking Authority and of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. He co-chairs the BCBS Research Task Force.

Mr Dewatripont holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University, 1986. He has done research in the theory of incentives and organizations. Since 1990, he has been Professor of Economics at Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). He was part-time Visiting Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Research Director of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) between 1998 and 2011. Fellow of the Econometric Society, laureate of the 1998 Francqui Prize and of the 2003 Yrjö Jahnsson Award for Economics, he was elected President of the European Economic Association for the Year 2005. He is member of the Académie royale de Belgique and Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Science. He was also outside Director of CGER-Bank (1992-99) and President and then Dean of the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management of ULB (2009-2011).

He has widely published in the areas of contract theory, organization economics and banking and finance. His books include *The Prudential Regulation of Banks* (with Jean Tirole, MIT Press 1994), *Contract Theory* (with Patrick Bolton, MIT Press 2005) and *Balancing the Banks: Global Lessons from the Financial Crisis* (with Jean-Charles Rochet & Jean Tirole, Princeton University Press, 2010).

Abstract of the lecture

On June 1st 2015, Professor Dewatripont gave a lecture entitled "Which protection for bank liabilities?" at the University of Oxford. He was welcomed by Professor Colin Mayer (Saïd Business School).

The lecture began with a brief history of banking regulation, deregulation and crisis management over the last 100 years. In particular it focused on an evaluation of the cost of bank bailouts. It also discussed the regulatory trend since the 2007-2008 crisis. Particular attention was devoted to the EU Banking Recovery and Resolution Directive, and its potential impact on financial stability. The lecture concluded with a more general discussion on the tradeoff between insurance and incentives in banking regulation.





Ganshof van der Meersch Chair

Professor John R. Spencer

University of Cambridge

Holder of the 2014/2015 Ganshof van der Meersch Chair



Fondation Philippe Wiener - Maurice Anspach
CHAIRE GANSHOF VAN DER MEERSCH

Prof. John R Spencer

Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge

Opening Lecture

Noli me tangere?

**Tensions between Europe
and the UK over criminal justice**

Tuesday 17 March 2015, 5.30 pm

ULB - Dupréel Room - Avenue Jeanne 44 - Brussels

The lecture will be followed by a reception
All welcome. Registration by March 12: fwa@ulb.ac.be
More information: fwa.ulb.ac.be

Following lectures (Room Spaak, IEE)

Wednesday 18 March 10.00-12.00 and 14.00-16.00
"Leveling up, leveling down, or leaving things alone?
The EU and attempts to harmonise the rules
of criminal law and criminal procedure"

Monday 30 March 14.00-16.00
"The European Arrest Warrant:
whose standards of justice should apply?"

Tuesday 31 March 14.00-16.00
"The European Public Prosecutor:
saviour, monster, or a waste of space?"

Wednesday 1 April 10.00-12.00
"The right to silence – sacred cow, or sacred principle?"



John R. Spencer Q.C, LL.D was a Professor of Law at the University of Cambridge until his retirement in September 2013, when he became a Professor Emeritus. In a career lasting over forty years he has written extensively on criminal law, criminal evidence and comparative criminal procedure, including on law enforcement and police cooperation.

His interests include European criminal law. In particular, he was a member of the international team responsible for drafting the Corpus Juris project.

Besides his book (with Mireille Delmas-Marty) on European criminal procedure, he has written or edited books dealing with various aspects of the law of evidence in England and Wales, and also a short book in French about English criminal procedure.

He is the ECLAN Contact Point for the United Kingdom. Additionally, he is Life Fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge, as well as being a Bye-Fellow of Murray Edwards College, Cambridge.

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 2015 Chair

Tuesday 17 March

Opening lecture of the chair: "Noli me tangere?
Tensions between Europe and the UK over criminal justice"

Wednesday 18 March

"Levelling up, levelling down, or leaving things alone?
The EU and attempts to harmonise the rules of criminal law and criminal procedure"

Monday 30 March

"The European Arrest Warrant:
Whose standards of justice should apply?"

Tuesday 31 March

"The European Public Prosecutor:
Saviour, monster, or waste of space?"

Wednesday 1 April

"The right to silence - sacred cow or sacred principle?"

Abstract of the opening lecture

In his opening lecture, Professor Spencer examined current and continual discontent in the UK with the Strasbourg Court and the European Convention, much of which relates to criminal justice matters, and current political moves to "liberate" the national courts from their obligations to apply the Convention and the Strasbourg case-law that interprets it.

He then examined parallel moves to "liberate" the criminal justice system of the UK from the influence of Brussels, Luxembourg, and the EU. Professor Spencer contended that much of the current discontent is based upon grave misunderstandings - both about the administration of criminal justice in Continental Europe, and the supposed desire of "Europeans" to force the British to adopt Continental ways.

Research Projects

*Itanos, excavation campaign 2015. View from the south.
Photograph courtesy of Athina Tsingarida*

ULB - Cambridge

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



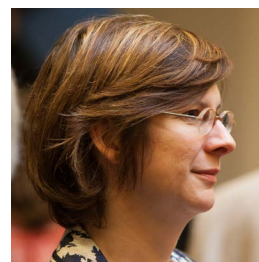
"The Ommeganck in Brussels on 31 May 1615: The Triumph of Archduchess Isabella" by Denys van Alsloot
©Victoria and Albert Museum, London

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

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 many years of conflict between Protestants and Catholics eventually led to the split of the territory into two distinct political entities (1648). 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 project addresses the four main issues of conversion, belief, resistance, and memory. For practical reasons, the study is limited to specific towns: Brussels, Douai, Courtrai, Mons, Soignies, Valenciennes and Antwerp. This study draws mostly on archival and literary sources but also on an examination of the musical repertory.

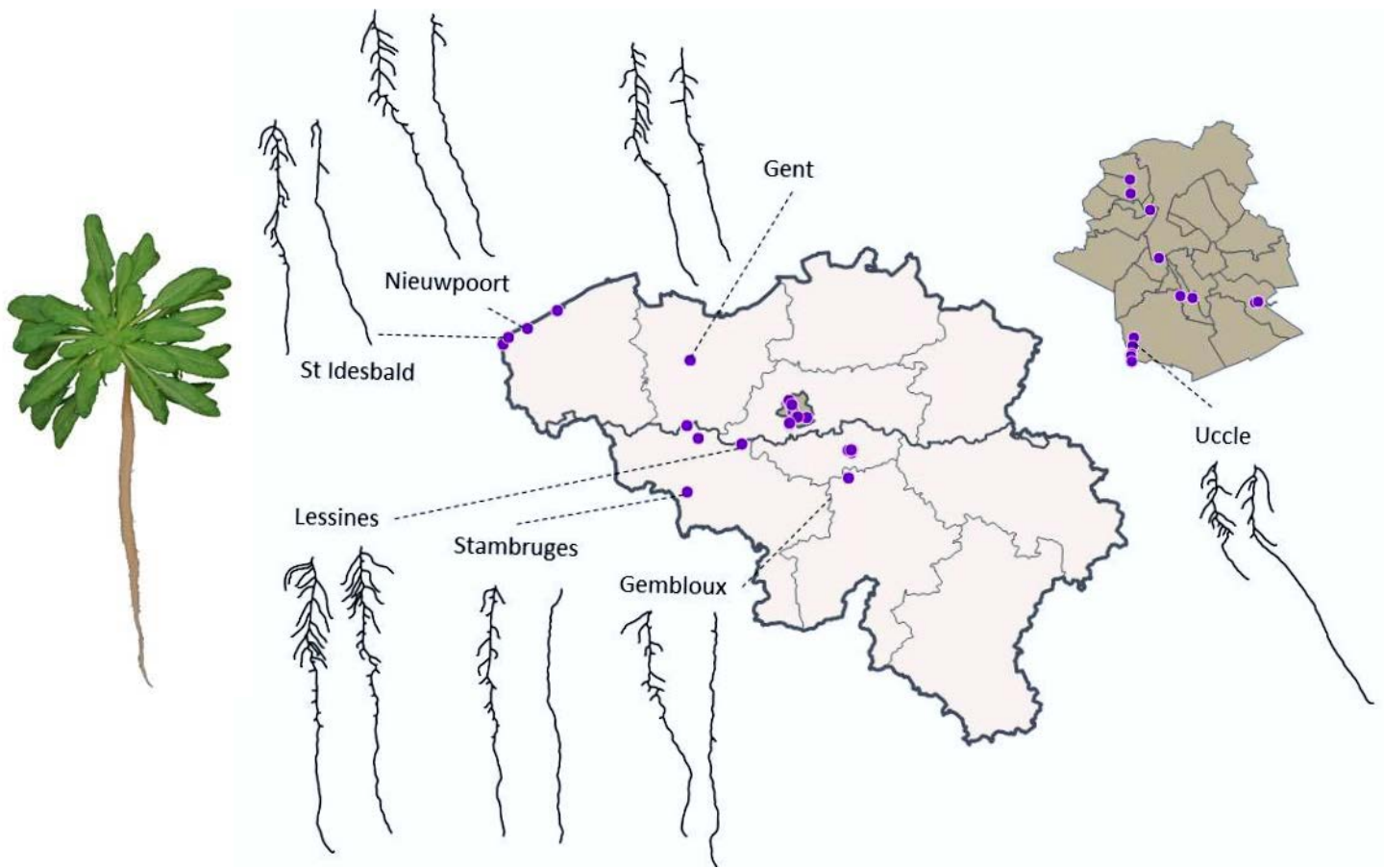
Marie-Alexis Colin's interest in early music focuses on France and the Low Countries between 1450 and 1650, particularly its stylistic, liturgical and essentially political dimensions. She is also interested in questions relating to the diffusion and circulation of music and texts.



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.



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



The model species *Arabidopsis thaliana*, illustrated in colour on the left, offers a great opportunity to unravel variation in adaptive evolutionary responses to the environment.

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

Cambridge Promoter: Jim Haseloff (Department of Plant Sciences)

Nitrogen is the quantitatively most important nutrient in cropping systems. Modifying root morphology to capture nitrogen more efficiently could represent a sustainable solution to maintain crop productivity whilst reducing the environmental impact of agriculture. One way to reduce nitrogen fertilizer input is to breed for crops with better Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE). 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. 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*.

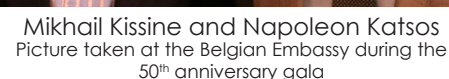
The impact of bilingualism and bi-dialectalism on linguistic and cognitive development



Cambridge Promoter: Napoleon Katsos (Theoretical and Applied Linguistics)

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

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



Missebo second-hand clothing market in Cotonou, Benin. Photograph courtesy of Martin Rosenfeld

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 situations of uncertainty when the state is missing or unable to guarantee basic institutional trust? This question is addressed through the study of clothing, one of the most emblematic sectors of the global economy. Using a comparative ethnographic study of two important African business hubs, this research will be able to track many commonalities regarding the questions of trust, border crossing, transnational economic exchanges and trade diaspora. Additionally, by following transnational trade chains supplying secondhand and new clothing to two marketplaces, we examine the variety of regimes governing the mobility of people and goods, as well as the social ties that allow traders to enforce contracts and defend their market share in situations of political instability and uncertainty.



Andrea Rea



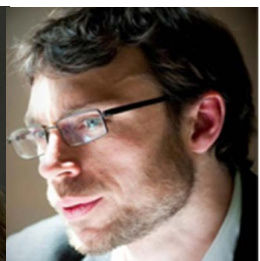
Neil Carrier



Nicholas Van Hear



Emma Lochery



Martin Rosenfeld

At the Université libre de Bruxelles, Emma Lochery is working as a post-doctoral researcher under the supervision of Andrea Rea who 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, a lecturer at the African Studies Centre, 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.

Peasant Households and Changing Landscapes (Western Europe, AD 200-1200)



Extract from the Martyrologium of Wandalbert of Prüm, Cod. Reg. lat. 438, ©Bibliotheca apostolica vaticana

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

Oxford Promoter: Chris Wickham (Faculty of History)

This project brings together archaeologists and historians who study early medieval peasant societies and landscapes. It will examine the standards of living of peasant households as documented by archaeology and texts and according to various 'production modes', thus focusing on the peasant household as both an empiric object and a theoretical structure in order to allow a dialogue beyond disciplinary boundaries. It will also document the way their economical strategies had an impact upon the surrounding landscape. Among the project's aims are crossed workshops, lectures and winter schools in Oxford and Brussels in addition to the collective writing of a book offering an overall synthesis of the work's results.

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.

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.



Alexis Wilkin and Jean-Pierre Devroey



Chris Wickham

Beyond the Polis: Ritual Practices and the Construction of Social Identity in Early Greece

The project "Beyond the Polis", spanning from 2012 to 2015, focused on the study of collective ritual practices that took place in distinctive locations either in contemporary settlements and/or in sacred and funerary contexts from the Late Bronze Age to the Late Archaic period throughout the ancient Greek world. The study of rituals during such informative periods of early Greek culture advanced the definition of the character of such practices; and the social status of the groups who organised and participated in them.

The project focused on a variety of practices such as collective feasting evinced in the discovery of distinctive archaeological material.

The first two years of the research focused on case studies, examining the material revealed in the sites of Lefkandi in Euboea, the "Sacred House" at the Academy of Athens, the Spartan Amyklaion, and the Archai building in Itanos (East Crete). In the second year another case study was added to include the region of northern Greece and in particular ritual associated with the burial practices of central Macedonia, at the Necropolis of Sindos site. The results of this two-year research project are soon to be published in a collective volume.

The third and last year expanded the research into theoretical questions, other geographical areas and sites of the Greek world, and also took into account new types of evidence brought by faunal and bio-archaeological remains. The final results were discussed in an international symposium held at ULB in September 2015 that gathered the leading specialists on the subject, and will be published in a second volume edited by the promoters of the project.



Above is the archaeological site of Itanos, a city-harbour located in Eastern Crete. The site had an important maritime role as revealed by Herodotus (4.151). The author mentions the significance of the city in the Greek colonization of Cyrene in Lybia. The archaeological record shows that the site was occupied from the 10th c. B.C. to the 6th c. AD. No evidence of Bronze Age activity has been found so far, despite the island's strong role in the Mycenaean and Minoan periods.

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.

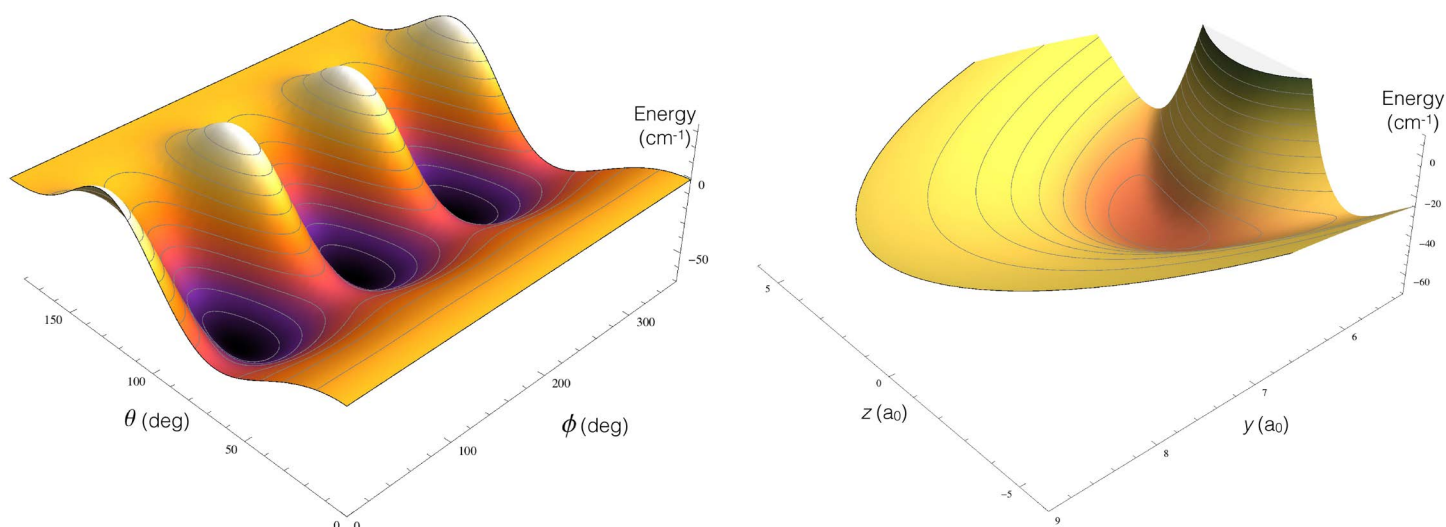
Athéna Tsingarida, a specialist of Archaic and Classical Greece, teaches Ancient Greek Archaeology and Art at the ULB. Her research mainly lies in the fields of Ancient Greek Pottery and Reception of Classical Art. She co-directed (with Didier Viviers) the excavations and restoration works at Itanos (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.



Irene Lemos and Athéna Tsingarida
Picture taken at Belgian Embassy during the 50th anniversary gala.



Two figures illustrating the potential energy surface of NH_3 (ref.: J. Chem Phys 143 184303, 2015). Left shows the energy as a function of the spherical angles with the internuclear distance R set at $6.23 a_0$ (minimum surface). Right is the energy in polar coordinates (R , theta) where the phi angle is 60 degrees.

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

Oxford Promoter: Tim Softley and Brianna Heazlewood (Department of Chemistry)

Initiated in 2012, the ACME collaboration has been aiming at the understanding of atomic and molecular collision mechanisms of ammonia (NH_3) at interstellar space temperatures and beyond, thus leading towards a new chemistry to be controlled at the quantum level. The collaboration mainly addresses ammonia and rare gas collisions and half collisions, with experimental as well as theoretical work being conducted at the same time. 2015 was a fruitful year, with a complementary research track was successfully opened which considers water instead of ammonia. Moreover, the detection of ammonia in the field was achieved, exploiting previous results from and thanks to the experimental developments at ULB. Fourteen papers either were published or have been accepted for publication in international journals, in addition to thirteen oral contributions being presented at international events that included ACME results. A top ranking international workshop was organized by the three ACME co-promoters under the sponsorship of the Wiener Anspach Foundation and of the International Solvay Institutes, gathering the best experts in the field.

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.

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.

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.



Michel Herman

Nathalie Vaeck



Brianna Heazlewood

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)

Political information is a fundamental condition for the well-functioning of democracies. Democracy functions better when its citizens are politically informed because well-informed citizens are better able to formulate their interests and ensure that these interests are taken into account by governments. With emergence of a new digital era, access to information is being deeply transformed. Within this context, the project's goal is to analyse the effects of digital technologies on citizens' political knowledge and political behaviour, focusing on online-based news consumption on political knowledge and participation by means of innovative experimental methods. Two working packages are associated with the project: the first focuses on political knowledge and tests through an online experiment how a variety of online platforms affect how people learn and modify their attitudes; and the second focuses on political participation by analysing online petitions, particularly the lapetition platform.

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. 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.



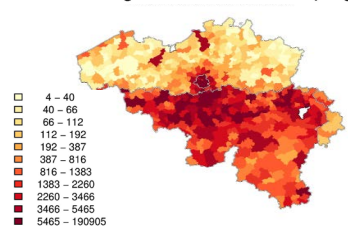
Jean-Benoît Pilet

Laura Sudulich

Helen Margetts

Jonathan Bright

Nombre de signatures à la commune (Belgique)



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 neuronal diversity of the cerebral cortex manages the complex cortical functions of mammalian brains. Understanding of the mechanisms underlying the generation of cellular diversity of the cortex constitute a major challenge in developmental neurosciences. Within the cortex, the subplate (SP) is a transient cortical structure at the interface between the developing cortex and the guidance of axons and the establishment of topographic connections. Nowadays, very little is known about the genes which control specification of SP cell populations that are among the earliest generated in the cortex. The Bellefroid laboratory demonstrated that Dmrt5 mutant mice present major deficits in SP, and it launched a collaborative study with the Molnár laboratory to understand the role of Dmrt5 in the generation of SP neurons.



Eric Bellefroid



Zoltán Molnár

Eric Bellefroid's group at the ULB studies the molecular mechanisms that control neurogenesis in the developing vertebrate nervous system, focusing on some transcription factors and their role in progenitor proliferation and differentiation and in the generation of neuronal diversity.

Zoltan Molnár's group at the University of Oxford studies the molecular mechanisms that control the development and evolution of early cortical circuits, with special attention to cortical arealisation, thalamocortical connectivity, migration of cortical neurons and associated disorders..



Our Alumni

In the Gonville & Caius College garden, Cambridge, 1973. From left to right: FWA Alumnus, Pierre Vaesen; College President, David Needham; and College Fellow, Pedro Echenique.

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 which counts numerous prominent academics, senior executives in the private sector and influential civil servants and diplomats, such as British MP, Jo Johnson, 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.

Stepping stone on a career path to diplomacy



Pierre Vaesen,
1973/1974 Wiener-Anspach Fellow

In September 2015, Pierre Vaesen, former diplomat and honorary Ambassador of Belgium, granted Francesca Spinelli an interview touching on his experience as a Wiener-Anspach fellow, on his career as a diplomat, the changes witnessed in a career spanning forty years, and his reflections on being a representative of the Belgian state.

You left with a scholarship from the Foundation for the 1973/74 academic year. How, at that time, did you find this opportunity? Was it a fellowship program that was much talked about?

I can honestly say there wasn't much talk about it. We were but a few candidates, I believe, and I think the Foundation, being fairly new, was looking for candidates. At that time more than forty years ago, such things as the Erasmus program didn't exist and there was little exchange occurring, even between European universities. I had already decided that I wanted to have an international or European career and so I thought it would be a nice experience to be able to extend my studies abroad. I was studying Law and International Law at the ULB and so I became aware of what kind of opportunities there were through message boards, I believe.

Why did you choose Cambridge rather than Oxford, then?

At the time I think there was already a pre-established program, and I didn't really have a choice. At Cambridge there was a reputable program in International and European

Law. It was a one-year program that could be extended to two years. I opted for one year as I had to take entrance exams for the diplomatic corps and I still had to do military service which was still mandatory at the time.

You left for Cambridge the same year the United Kingdom joined the European Union. Was the topic discussed frequently and did it affect your year of study there in any way?

As a matter of fact, what dominated the news during my time in England (it was an academic year from September to August of the following year) was the domestic political crisis. There was a general strike which lasted ten months and which brought down the government. It was a miners' strike and there was even a general blackout. I remember walking the streets of Cambridge with flashlights. In department stores oil lamps were lit. It was really a punishing strike that paralyzed the country's economy. There were waves of protests. Finally, the Heath government was forced to call elections that it eventually lost. So that was the political and psychological context there. The UK's entry into the European Union came and went completely unnoticed. Due to greater concerns, it was not a major topic of interest.



Gonville & Caius College, 1973. Pierre Vaesen is in the second row from the top and fourth from the right.

After a career of more than forty years in the diplomatic corps, how has the profession changed? I assume there must now be many more women diplomats. What are some of the major changes you've observed?

Unfortunately, there are still too few women diplomats. One of the reasons being that it's very difficult to reconcile one's private and family life with essentially a nomadic life. You have to be willing to change countries every four years, and so it's not easy to find a partner, be they a husband or a wife, who is willing to follow you. You may say that the issue is now just as sensitive for a woman as it is for a man since there are more and more women who want to invest in and further their own careers.

When I left on my first mission, it was forbidden for spouses to work because it was felt that it was either dangerous or incompatible with the dignity and function of such a post. This was what the mentality was like some forty years ago.

The system now has greatly changed. Although there are now services to help spouses find jobs, it still remains difficult to develop a career. It was a huge problem to find women diplomats precisely for these reasons, but it's becoming a problem to recruit men diplomats for the same reasons. Even if the profession has changed greatly, the basic principles remain the same. A career in diplomacy is essentially one that promotes mainly bilateral relations from country to country or multilateral relations if we are in an international body.

Although there has been talk of the death of diplomacy, the opposite is in fact the case. I think we need diplomats more than ever before. International relations have now

expanded to many areas that were once considered solely as national domains. Living in a globalized world means that there is a need for more diplomatic relations in all sectors, be they economic, scientific, academic or cultural. There are dozens of areas in which diplomatic relations are manifest. The changes have also been of a technological nature. Technology has greatly changed and along with it, a considerable expansion of focus areas.

As a representative of the Belgian state, have you often had to face questions about the specifics of Belgium and its community issues?

Yes, of course. Each country has its difficulties and challenges, naturally. In discussing the specifics of Belgium with foreigners, the real challenge lay in explaining the Belgian state structure, which as we know is complicated, but that's the price paid to be able to live together peacefully. I've often made the analogy that a diplomat is a bit of a travelling salesman. We don't sell soap, but we do sell the image of our country since that is what is ultimately important if we want to develop relations in any field. Somehow it all depends on the image of your country, whether it's positive or not.

Some countries are better at creating a better image than others. For example, our French friends have a strong image based on quality brands and products. This may sound a bit ridiculous and superficial, but all this helps to give an overall positive picture of your country. Italians do it very well and other countries too, such as Germany. In conclusion, the work of a diplomat includes, among many other tasks, selling the image of our country almost as a brand and making the world receptive to that image.

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 2015 the prize was awarded to Cecilia Rizcallah. Ms. Rizcallah holds a Master of Law from the ULB and is currently completing a Master of European Law at the Collège d'Europe in Bruges.

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.

2015 Recipients

- In the framework of his doctoral research at the ULB, Maxime Dhainaut spent two months from November 2014 to January 2015 at the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, University of Oxford. He was welcomed by Prof. Michael Dustin.
- Dr Robert Style (Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford) spent the week of 12-16 January 2015 at the Department of Physics, ULB, in order to establish a new collaboration in the field of Soft Materials. He was welcomed by Prof. Denis Terwagne.
- Prof. Edwin Zaccai (IGEAT, ULB) gave a seminar entitled "Climate Change: Is adaptation a second best to mitigation?" at the Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford on 26 January 2015. He was welcomed by Dr Thomas Thornton.
- Prof. Juliette Simont (Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences, ULB) delivered a keynote lecture at a conference entitled "Sartre Today" on 30 January 2015 at the Maison Française, University of Oxford. She was welcomed by Dr Christina Howells.
- Dr Evi Margaritis (University of Cambridge) delivered a lecture entitled "Wine Merchants, Olive Oil Factories, and Taverns in Hellenistic Greece" at the CréA-Patrimoine, ULB on 2 March 2015. She was welcomed by Prof. Agnès Vokaer.
- Prof. Elisabeth Hsu participated in a workshop entitled, "The Ethnographic Productivity of Tim Ingold" and delivered a lecture on the theory of the "ecology of the body" at the ULB's Laboratoire d'Anthropologie des Mondes Contemporains (LAMC) on 20-21 April 2015. She was welcomed by Prof. David Berliner.
- Dr Aude Busine (FNRS, ULB) attended the XVII International Conference on Patristic Studies from the 10 to 14 August 2015 at the University of Oxford where she presented a paper entitled, "Basil of Caesarea and the Praise of the City".
- Prof. Denis Terwagne (Department of Physics, ULB) spent the week of 23-29 August 2015 at the Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford to further consolidate a cross-Channel collaboration in the field of Soft Materials. He was welcomed by Dr Robert Style.
- Dr Julie Smith and Prof. Andrew Gamble (University of Cambridge) delivered lectures in the series of events on the theme, "The EU and the UK Facing the Challenge of Fragmentation in a Disordered World" on 29 September and 13 October 2015 respectively at the IEE, ULB. They were welcomed by Prof. Anne Weyembergh.
- Prof. Sir Mark Feldman (Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, University of Oxford) delivered a lecture entitled, "Pioneering anti-TNF therapy: Lessons learned point path future progress?" on 10 November 2015 at the inaugural conference, "From Scientific Breakthrough to Patient Care" organized by the Institute for Interdisciplinary Innovation in Healthcare, ULB. He was welcomed by Prof. Michel Goldman.
- Prof. Alain Viala and Prof. Kate Tunstall (University of Oxford) gave a joint-lecture entitled, "Anti? Querelles, modernité et construction des savoirs" at the ULB in the context of the international conference, "Femmes des anti-Lumières, Femmes apologistes" which took place on 19-20 November 2015. They were welcomed by Prof. Fabrice Preyat.



Information about fellowships and grants

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