

2021 Activity Report

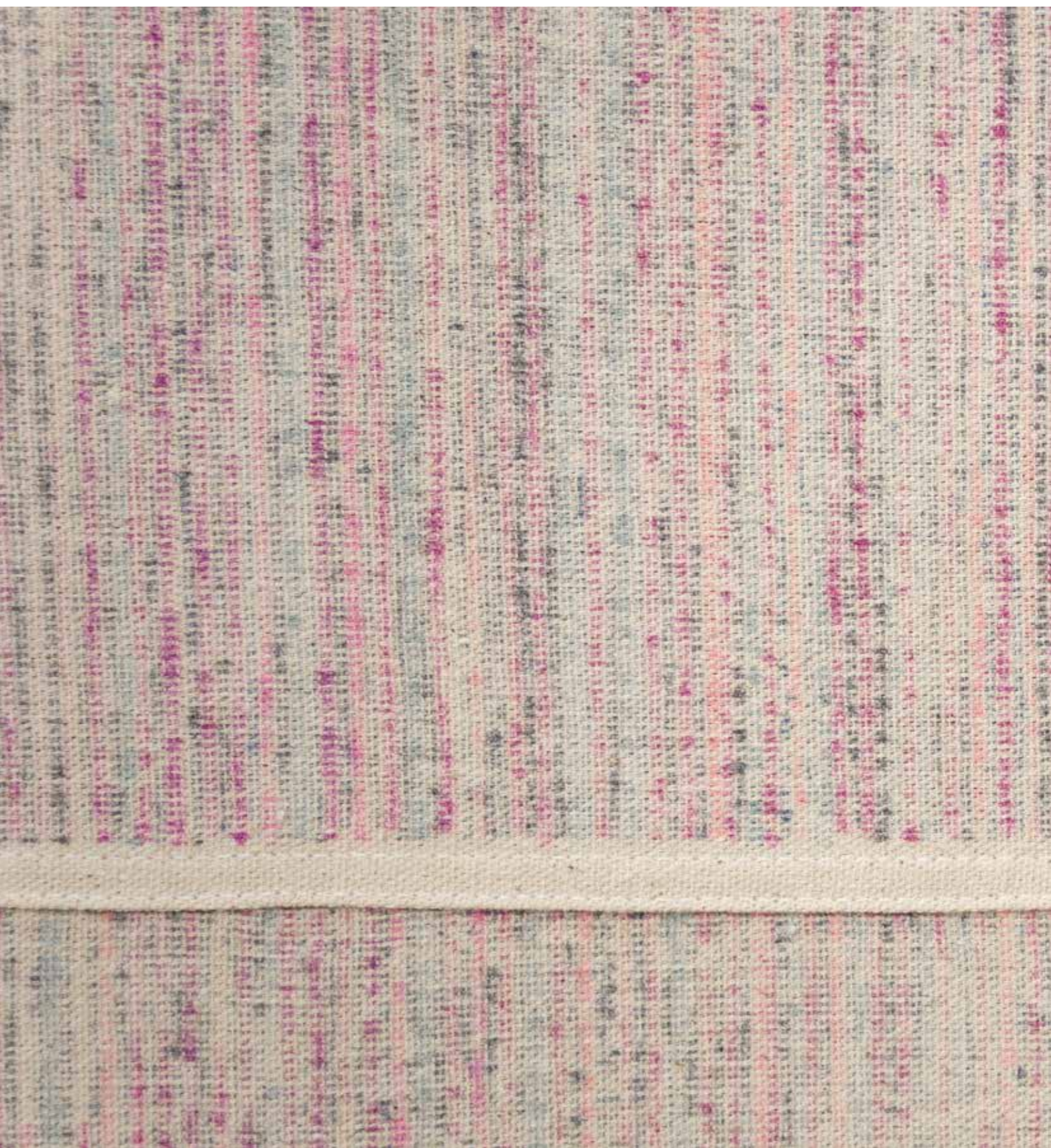




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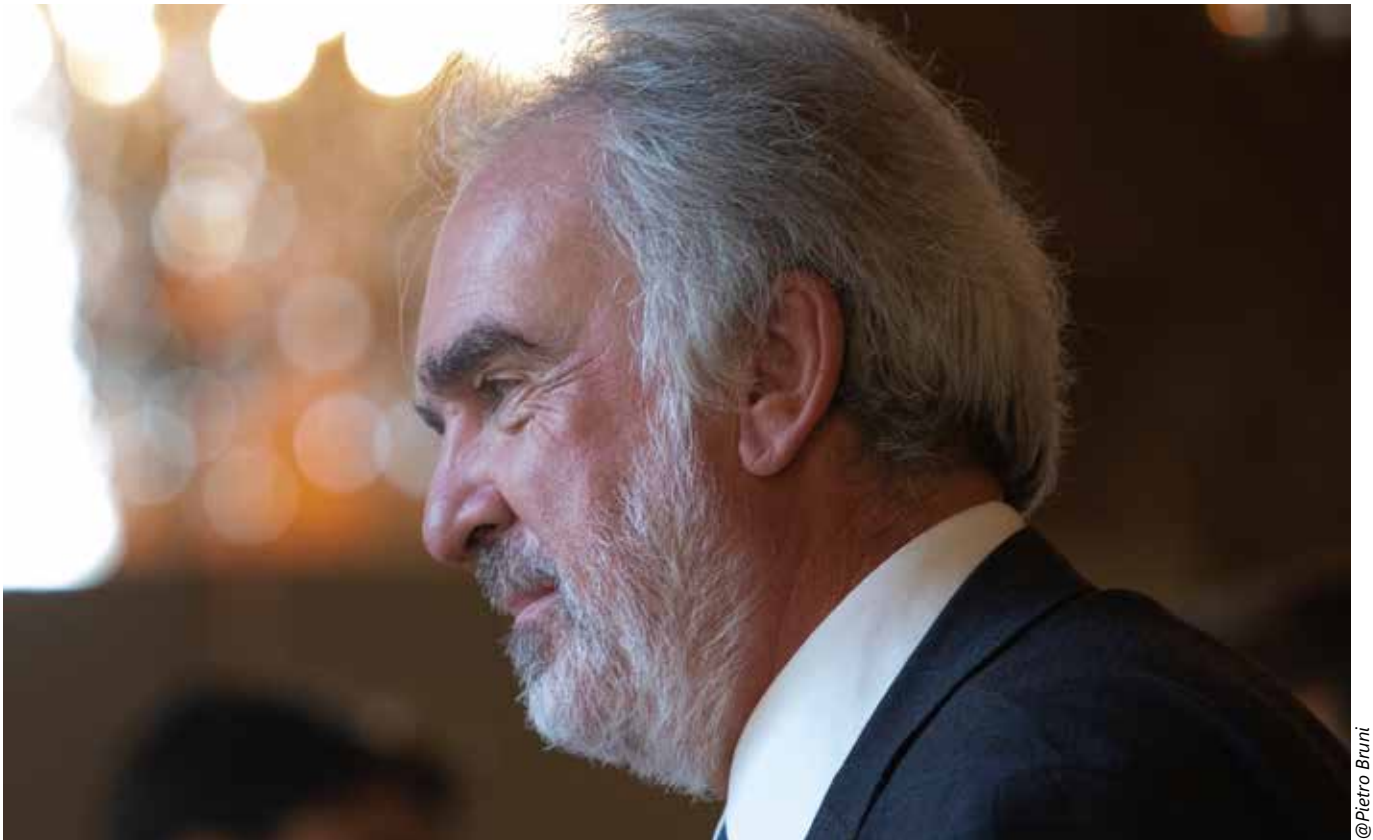
Hannah De Corte (2021-2022 Wiener-Anspach Fellow)

A Part ("Armure/Weave" series)

Solvent marker on cotton canvas, (142 x 120 cm) + (219 x 152 cm) - detail

Photo credit: Gilles Ribero

WORD OF WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT



Restart. After the 2020 lockdown, this was our objective for 2021, but also our main challenge. Nothing is more problematic in the organization of international mobility and scientific collaboration between researchers than uncertainty and constantly changing rules. The success of the relations between the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford and ULB is based on their recurrence and great stability. It was important, in these unstable times, to support well-established contacts that have proven their dynamism. We therefore opened new funding channels for our young Alumni actively collaborating with their former host departments.

I encourage you to browse this report and the Foundation's website, and to discover the many ways in which we support the relationships between Oxbridge and ULB: doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships, conferences and seminars, short stays and research projects. Flexibility must remain the Foundation's key word. To this respect, we updated and reviewed our statutes in 2021 with the aim of bringing them in line with best practices and providing the greatest possible legal safety for our procedures, while maintaining their flexibility.

The year 2021 was still affected by the health crisis as well as by the implementation of the new conditions for international mobility imposed by Brexit. On behalf of myself and the fellows and researchers, I would like to thank warmly Francesca and Violette, who form our small administrative team, for

their enthusiastic and efficient commitment to the daily management of the Foundation and their helpful concern for the Foundation's beneficiaries, especially in these moments of complex mobility. It is also an opportunity to thank Pierre Vaesen and Christophe Snoeck for their commitment to our Alumni Network, which played a significant role in making our new fellows feel welcome in their new environment.

Thanks to the Executive Director of the FWA, Professor Kristin Bartik, and the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Professor Eric De Keuleneer, the Foundation can look to the future with confidence, given its very satisfactory financial situation and its efficient management. I thank them both very warmly for their action that allows the Foundation to strengthen its support for the collaborations between ULB and the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford.

The success of a foundation such as ours depends largely on the quality of its scientific selections. I would like to underline the impressive work of the Scientific Committee, which I thank, and especially its chairman, Professor Luc Lemaire. The content of this 2021 report will convince you of the outstanding merits of the beneficiaries of the Foundation's support. Let's hope now that the restart will be permanent...

Professor Didier Viviers
President of the Foundation

THE FOUNDATION

The Wiener-Anspach Foundation exists thanks to the generosity of **Phyllis Agnes Beddington Wiener**. Its creation, in 1965, is intimately linked to Phyllis' love for her husband **Philippe Wiener**, who died in 1944 in a camp for political prisoners in Germany. After the death of **Maurice Anspach**, Philippe's close friend, who had taken care of his family during and after the war, Phyllis modified the Foundation's statutes to add his name to her husband's. When she died in 1973, Walter Ganshof van der Meersch, then Executive Director of the Foundation, recalled her as "an exceptional person in whom all the gifts of intelligence and heart shone".



From top left, clockwise: Phyllis as a child and a young woman; Phyllis and Philippe; Phyllis in 1970; Maurice Anspach (all pictures courtesy of the Beddington and Anspach families).

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The Wiener-Anspach Foundation would like to express its warmest thanks to Professor Michèle Galand, who stepped down from the Scientific Committee in September 2021, for her ten-year-long dedication to its activities.

Wiener-Anspach Fellow Hérítier Mesa and Alumna Andrea Filipi (photo credit: Pietro Bruni)

Fellowship programme



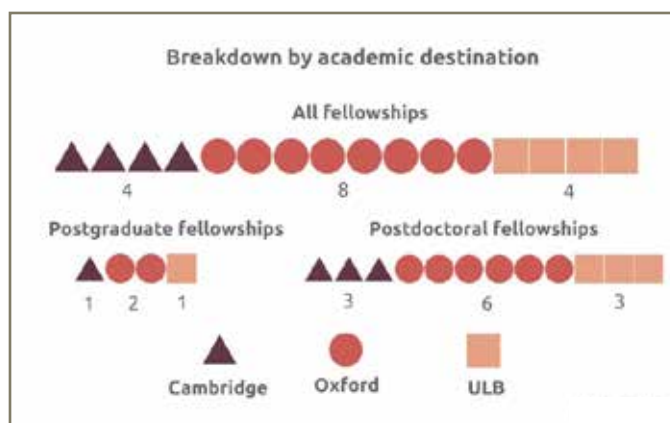
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME



In line with its objectives, the Foundation promotes the development of academic activities between the ULB and the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford by awarding:

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

Applications are examined by the Scientific Committee. For the 2021-2022 academic year, the Foundation selected 16 Fellows.



CAMBRIDGE

Doctoral Fellow

Arthur Péquin

PhD student, Brussels School of Engineering (ULB)
Supervisor: Alessandro Parente

Doctoral research entitled
"Generalisation for reactor-based models in MILD Combustion"

Cambridge supervisor:
Prof. Nedunchezian Swaminathan (Department of Engineering)



Postdoctoral Fellows

Ariadna Albajara Sáenz

PhD in Psychology and Education Sciences (ULB)

Research project entitled
"The Incredible Years (IY) Teacher Classroom Management (TCM) training:
long term use and effects, and outcomes in children with probable
Attention-Deficit /Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)"

Cambridge supervisor:
Prof. Tamsin J. Ford (Department of Psychiatry)



Marco Ognibene

PhD in Social and Political Sciences (ULB)

Research project entitled
"Tell me with whom you talk, and I will tell you who you are:
The effect of interpersonal social networks on political behaviours"

Cambridge supervisor:
Dr Lee De Wit (Department of Psychology)



Samuel Vanden Abeele

PhD in Biology (ULB)

Research project entitled
"Unravelling the evolutionary history of tropical
monodominant forests in Central Africa"

Cambridge supervisor:
Dr Samuel Brockington (Department of Plant Sciences)



OXFORD

Postgraduate Fellow



Orvil Collart

MSc in Biomedical Engineering (ULB)

Third year of the Accelerated Medicine Course

Doctoral Fellow



Héritier Mesa

PhD student in Social and Labour Science (ULB)

Supervisor: Joël Noret

Doctoral research entitled
"Identity and Social Position in the informal Economy: A multidimensional analysis of social inequality in Kinshasa".

Oxford supervisor:
Prof. David Pratten (African Studies Centre)

Postdoctoral Fellows



Virginie Arantes

PhD in Social and Political Sciences (ULB)

Research project entitled
"Effective 'Collaborative' Governance:
A Comparative Look at Environmental NGOs roles in China and Taiwan".

Oxford supervisor:
Prof. Anna Lora-Wainwright (School of Global and Area Studies)



Hannah De Corte

PhD in Art and Arts Sciences (ULB)

Research project entitled
"Emergent Images. Technical and Aesthetic Role of Canvas in 'Impressionist' Paintings, with a Particular Focus on Ashmolean Museum's Collection".

Oxford supervisor:
Prof. Ian Kiaer (Ruskin School of Art)

Anissa Maâ

PhD in Social and Political Sciences (ULB)

Research project entitled
"An 'indigenous' migration control? The role of return migrants in the
implementation of migration control in Western Africa".

Oxford supervisor:
Dr Ruben Andersson (Department for International Development)



Julien Pomarède

PhD in Social and Political Sciences (ULB)

Research project entitled
"The militarization of mobility control after 9/11:
The rise of 'mobility warfare' at NATO".

Oxford supervisor:
Prof. Andrea Ruggeri (Department of Politics and International Relations)



Raphaël Van Daele

PhD in Philosophy

Research project entitled
"Ontology and Transformations in Early Medieval Chinese Thought.
Study on the Reception and Exegesis of the *Book of Changes (Yijing)*".

Oxford supervisor:
Dr Dirk Meyer (Faculty of Oriental Studies)



Simon Watteyne

PhD in History (ULB)

Research project entitled
"Belgian Fiscal and Financial Diplomacy
at the League of Nations during the Inter-war Period".

Oxford supervisor:
Prof. Martin Conway (Oxford Centre for European History)



BRUSSELS

Doctoral fellow



Joseph Alejandro Salinas

PhD student in Social and Labour Science (University of Cambridge)

Supervisor: Dr David Nally

Doctoral research entitled

"Finance at Land's End: Campesino Struggles, Debt and Palm Oil Commodity Trading in Montes de Maria, Colombia".

ULB supervisor:

Prof. Olivia Angé (LAMC – Laboratoire d'Anthropologie des Mondes Contemporains)

Postdoctoral fellows



Kamila Kocialkowska

PhD in History of Art (University of Cambridge)

Research project entitled

"Ruptured Modernism: Russian Censorship and Avant-Garde Experiment 1910-1918".

ULB supervisor:

Dr Denis Ioffe (Faculty of Letters, Translation and Communication)



Tzveta Manolova

DPhil in Archaeology (University of Oxford)

Second year of research on her project entitled

"Protohistoric Eastern Mediterranean Ships Digital Project (1500-600 B.C.)"

ULB supervisor:

Athena Tsingarida (Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences)



Vidar Arild Stenberg

PhD in Music Psychology (University of Cambridge)

Second year of research on his project entitled

"Text designs for the facilitation of reading: A cross-domain study of linguistic and musical approaches".

ULB supervisor:

Prof. Régine Kolinsky (Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences)



Research projects

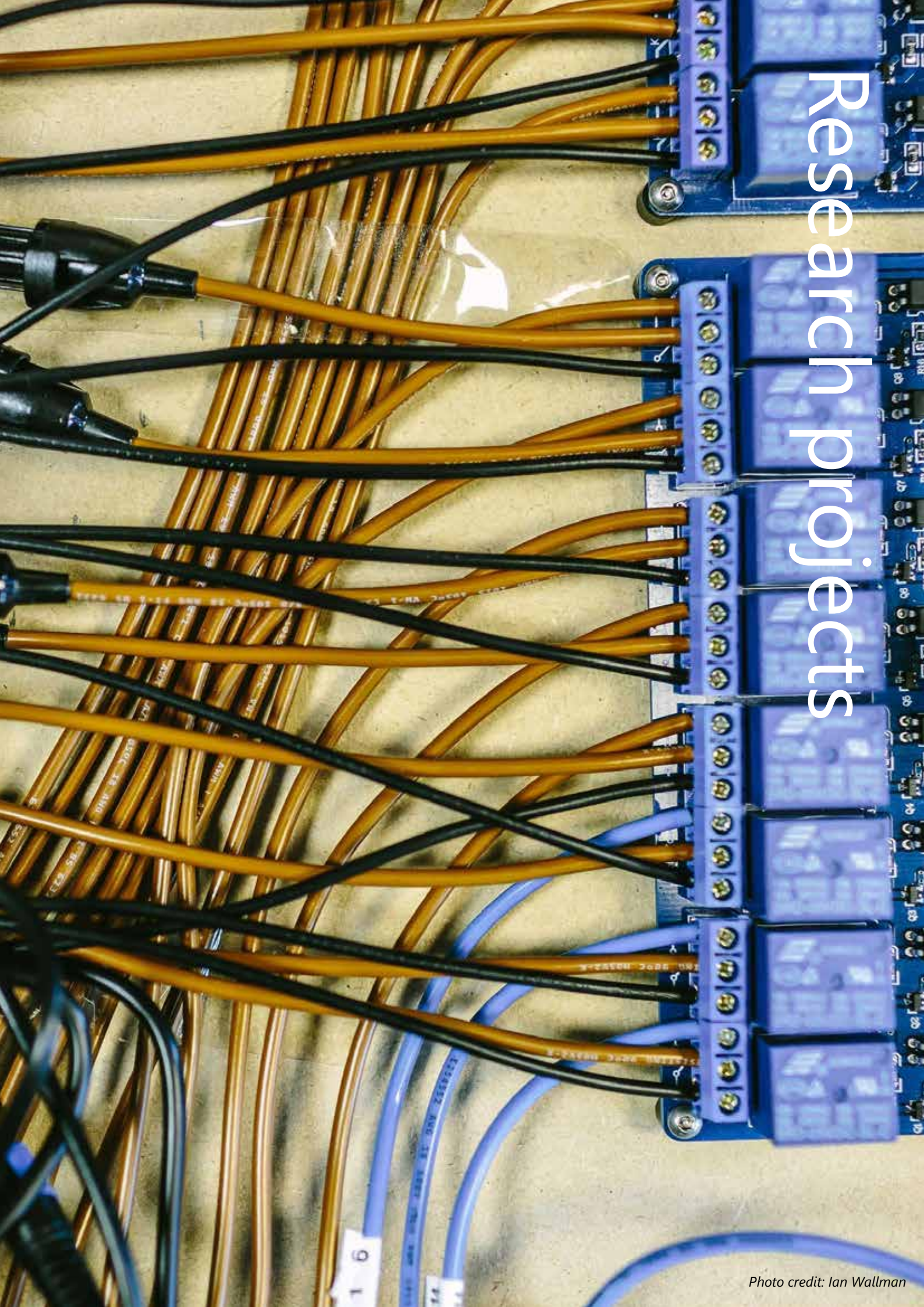


Photo credit: Ian Wallman

The Wiener-Anspach Foundation supports two-year collaborative research projects in all fields between teams from the Université libre de Bruxelles and the Universities of Cambridge or Oxford. In 2021 nine projects were selected for the 2022-2024 period.



SYMBOLISM AND DECADENCE AS WORLD LITERATURE

The end of the 19th century was a pivotal moment in the process of internationalization of cultural models. By observing the worldwide diffusion of symbolism and decadence, we can see how the main actors of these movements developed an extreme awareness of how crucial a global deployment was.

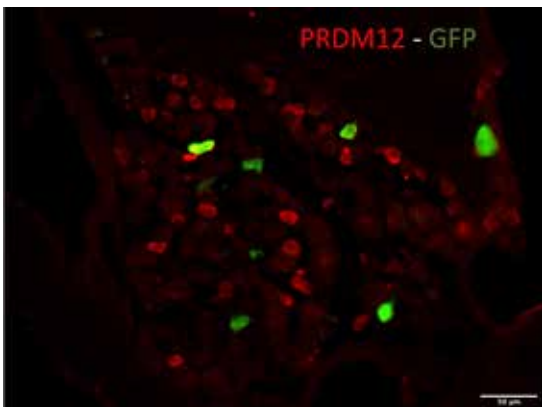
The current project aims to study this phenomenon and to reveal its mechanisms: from its media promotion to the functioning of international recognition. Symbolism and decadence benefited from the technological and media redeployment in progress at the end of the 19th century, from the facilitation of travel and the colonial expansion to spread across the globe.

The press and the reception of the works also reflected the important entanglement between national identities and the literary works. We will investigate all the dimensions of this first cultural globalization in which the national and the international went hand in hand.

Oxford Promoters: **Stefano Maria Evangelista** (Faculty of English) and **Patrick McGuinness** (Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages)

ULB Promoter: **Clément Dessy** (Literary, Philological and Textual Studies - Philixte, Faculty of Letters, Translation and Communication)

ROLE OF THE EPIGENETIC REGULATOR PRDM12 IN NOCICEPTION



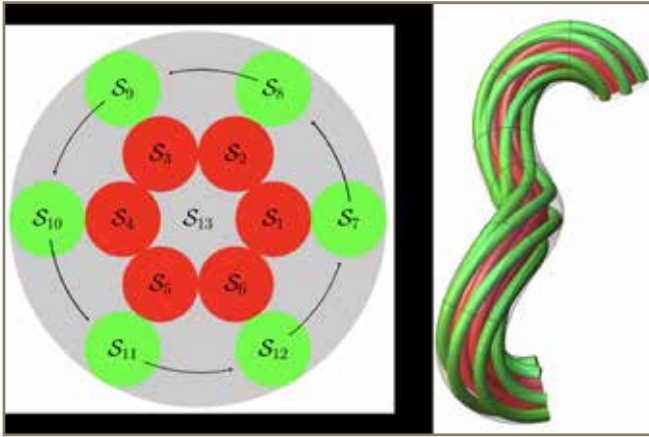
Nociceptors are specialized sensory neurons that protect organism from dangers by eliciting pain and driving avoidance. Nociceptors can however be sensitized under pathological conditions such as inflammation, leading to chronic pain. Prdm12 is a conserved epigenetic regulator that we showed to be critical for the survival of developing nociceptors.

Our recent data indicate that in adulthood, Prdm12 does not control nociceptor survival anymore, but still contribute to the control of gene expression and increases their sensitivity in inflammatory conditions. In this project, to better understand the role and mechanism of action of Prdm12 in nociceptor sensitization, we will study the consequences of its gain of function in nociception and identify its direct transcriptional targets and potential interactors. Besides, we will also test the hypothesis that alterations in Prdm12 expression may contribute to the nociceptor loss observed in the pain insensitive naked mole rat.

Cambridge Promoter: **Ewan St. John Smith** (Sensory Neurophysiology and Pain Laboratory, Department of Pharmacology)

ULB Promoter: **Eric Bellefroid** (Developmental Genetics Laboratory, Faculty of Sciences)

A MATHEMATICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE STUDY OF ACTIVE RODS: THEORY AND APPLICATIONS



Soft robots are highly deformable bodies that can be actuated to perform astonishing tasks. These robots often are biomimetic: engineers use modern materials that can undergo large deformations with little to no permanent damage to reproduce some of nature's tricks. However, to progress, we need a quantitative description of the underlying phenomena.

Many such robots involve elongated parts that can actively change their shape and/or mechanical properties. These parts are referred to as active rods. The contraction of a muscle is a good example. The turgid growth of a plant is another. In this research project, we propose to derive an effective mathematical framework to describe active rods. These tools will then be used to model biological systems and to study particular soft robots such as those which are developed at ULB.

Oxford Promoter: Alain Goriely (Oxford Centre for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Mathematical Institute)

ULB Promoter: Thomas Lessinnes (Transfers, Interfaces & Processes Laboratory, Brussels School of Engineering)

THE MAGMATIC EVOLUTION OF GEOTHERMALLY ACTIVE VOLCANOES IN ETHIOPIA

Fifty-nine active volcanoes in Ethiopia are dormant most of their lives but will erupt again in the future. These volcanoes form part of the East African Rift, the best natural geodynamic laboratory to study processes of continental breakup (rifting) that over time will lead to the formation of a new ocean.

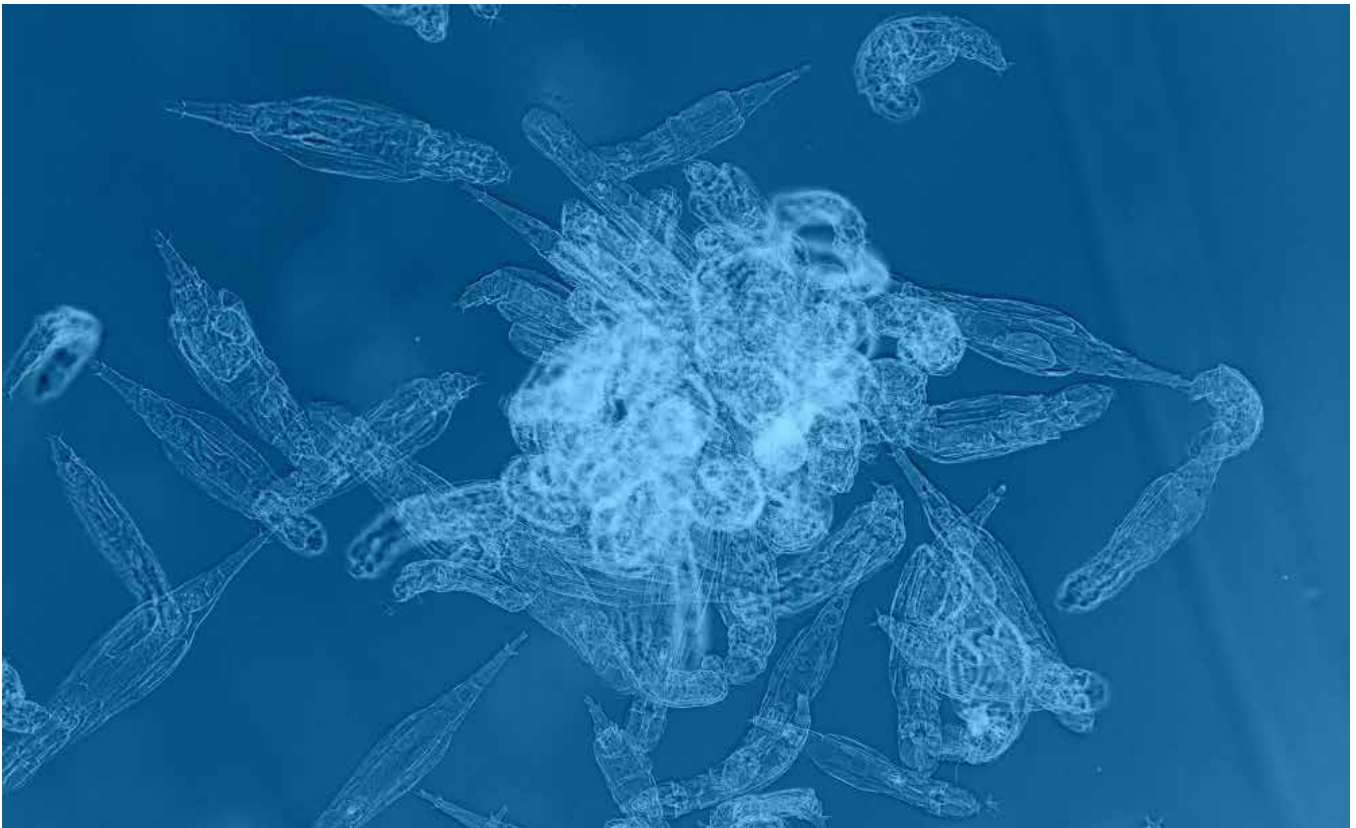
Two volcanoes at the centre of this project, Corbetti and Bora-Baricha-Tullu Moye, both located in densely populated areas of central Ethiopia, are currently being investigated by our team for their eruptive history (frequency, size and style of past eruptions). Both volcanoes have frequently erupted in the past, generating widespread dispersal of volcanic ash. They are also actively targeted for geothermal energy development and as such represent a major socio-economic resource.

It is therefore timely to better understand the underlying magmatic systems and study their longer-term evolution, using a geochemical and geochronological approach.

Oxford Promoter: Tamsin Mather (Department of Earth Sciences)

ULB Promoter: Karen Fontijn (Department of Geosciences Environment and Society, Faculty of Sciences)





A PHYLOGENOMIC FRAMEWORK TO EVALUATE HORIZONTAL GENE TRANSFER IN BDELLOID ROTIFERS

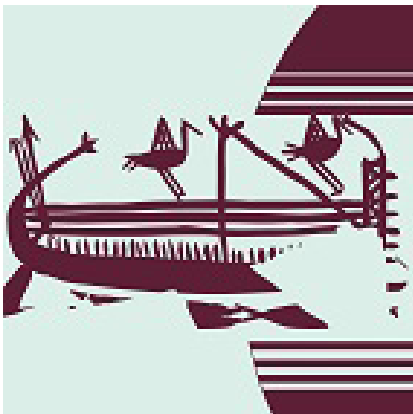
Bdelloid rotifers are microscopic animals that display unusual features compared to other animals. One of these is that their genome contains surprising amounts of DNA acquired from other organisms, including bacteria, fungi and plants. Up to 10% of their expressed genes have a non-animal origin. We know little, however, about the dynamics and processes of the acquisition of foreign DNA, or whether bdelloids also take up DNA from other animals or from each other. One obstacle has been the lack of a robust phylogenetic tree.

In this project, we will pool expertise and resources to reconstruct a robust phylogenomic tree of sequenced genomes belonging to most bdelloid genera. We will detect foreign DNA in our bdelloid genomes and map them across the genome and phylogenetic tree to understand when and where these uptake events occurred.

The outputs will refine knowledge of bdelloid biology as a counter-example to understand why foreign DNA uptake is normally rare in other animal clades.

Oxford Promoter: Timothy Giles Barraclough (Department of Zoology)

ULB Promoter: Karine Van Doninck (Research Unit in Molecular Biology and Evolution, Faculty of Sciences)



CRETE AND EUBOEA IN AN INTERCONNECTING WORLD (FROM THE 12TH TO 6TH CENTURY BC): THE ROLE OF COASTAL SETTLEMENTS IN SHORT AND LONG-DISTANCE NETWORKS OF EXCHANGE

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in examining connectivity in the Mediterranean Basin at multiple scales (microregional, regional and interregional). Such renewed interest derives from current approaches to investigate connectivity among cultures and societies both in the present and the past.

In such framework our project will focus on mobility and the operation of networks in the Aegean and beyond during the Early Iron Age and the Archaic period (ca. 1200-500 BC). The focus of our research will be on two important sites located on the two largest islands of the Aegean Sea, Crete and Euboea. The sites of Lefkandi (Euboea) and Itanos (Crete) will provide the opportunity to investigate the dynamics of interactions and the operation of regional and interregional networks in a period of dynamic developments that will transform the Mediterranean into a vibrant interconnected Sea.

Oxford Promoter: Irene Lemos (School of Archaeology)

ULB Promoter: Athena Tsingarida (Research Centre in Archaeology and Heritage, Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences)

WHEN RURAL MEETS URBAN: TOWARDS A CULTURAL HISTORY OF MODERNISMS IN BOHEMIA 1895-1925



This project launches a major collaboration between ULB and Oxford to write a cultural history of Modernism in Bohemia that challenges the dominant center-periphery narratives by combining study of national contexts with tracing transnational networks.

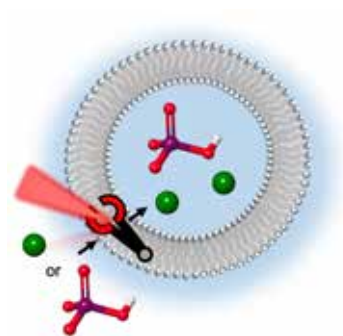
We shall co-author a monograph on attempts between Symbolism and the Avant-garde, which attract most attention, to synthesize rural cultural identities with cosmopolitan urban modernity and write a major grant bid. To refine our research questions and identify co-investigators from ULB, Oxford and beyond, we shall organize workshops at both institutions that will gather researchers who specialize in different aspects of various European modernisms.

Our work will strengthen the status of ULB Slavic Studies in Belgium and the identity of East-Central European Studies at Oxford, allowing for sustained sharing of practice between the Czech sections, and establish the two institutions as a center for research into Central European modernism.

Oxford Promoter: Rajendra Anand Chitnis (Sub-Faculty of Russian and Slavonic Studies)

ULB Promoter: Petra James (Literary, Philological and Textual Studies - Philixte, Faculty of Letters, Translation and Communication)

SELECTIVE AND CONTROLLABLE TRANSMEMBRANE TRANSPORTERS FOR IONS



This project will develop artificial systems capable of transporting ions across cell membranes. Ion transport is prerequisite for most biological processes, and dysregulation of the membrane proteins that regulate transport leads to many diseases.

We will develop photo-responsive transporters for ions, such as phosphates (inorganic phosphate, but also nucleotides) and copper(I) cations with spatiotemporal precision. Both ions are implicated in many important biological processes, but more difficult to transport compared to for instance chloride. We will also combine our interests in halogen bonding mediated transport to develop selective chloride transporters for therapeutic applications.

The goals of this project are challenging and require the combined expertise across both research groups: photo-switchable transporters and halogen bonding systems from Oxford, and phosphate transporters and novel experimental methodology for transport studies from Brussels.

Oxford Promoter: Matthew J. Langton (Chemistry Research Laboratory)

ULB Promoter: Hennie Valkenier-van Dijk (Engineering of Molecular NanoSystems, Brussels School of Engineering)

ELECTROCHEMICAL MODEL IDENTIFICATION INCLUDING AGING FOR A DIGITAL TWIN OF LITHIUM-ION BATTERIE

This project aims at developing a systematic framework to identify crucial physico-chemical parameters towards developing a digital twin for lithium-ion batteries. Such endeavor opens the door to battery optimization and monitoring/control, which has the potential to improve performance and lifetime of current batteries.

First, the identifiability problem of electrochemical models for different battery chemistries (e.g. LFP and NCA) will be studied. The combination of different estimation techniques (data-only and dedicated tests) will be assessed in order to produce an efficient estimator with possibly optimal (minimum model-data error) guarantees. Secondly, battery degradation mechanisms will be incorporated into the model through datadriven and physics-based modelling frameworks.

Finally, an arrangement of two cells will be considered, in order to start extending the proposed estimation approaches to multiple cells scenarios.

Oxford Promoter: David Howey (Department of Engineering Science)

ULB Promoter: Michel Kinnaert (Control Engineering and System Analysis, Brussels School of Engineering)



Photo credit: Ian Wallman

Wiener-Anspach Alumna Clémence Mathieu (photo credit: Frédéric Raevens)

Our Alumni



CLÉMENCE MATHIEU

Exploring the wonders of carnivals

Her strong academic background, including a year of postdoctoral research at the University of Cambridge, made Clémence Mathieu an ideal resource for the International Carnival and Mask Museum in Binche. Since 2017, she has been running this unique institution in the world.

Your initial area of study was the history of architecture. Could you summarize your background at the time of your application for a Wiener-Anspach fellowship in 2012-2013?

After a Master in Art History from the ULB, followed by a postgraduate master in conservation of monuments and sites from KU Leuven, I did my PhD between ULB and KUL, analysing the manor houses of the end of the Renaissance. It was a socio-architectural research project. I studied both the gentry and their buildings, and how the gentry behaved with the high nobility. At the time, the English high nobility was copying the European high nobility from present Belgium, who were themselves influenced by the Italian Renaissance. After completing my PhD, I wanted to see how the Renaissance had reached England. We know Antwerp played a major role as a printing center in the 16th century; Italian Renaissance motifs were printed in Antwerp and sent to London. These books influenced the high nobility, such as the Tudors. I wanted to see how the English gentry behaved in that context. Were they also influenced by the Italian Renaissance? Were they more attached to local, medieval architectural types?

I knew that East Anglia hosted many remarkable manor houses. What was also interesting was their proximity both to the seaside – hence to materials such as bricks – and to London, where books arrived. I selected around a hundred manor houses and visited all of them. It was important to be on-site to analyse the different components and see how European architecture and East Anglian architecture were brought together. My research project in Cambridge was even more interesting than my PhD because in Belgium nearly 90 percent of manor houses have been destroyed.

What were your plans for after your Wiener-Anspach fellowship?

During the last six months of my fellowship I looked for another postdoc research opportunity, but nothing came up. Also, I had come to realize that academic research is a very isolated activity, especially in my field. There wasn't a community of researchers around me and feeling isolated really does not match my personality. I therefore decided to go on the job market, and this is how I started working as a scientific collaborator in this museum, in April 2014.

A museum that wasn't exactly related to your studies!

It wasn't at all my field, but my year in Cambridge definitely made a difference when I applied. The selection committee was aware of my research skills and of my international network. I told them I was curious by nature and would be happy to focus

on this new topic. I was very lucky to be given this chance. I worked for three years as a scientific collaborator, which really means being a curator and setting up the exhibitions. Usually in bigger museums you have an administrative director and several curators specialized in different areas, but this is a small museum, where the director also plays a scientific role and there is only one curator, or scientific collaborator.

This museum was the fulfilment of one man's life project: Samuel Glotz, a historian from Binche.

Yes, in the 1950s Glotz wanted to open a museum devoted to the Carnaval de Binche. However, when he started his research he discovered that the carnival had very deep ritual roots, linked with animism and other beliefs dating back to antiquity, and even before. Comparing carnivals across Europe, he realized there was a common cultural background to these masquerades, a deep meaning that had been forgotten, which recall African and Asian rituals. He completely changed his focus and decided to create a museum devoted to masks, masquerades and carnivals from all over the world. Integrating carnivals to the world of masquerades and masked rituals was a very unique approach at that time. There was no such museum then, and even today there is no other museum like ours. You will have ethnographic museums like the Quai Branly in Paris, but they only consider masquerades from all around the world, without putting carnivals on the same level.

Glotz collected between 3,000-4,000 masks and costumes from all over the world, and the museum opened in 1975. It really was the project of his life. The mayor of Binche granted him the use of this building, which is still the property of the city. It was built in the 18th century by the Augustinians, then in the 19th century it was bought by the city, which turned the religious college into a public one. It was empty for a few years between the end of the 1960s and the early 1970s, before being partially renovated before the inauguration of the museum. Today we have about 12,000 pieces.

Nowadays museums are confronted with the sensitive issue of ethical acquisitions. How does this affect your work?

We pay considerable attention to the issue of ethical acquisition, particularly important in our field, ethnology, which deals with communities' identities. At the time of Glotz, there was less awareness, so we do have pieces of unknown origin in our collection. The government asked us to prepare a report last year, in which we listed our doubts. For example, we have some pre-Columbian masks from Mexico and Guatemala. We think that they were bought in the 80's-90s by an antiquarian in Brussels, but we have serious doubts about the way in which

they were acquired. We no longer acquire any pieces from antiquarians, or if we exceptionally do, we have to be able to track the complete history of the piece. What we mostly do is either go on the field – we also do field research – or make connections with ethnologists who themselves go on the field. We try to avoid having too many intermediaries. For instance, we have acquired pieces coming from the Amazonian region through a Flemish researcher, Daniel De Vos, who has been going there for over thirty years. We know he respects the people and he informed them that he was buying the pieces for us. When we organized an exhibition two years ago, we invited a member of this community. This is of course the best way to proceed, but it's not always easy.

Can you tell us more about the museum's own field work?

I can give you a few examples. Three years ago we went to French Guyana in view of an exhibition about the Carnival of Cayenne. We also went to Japan, and now we're planning to go to North America to collect masks from the Cherokees. And of course, we travel considerably in Europe.

What were the main challenges the museum was facing when you joined it?

People often think that we are just a museum devoted to the Carnival of Binche, because we're located here and because the name of our museum can be misleading. So, one of the main challenges remains how to change the museum's image. Also, because Binche is not very well connected, not many tourists visit the city, except during the carnival of course. In order to attract people, we have developed a dynamic exhibition policy (2 to 3 exhibitions per year). Another challenge is how to show the intangible heritage behind the tangible masks and costumes: the music, the rituals, the gestures, the dances, the positions, the words. We are continuously working on how to present this intangible reality in the best possible way. In the section about the Carnival of Binche, there are for instance many things to touch, to smell and other interactive elements. This is less present in the section on the masks from the world, which we aim to renovate in 2025.

The museum recently opened a section about Wallonia. Was this a way to involve the local community?

When I became director in 2017, I thought we absolutely had to reach out and connect with local communities. You can be renowned internationally, but if you don't have a link with the local community, you are not going to be able to survive. We changed our events so as to attract different audiences: children's activities, screening, conferences... Also, when we built the section devoted specifically to the Carnival of Binche, we contacted the different carnival societies of the region and we asked them to give us their point of view on how the exhibition should look. We also told them that they could deposit their archives here, and that the Museum could become a sort of hub. We felt the difference after we opened the section: more people from Binche and its surroundings started returning to the museum, which they hadn't visited in years, and they were happy to reconnect with it.

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted by UNESCO in 2003. What role has this convention played so far?

The convention made people realize the existence of this heritage, its importance and how it's linked with identity. When the Carnival of Binche was recognized by UNESCO as a "masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity", in 2003, it brought a lot of pride to the local community. It also attracted many tourists and gave the city an international recognition. I think that changed the mentality of people, the way in which they perceived the carnival. They realized that there was a deeper meaning to it. Other examples of intangible heritage which were slowly disappearing have been brought back to life thanks to the convention.

Today we all have to wear a very different kind of mask, for reasons that have nothing to do with the carnival. Has this been a topic of discussion here at the Museum?

These masks are protection masks that are profane. An ethnological museum like ours usually deals with ritual masks, which are used for purposes linked with the different cycles of life, and the beliefs of people who are wearing them. For example, the belief that when you wear a mask you are not yourself anymore but a spirit which has entered the mask. You connect with the spirit in order to heal or to celebrate a funeral, or to make a transition from childhood to adulthood, or from one season to another, or to chase away evil.

With profane masks, the function is often a protective one: gas masks, fencing masks, beekeeper masks, or the masks that were used in Venice against the plague in the 16th and 17th centuries. This "plague doctor mask" had a long nose resembling the beak of a bird. At the bottom of the nose, people would put medicinal herbs that were supposed to protect them against the disease. This mask was later adopted as a carnival mask, marking a passage from the secular to the ritual. What's interesting is that the code behind the use of the mask is the same whether it's a profane or ritual mask: it changes the way you see the other person, it changes the way you behave, the way you move, the way you breathe. This is a specificity of the mask, and by mask I mean even smaller things such as a clown nose. Anything that changes an element of the face is a mask. We all experiment this now with sanitary masks, of course in an unpleasant way.

Could you briefly present the forthcoming exhibitions?

The first one – "Bouffons !" (25 February - 11 September 2022) – is about the buffoon, a character from the 15th-16th century (le bouffon du roi or fou du roi), which was adopted by the commedia dell'arte and, through theatre companies traveling all over Europe, reached the carnivals. It is a very interesting character, funny and devilish at the same time, which is also a characteristic of the carnival. Carnival is a time in which the world is turned upside down, the gates of the underworld open and demons invade the Earth, and for a short time we embrace the darkness before chasing it away so we can start the new year. The following exhibition – "Ritual fabrics. The intertwining of the invisible" – has been postponed to the beginning of 2023. The idea came to me because all the costumes in our collection are so beautiful, and yet we have never presented them as textile works. We will present these fabrics as a support for rituals, but we will also show how the textile itself can reach a high level of symbolism.

NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI

VISIT TO THE ROYAL MUSEUM FOR CENTRAL AFRICA (BRUSSELS, 4 DECEMBER 2021)

After a long break due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Wiener-Anspach Alumni Network was finally able to restart its activities by organising a very successful visit to the Royal Museum for Central Africa in December 2021. Alexandre Livingstone Smith (1991-1992 Wiener-Anspach Fellow in Cambridge) and Nicolas Nikis (2019-2020 Wiener-Anspach Fellow in Cambridge) introduced the group to the institution where they both work, unveiling the many stakes involved in the recent renovation of the AfricaMuseum.

Alexandre Livingstone Smith is an archaeologist at the Cultural Anthropology and History Department of the Royal Museum for Central Africa.

Nicolas Nikis is a researcher and a lecturer at the RMCA and the ULB (FED-tWIN programme).



PERMANENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

We would like to join Annemie Schaus, Rector of the Université libre de Bruxelles, in congratulating "the amazing researchers who have been selected to join the ULB academic staff" in 2021, including three former Wiener-Anspach Fellows.

Corentin Caudron (1), PhD in Sciences and 2015-2016 FWA Fellow in Cambridge, has been appointed Assistant Professor at the Department of Geosciences, Environment and Society.

Martin Deleixhe (2), PhD in Social and Political Sciences, FWA Fellow in Oxford in 2009-2010 and 2013-2014, has been appointed Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Sciences.

Guillaume Schweicher (3), PhD in Engineering Sciences and Technology and 2014-2016 FWA Fellow in Cambridge, has been appointed FNRS Associate Researcher at the Faculty of Sciences.

We are also delighted to announce that several of our 2020-2021 Fellows have been appointed to other prestigious postdoctoral positions.

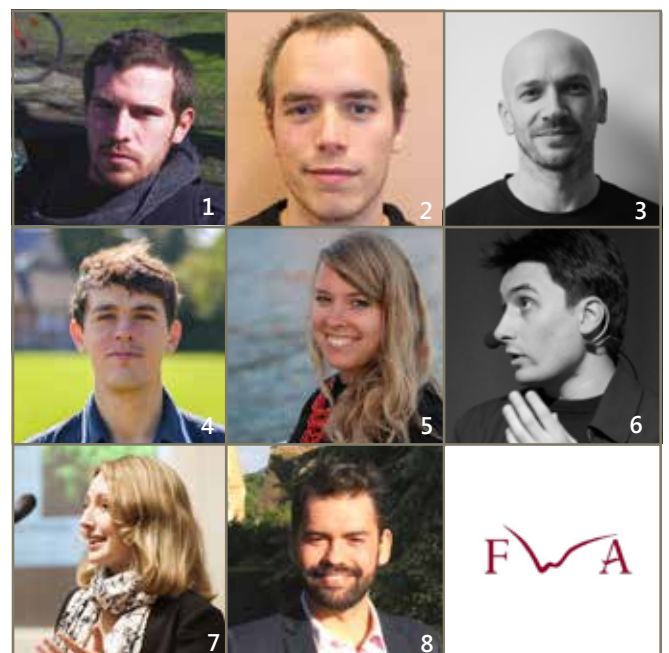
Peter Asimov (4), PhD in Musicology, has been granted a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at the Faculty of Music, University of Cambridge.

Justine Feyereisen (5), PhD in Languages, Literature and Translation Studies, has been granted a FWO Senior Postdoctoral Fellowship at Ghent University.

Anton Jäger (6), PhD in Philosophy, has been granted a FWO Junior Postdoctoral Fellowship at KU Leuven.

Coraline Jortay (7), PhD in Languages, Literature and Translation Studies, has been granted a Laming Junior Research Fellowship at St Anne's College, Oxford.

Ahmed Hamila (8), PhD in Political Science, has been granted a Mitacs Elevate Fellowship to carry out a two-year postdoctoral research project at the École de travail social of the Université de Montréal.



PETAR MARKOVIC IS APPOINTED HEAD OF THE MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

Congratulations to our Alumnus Petar Markovic on his appointment as Head of the Mission of Montenegro to the European Union. Announced in July 2021, when he was Policy Leader Fellow at the European University Institute in Fiesole, his appointment was formalised at the end of September.

In 2017-2018 Petar, then a PhD student in Political Science at the Institute for European Studies in Brussels, was granted a Wiener-Anspach Fellowship to carry out a year of research at the University of Oxford, under the supervision of Prof. Kalypso Nicolaidis (Department of Politics and International Relations). His research focused on the European Union's democratic deficit and transnational civic culture.

"At 35, Petar will be one of the youngest heads of mission in town", wrote Politico in October 2021. "He is expected to portray his country as a frontrunner to join the bloc, and set out as his main task 'overseeing the final stage of Montenegro's EU accession with a renewed commitment to rule of law.'"

An excellent pianist, Petar offered us some unforgettable musical moments in the past, as illustrated by this snapshot from our 2018 Fellows' Meeting, held at the Palais des Académies in Brussels.



FORMER BRITISH AMBASSADOR MARK KENT IS APPOINTED CEO OF THE SCOTCH WHISKY ASSOCIATION



In November 2021, after a brilliant career in British diplomacy, our Alumnus Mark Kent was appointed Chief Executive Officer at the Scotch Whisky Association. In 1985-1986 Mark was a Wiener-Anspach Fellow at the Institute for European Studies, where he completed a Master's degree in European Law and Economics. When we addressed him a warm "à la vôtre !" on his appointment, he replied "Merci! Et à la vôtre! I am eternally grateful for the opportunity which the Wiener-Anspach scholarship offered me, and so glad to see you continuing this great work!"

PUBLICATIONS



Mano Gabor Toth, PhD in Political and International Studies, was granted a Wiener-Anspach Doctoral Fellowship at ULB in 2014-2015. During his stay he partly wrote the book *European Memory and Conflicting Visions of the Past* (Palgrave Macmillan 2021), which discusses "a number of ways in which the dialogue about Europe's past and future could be rendered more inclusive, such as the promotion of critical and sentimental education and the creation of virtual and actual social spaces in which citizens and organised identity groups can participate."

Jean Vanden Broeck-Parant, PhD in Art History and Archaeology, was a Wiener-Anspach Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Oxford from 2017 to 2019. During his research stay, he organised a workshop entitled "Ancient Architectural Repairs in the Greek World" (28 February-1 March 2019, Wolfson College). The proceedings of this conference, which he co-edited with Tommaso Ismaelli, have now been published with the title *Ancient Architectural Restoration in the Greek World* (Edizioni Quasar 2021).

Nathalie Brack, PhD in Political Sciences and 2013-2014 Wiener-Anspach Fellow, co-edited the book *Theorising the Crises of the European Union* (Routledge 2021), which examines the relevance of integration theories for studying and analysing the crisis situations faced by the EU since 2009. The book includes a chapter written by Nathalie Brack, Ramona Coman and Amandine Crespy in the framework of the ULB-Cambridge collaborative project "Conflicts of sovereignty in the European Union (SovEU)", supported by the Foundation from 2018 to 2020.

Sophie Heine, PhD in Political Science and 2008-2009 Wiener-Anspach Fellow, published *Souveraineté européenne. Réalisme et réformisme radical* (Academia 2021), an essay combining critical analysis, political theory, and concrete policy proposals to outline the kind of federalism that could bring a much-needed renovation to the European project.



Giulia Sandri, PhD in Political Sciences and 2011-2012 Wiener-Anspach Fellow, co-edited *Digital Parties: The Challenges of Online Organisation and Participation* (Springer 2021), a book analysing "how mainstream and new parties are building their digital platforms and transitioning from traditional (offline) organisations into the digital world", and *New Paths for Selecting Political Elites* (Routledge 2021), a "cross-country study of the consequences of the expansion of intra-party democracy, the trend towards more inclusive methods of selection for party candidates and leaders, and the impact of these on political elites in terms of sociopolitical profile and patterns of careers".

OTHER FUNDED INITIATIVES

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).

The 2021 prize was awarded to **Leana Derard**. Leana obtained her Master's degree in law, with a focus on public and international law, summa cum laude. During her Master, she was a student-assistant for the course of legal methodology at the ULB. She is now a trainee lawyer at NautaDutilh, where she specialises in public and administrative law. She is also a teaching assistant for the course of legal methodology at the ULB and for the course of administrative law at the Université Saint-Louis.

The legacy of Voltaire's irony

On November 8 and 9, 2021 the Académie royale de Belgique hosted an international symposium assessing what is left of Voltaireian irony in these times of extreme political correctness

This event was organised with the support of the Wiener-Anspach Foundation and under the academic supervision of **Valérie André** (Professor at the ULB Department of Languages and Letters and a member of the FWA Scientific Committee). It gathered several international scholars, including Oxford academics **Nicholas Cronk**, **Patrick McGuinness** and **Catriona Seth**, two of which have been involved in FWA-funded collaborative projects between the ULB and the University of Oxford.

Professor Cronk is the Director of the Voltaire Foundation in Oxford, which was granted funding from 2010 to 2012 in the framework of the publication of Voltaire's *Œuvres complètes*, a project he led with Professor Bruno Bernard (Groupe d' Étude du XVIII^e siècle, ULB).

Together with Professor André, Catriona Seth is the promoter of the research project "CAT19 – Panorama of the French-language novel in the early 19th century", supported by the Foundation from 2018 to 2020. Listing over 5,500 works and 2,000 authors, the CAT19 database can be consulted at cat19.ee.ulb.be.

