



UNU-CRIS

Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies



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INTRODUCTION

THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY



The United Nations University (UNU) is an international community of scholars engaged in research, postgraduate training and dissemination **UNITED NATIONS** of knowledge in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The University seeks to contribute, through research and capacity development, to efforts to resolve the pressing

global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States. UNU generates and transfers knowledge and strengthens capacities relevant to promoting human security and development, in particular in developing countries. Through its post-graduate training programmes, the University assists scholars to participate in research in order to increase their capability to contribute to the extension, application and diffusion of knowledge. The University disseminates the knowledge in its activities to the United Nations and its agencies, to scholars and to the public, in order to increase dynamic interaction in the world-wide community of learning and research. Headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, the UNU operates through a decentralised system of research and training centres and programmes around the world (www.unu.edu).

THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE ON COMPARATIVE REGIONAL INTEGRATION STUDIES



JNITED NATIONS

Institute on Comparative **Regional Integration Studies**

The United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) is a research and training institute of the United Nations University, a global network engaged in research and capacity development to support the universal goals of the UN and generate new knowledge and ideas. Based in Bruges, UNU-CRIS focuses on studying processes and consequences of regional integration and cooperation. It acts as a resource for the UN system with particular links

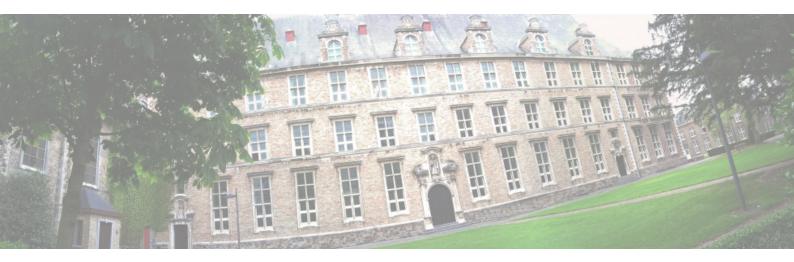
to the UN bodies dealing with regional integration. It also works in partnership with initiatives and centres throughout the world concerned with issues of regional integration and cooperation (www.cris.unu.edu).

The mission of UNU-CRIS is to contribute to a better understanding of the processes and impact of intraand inter-regional integration from a multidisciplinary and comparative perspective. The aim is to generate policy-relevant knowledge about new forms of governance and cooperation, with a specific emphasis on developing countries.

UNU-CRIS receives its core funding from the Flemish Government and is co-hosted by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and Ghent University (UGent) since October 2016. Before, it received structural support from the College of Europe.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



2016 has been an exceptionally moving year for UNU-CRIS. The Institute totally reinvented itself through new partnerships, a revised mission, a new government agreement and inevitably also a new – albeit ad interim – Director. Indeed, since the approval of the new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Flemish Government and UNU, two new structural partners emerged: the University of Ghent (UGent) and the Free University of Brussels (VUB). Both partners will, next to the structural aid that previously was provided by the College of Europe in Bruges, also contribute financially to UNU-CRIS through making available research grants and project funds. UNU-CRIS may henceforth benefit from the research capacity of both renowned universities,

thereby widening its scope and research possibilities. All this was the result of a competitive call, issued by the Flemish Government at the end of 2015, whereby the Flemish universities were invited to draft collaboration proposals. The selection process, which took most of the first half of 2016, finally resulted in a new MOU that was approved by the Flemish Government in October and signed by all parties in the months that followed. The MOU now secures the funding for the institute for the next coming five years. The future for UNU-CRIS, therefore, looks very bright!

This, however, was not always the case. There were times in 2016 when UNU-CRIS's future was questioned by the Flemish Government, its partners, or even UNU itself, as procedural delays casted a shadow over the continued functioning of the institute. In these difficult circumstances, Founding UNU-CRIS Director Luk Van Langenhove and his team did their utmost to keep the proverbial ship afloat, managing far more than that! Despite the uncertainties of their future, UNU-CRIS research fellows and staff managed to issue 84 publications (of which 8 books and 11 peer-reviewed articles) and were able to engage in more than a dozen academic and capacity-building activities. It co-organised the 5th "EU in International Affairs Conference" at the Palace of the Royal Academy in Brussels – an international conference that hosts more than 350 scholars and policy-makers from the five continents to discuss various aspects of regional (EU) integration. UNU-CRIS was also able to expand its external project funding for three years through its successful participation in a European H2020 project on Science and Cultural Diplomacy (EL CSID).

Despite difficult circumstances, the output and impact of UNU-CRIS did not fade. On the contrary: the hard work of the UNU-CRIS team in 2016 laid the foundations for UNU-CRIS 2.0 – the label that is used to mark the new start of UNU-CRIS since October 2016. Together with several scholars from UGent and VUB (mainly its Institute for European Studies), UNU-CRIS drafted an updated research strategy that more than before focuses on policy-oriented research, emphasising on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and on the limits of globalisation.

Financially, UNU-CRIS is also doing well. With the output of 2016, UNU-CRIS fulfils all governmental requirements so that its financing of the year is safeguarded, and with the new MOU, the future financing of the Flemish Government and of the two university partners is also secured.

But more change lies ahead. With the approval of the new MOU, the term of the founding Director came to an end and a vacancy for his replacement was launched. Bridging this interim period, I am having the privilege to lead this wonderful institute, integrating the new partners as much as possible and trying to lay the basis of what is to come. Based on a rich past, and with the willingness of all partners, we are confidently looking to the future with great anticipation, eager to start a new chapter in UNU-CRIS's life. This report may be proof that the Institute can cope with challenging circumstances and still provide high quality output. In a more stimulating environment – as the future predicts – it may thus provide marvels!

Anthony Antoine

Anthony Antoine Director a.i. UNU-CRIS

ENGAGING WITH ACADEMIA

This section presents an overview of the 2016 activities in different networks and collaborative projects in which UNU-CRIS acts as organiser or partner. This demonstrates, even in a year of transition, how well-connected UNU-CRIS is to the academic world. As a member of a consortium led by the IES (VUB) it was awarded a research grant by the European Commission, together with UNESCO it still hosts the UNESCO-UNU Chair in Regional Integration, and it co-organized two major international conferences.

1 EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP IN CULTURE, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION DIPLOMACY (EL-CSID)



The European Union has made a major start articulating the relevance of cultural and science for its external relations. What has yet to be done, however, is to make explicit the assumptions underpinning much of this work on cultural and science diplomacy and to codify and articulate it as part of a systematic and strategic approach to understanding the direction of travel of science and cultural diplomacy that locates developments in

these fields within the evolving global and EU external relations context. EL-CSID will do this, with the added ambition to identify how the Union and its member states might collectively and individually develop a good institutional and strategic policy environment for extra-regional culture and science diplomacy. The research will generate both scholarly work and policy-oriented output, which will be disseminated through an extensive and targeted dissemination programme.



The project is coordinated by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and involves eight partner institutions, namely: UNU-CRIS, the University of Warwick (UoW), the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB), the Evro-Sredozemska Univerza (EMUNI), the Centre d'Etudes Diplomatiques et Stratégiques Turkiye (CEDS), the Joint Institute for Innovation Policy (JIIP), the National University of Singapore (NUS), and the Nazarbayev University (NU).

Within the project, UNU-CRIS leads a work package on "Exploring the Effectiveness of the EU's Promotion of Regional and Inter-Regional Processes in the South through Science, Cultural and Economic Diplomacy". The project officially started on 1 March 2016, and on 7-8 March, the first meeting of the steering committee was organised. The meeting brought together the members of the consortium to discuss the EL-CSID research agenda, work plan, output and activities. Two representatives from the European Commission (DG RTD and REA) briefed the consortium on the H2020 programme priorities and the project management-aspects.

An inception paper was written by the UNU-CRIS team in April and a first dissemination event was organised on 12 May in Brussels, presenting the EL-CSID research agenda to the academic and policy communities. This event consisted of two parts. The first session was a roundtable discussion with researchers and EU officials and policy-makers, the second session was an academic panel during the European Union in International Affairs Conference. In June, the then UNU-CRIS director/scientific coordinator of the project Luk Van Langenhove was asked to deliver a speech at an expert group meeting initiated by the European Commission - Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. In the same month, a presentation was delivered on "Cultural Diplomacy" at the UNESCO Conference on "Cultural Diversity under Attack: Protecting Heritage for Peace". At the end of July Luk Van Langenhove was asked to speak at the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) in Manchester (UK). On 10 October the first Advisory Board meeting took place, and finally, on 11 October the second Steering Committee meeting was organised.



The UNESCO-UNU Chair in Regional Integration, Migration and Free Movement of People was established by UNESCO and UNU-CRIS in November 2010. Based in Bruges and financially supported by the Flemish Government, it collaborates closely with the University of Pretoria, South Africa. The objective of the UNESCO-UNU Chair is to address the opportunities and challenges of regional integration, the social dimension of regional integration, migration and in particular free movement of people within South Africa and the Southern African region.

Bringing academics, governments, regional organisations, NGOs and private organisations together, the UNESCO-UNU Chair serves as a think-tank and bridge-builder, sharing its expertise to contribute through research, training and capacity-building with the aim of making free movement of people tangible in the Southern African region. The collaboration between the different partners and networks produce a set of orientation guidelines for local representatives highlighting the main problems that have to be addressed with regard to free movement of people and the effective responses that may be implemented in different contexts.

The UNESCO-UNU Chair permits to attract external funding, namely through the Migrating for Work Research Consortium (MiWORC), which is partly funded by the European Union, in the framework of the EU-South Africa Dialogue Facility. The research conducted by the consortium focuses on labour migration to South Africa and its impact on the South African labour market with the aim of providing empirical evidence to the EU-SA Dialogue facility.

Over the course of 2016, two research reports, and four articles in academic journals were published. In August the Chair organised a two-part workshop on Sociocultural Encounters in Borders at the five-day International Geographical Congress in Beijing, and it organised a four-day workshop on Migration in Africa in May in Pretoria. 14 presentations were given at international conferences.

3 THE REGIONAL INTEGRATION KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM (RIKS)



The Regional Integration Knowledge System (RIKS) aims to provide a central node for information exchange on regional integration processes worldwide and to constitute a 'missing link' between the existing regional initiatives for information provision on regional integration and cooperation. RIKS functions as a platform with the aim of providing a

confluence point where qualitative and quantitative information on various aspects of regional integration processes can be retrieved and exchanged. The information that is made available in the indicator system and the treaty database are regularly updated and enriched with latest available data, indicators and literatures. The RIKS network is coordinated by UNU-CRIS and is continuously expanded through the conclusion of new partnerships.

4 THE EUROPEAN UNION IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CONFERENCE



The Institute for European Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (IES-VUB), the Institut d'Études Européennes at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (IEE-ULB), UNU-CRIS and Egmont – the Royal Institute for International Relations biannually organise the 'European Union in International Affairs' (EUIA) Conference. As the single major stopover of the academic conference circuit in Brussels, this multidisciplinary event represents the premium venue at which international studies scholars and policy practitioners debate the role of the EU in the turbulent realm of international affairs. The fifth edition took place from Wednesday 11 May to Friday 13 May 2016. The conference gathered academics and policy-makers from all over the world to cultivate new ideas on topics such as 'The EU Global Strategy', 'International cooperation in the field of anti-terrorism with a focus on international criminal law', 'EU free trade agreements and their strategic implications' and 'Current challenges in EU migration policy'. The conference programme also included keynote speeches, a young researchers' masterclass, a teaching panel, a think tank roundtable, book presentations and EU-Korea and EU-Russia panels. It was able to attract over 300 participants.

5 "BETWEEN COOPERATION AND COMPETITION: MAJOR POWERS IN SHARED NEIGHBOURHOODS -LESSONS FOR THE EU" CONFERENCE

Together with the College of Europe, UNU-CRIS organised the conference "Between Cooperation and Competition: Major Powers in Shared Neighbourhoods – Lessons for the EU" in Bruges on 22 September. Contemporary global politics is characterised by multipolarity: globalisation and the rise of emerging economies have led to a constellation in which multiple major powers, among them the European Union (EU), interact in ways that oscillate between competition and cooperation. Understanding and explaining the nature of interactions between these powers has therefore become an ever more important subject for policy-makers and analysts alike. One interesting and increasingly significant variant of this broader theme concerns major powers' interactions in their shared neighbourhoods.

To engage in an analysis of this subject, this conference strived to compare several significant constellations involving major powers' interactions in 'shared neighbourhoods'. Starting from the EU perspective, it considered the EU's neighbourhood policies vis-à-vis its Eastern and Southern neighbours and then looked for comparisons with other major global powers: the US, the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China), Turkey and the Gulf states. By examining these powers in their shared neighbourhood in pairs of two or three, the conference assessed the approach that the major powers adopt vis-à-vis their shared neighbourhood as well as the interactions between themselves: do shared neighbourhoods regularly become arenas of conflict, or can they provide cooperation incentives and become emerging spaces for novel forms of region-building and inter-regionalism that constitute the building blocks of more solid forms of global governance? What can and should policy-makers do to attenuate conflicts and promote cooperation? What lessons can be drawn for the EU and its neighbourhood policy?

By addressing these questions, the conference brought together three sets of scholarly communities: (i) foreign policy analysts interested in the neighbourhood policies of major powers; (ii) regionalism scholars interested in (comparative) regionalism and/or regionalisation, understood here as primarily state-led processes increasing the interaction between states and societies in a certain geographical area, and (iii) IR scholars interested in great power dynamics per se.



6 PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Micha Wiebusch, "Regional and Constitutional Structures in Tension", at the Regional Workshop on Global Law and Policy, organised by the Institute for Global Law and Policy (IGLP), Harvard Law School and University of Cape Town in Cape Town, South Africa (17-24 January).

Philomena Murray: "Current Research on Governance Issues", Presentation to the Research Cluster on Multilateral Governance, School of Social and Political Sciences, the University of Melbourne, Australia (12 February).

Philomena Murray: "The EU's Refugee Crisis and the Australian Refugee Issue", presentation to panel on Migration and its discontents, workshop on Australia and Europe: Cultural Connections and Shared Challenges, the University of Melbourne (22 February).

Gaspare Genna: "Regional Integration and Economic Development: Optimal or Messy Networks?" (with Zining Yang and Mark Abdollahian), International Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, (16-19 March).

Philippe De Lombaerde: **"The illusion of regional constitutionalism and the reality of strong national constitutional powers in South America.** A comparative analysis" (with: L. Lizarazo), Workshop on Regional and Constitutional Structures in Tension, Global Studies Institute, Université de Genève, (April 4-5)

Micha Wiebusch, "The African Union and the protection of constitutionalism: An (un)critical agenda?", at the Regional and Constitutional Structures in Tension Exploratory Workshop organised at the University of Geneva by a consortium of different Universities in Geneva, Switzerland (4-5 April).

Simon Schunz: "Strategy and the EU's Environmental Foreign Policy", Presentation in the European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS) 2016, the University of Tübingen, Germany (7 April).

Gaspare Genna: "Safeguarding the Promise of Integration: Regional Leaders and Coup Deterrence" (with Taeko Hiroi), Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (7-10 April).

Murray, Philomena: "Europe in Crisis – From the Nobel Prize to Conflict of Values", presentation to Queen's College, the University of Melbourne (18 April).

Luk Van Langenhove: "Positioning Theory and the Study of Moral Orders" at the Graduate School in Language and Culture in Europe, Linköping University, Sweden (20 April).

Philomena Murray: "Building International Networks and Collaboration: EU Funding Opportunities", Presentation to Faculty of Arts Grants Workshop, University of Melbourne (27 April).

Fredrik Söderbaum: "The Contradictions of Promoting Regional Organizations in Africa from Outside", Academic Panel W1D: The EU and Africa: Crisis Management and Multilateral Security, Presentation at the "EU in International Affairs IV" conference, Brussels (11 May).

Simon Schunz with Sieglinde Gstöhl: "Theorizing the European Neighbourhood Policy", Presentation at the "EU in International Affairs IV" conference, Brussels (12 May).

Luk Van Langenhove: ""The Practice Turn': Towards a New Theory of Cultural and Science Diplomacy in the Early 21st Century", Academic Panel T2E European Cultural and Science Diplomacy: An Agenda for Research, Presentation at the "EU in International Affairs IV" conference, Brussels, with Richard Higgott (12 May).

Gaspare Genna: "The European Power Hierarchy, Member State Trust, and Public Support for the Common Security and Defense Policy" (with Florian Justwan), Pan-European Conference on the European Union, European Consortium for Political Research, Trento (16-18 June). Micha Wiebusch, "Regional and Constitutional Structures in Tension: Framing paper", at the I-CON International Society of Public Law (ICON·S) 2016 Conference "Borders, Otherness and Public Law," organised by NewYork University (NYU), European University Institute (EUI) and Humboldt University (HU) in Berlin, Germany (17-19 June).

Simon Schunz (co-authored by David Belis, Dhanasree Jayaram and Tao Wang): "From Copenhagen to Paris: Climate Change Diplomacy and the Rise of Multiple Bilateralism between China, India and the EU", the International Studies Association (ISA) Asia-Pacific Conference 2016, the City University of Hong Kong (25 June).

Philomena Murray: "Sovereignty and Separation: Brexit in Historical Context", Humanities 21, Melbourne (17 August).

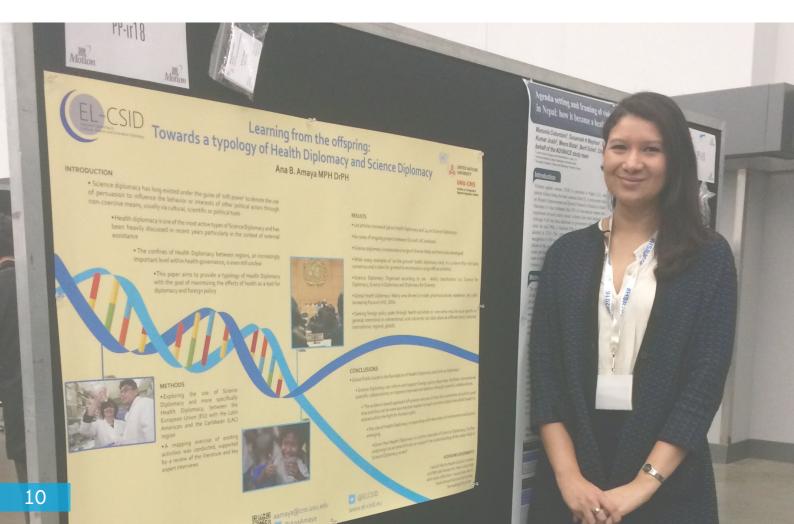
Philomena Murray: "The European Union – Beacon of Hope or a Values Community in Crisis?", The Wednesday Lectures 2016 hosted by Raimond Gaita, the University of Melbourne (31 August).

Micha Wiebusch, "The Rationale of the African Union in Promoting Good Governance, Rule of Law and Constitutionalism", at the Law and Development Conference: Past, present, Future", organised by a consortium of different European Universities in Oostende, Belgium (14-16 September).

Philippe De Lombaerde: "Human Rights Impact Assessments of Free Trade and Investments Agreements: A Critical Assessment" (with: L. Lizarazo), International Conference on Business and Human Rights, Sevilla, (20-21 October).

Ana B. Amaya: "Learning from the Offspring: Towards a Typology of Health Diplomacy and Science Diplomacy" poster presentation at the Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (HSR), Vancouver (14-18 November).

Simon Schunz (co-authored by David Belis), "The EU's Turn to Multiple Bilateralism in Global Climate Politics: Explaining the Dynamics of Cooperation and Confrontation with Major Emitters", International workshop on "The EU's Climate Change and Energy Cooperation: Moving towards Mutual Learning?" organised by UACES), the University of Cambridge (8 and 9 December).



DIALOGUE WITH POLICY-MAKERS

1 POLICY LINK PANEL ON CURRENT CHALLENGES IN EU MIGRATION POLICY



Within the comprehensive framework of the EUIA16 conference (11-13 May), UNU-CRIS, as part of the UNU Migration Network, organized a Policy Link Panel entitled "Current Challenges in EU Migration Policy" and instigated a dialogue between academics and policy-makers from the EU around the topic of migration and EU migration policies. It addressed the challenges the EU is facing

and the long-term (policy) implications of the flows of migrants into Europe, and discussed how and which policies can contribute to a humane and orderly migration as well as sustainable resettlement.

2 UN DAY FLANDERS

On Monday 24 October 2016, CIFAL Flanders | UNITAR hosted - in collaboration with VVN and UNRIC - the UN Day Flanders in the Flemish Parliament, celebrating the 71st anniversary of the United Nations.

The 200 participants were welcomed at the United Nations Agencies Marketplace where UNU-CRIS and other UN organisations, parlementary organisations, Voka and VVSG informed the guests about their initiatives. The opening speech of Geert Bourgeois, Minister-president of the Flemish Government, explained the cooperation initiatives between the UN and Flanders.

During the High Level Panel, Ambassador Bénédicte Frankinet, Director of the ILO Claire Courteille-Mulder, Head of UNIDO Christophe Yvetot and Chief of Mission of the IOM–UN Migration Agency Laura Palatini were invited to reflect on the mandates of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the challenges for the coming years.

Christophe Verhellen, Desk Officer Benelux at UNRIC then introduced Ozark Henry, National Goodwill Ambassador against human trafficking and the Blue Heart Campaign. The plenary session was closed by Jan

Peumans, Chairman of the Flemish Parliament who encouraged an active implementation of the SDGs in Flanders.

UNU-CRIS was co-responsible for organizing one of the seven Breakout Sessions that followed. UNU-CRIS, together with the Flemish Peace Institute, focused on Global Science Diplomacy Regarding the SDGs.



3 FLANDERS AND ILO: 25 YEARS OF COOPERATION

On 6 December, the Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs organized an international networking event celebrating 25 years of cooperation between Flanders and the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the Flemish Parliament in Brussels. During the event, the findings of a recent ILO study on "Labour Provisions in International Trade and Investment Arrangements", financed by the Government of Flanders, the European Commission, Canada and Switzerland, were highlighted, as well as what the Future of Work has in store for Flanders' labour market in 2050.

The event was attended by UNU-CRIS Director a.i. Anthony Antoine, and UNU-CRIS Associate Research Fellow Eric Maertens gave a talk about the history of the cooperation. It was an opportunity for UNU-CRIS staff members to expand their network with numerous policymakers.

TEACHING, TRAINING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

1 MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC POLICY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development (MPP) is jointly organised by Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSoG) and the United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT). It aims to prepare its students to actively participate in the policy process, as policy designers or analysts, as civil servants or academics. To achieve this goal, it emphasises the

connection between public policy and decision-making processes, or more specifically, the effectiveness and efficiency of governance. Students are equipped with a variety of skills, tools and knowledge, which enable them to work as policy designers and policy analysts.

The MPP programme combines a joint semester and a specialisation semester with Master's thesis into a oneyear full-time study. The first semester consists of six intensive courses that aim to bring all students to the same high level of knowledge and skills, the focus being on theories and practices of governance and policy analysis. As for the second semester, it consists of six specialisations, including the specialised course on "Regional Integration and Multi-Level Governance" (RIMLG), which is organised by UNU-CRIS. The UNU-CRIS specialisation has been offered since 2013, with an annual enrolment rate of 10 to 15 students. The students' evaluations are very positive overall. Besides the teaching component, UNU-CRIS also offers MPP students the possibility to undertake an internship and/or write their master's thesis in Bruges. In 2016, three students interned at UNU-CRIS and successfully defended their thesis thereafter.

2 GLOBALISATION, THE EU AND MULTILATERALISM PHD SCHOOL (GEM)



The Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate on "Globalisation, the EU, and Multilateralism" (EMJD-GEM) is a doctoral programme funded by the European Commission. The GEM PhD School aims to foster first-rate interdisciplinary doctoral research in Europe on common policy and societal challenges facing the current global system, and seeks to answer a growing call for international doctoral programmes characterised by excellence, interdisciplinarity and a global reach. This integrated transnational doctoral research and

training programme leads to a double degree upon completion of a jointly supervised doctoral dissertation.

The GEM PhD School brings together a unique set of nine leading research institutions from across the globe. Under the stewardship of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), the programme involves the Fudan University, LUISS, University of Genève, the University of Warwick and Waseda University. The consortium is supported by three distinguished associated institutions, namely Boston University, ITAM and UNU-CRIS. Being an associated institution, UNU-CRIS offers GEM PhD candidates in their third year the possibility to undertake a short stay with an eye on furthering their research.

3 DOCTORAL SCHOOL ON LATIN AMERICAN, EUROPEAN AND COMPARATIVE REGIONALISM

UNIVERSIDAD ANDINA SIMON BOLIVAR Ecuador The fifth edition of the Doctoral Summer School on "Latin American, European and Comparative Regionalism" was held from 1 to 5 August in Quito, Ecuador. This one-week summer school brought together a group of 20 PhD students and young researchers for a series of lectures held by leading senior academics

in the field of Latin American, European and Comparative Regionalism and to discuss their research projects in tutorial sessions. The target audience is doctoral students dealing with Latin American Regionalism or Comparative Regionalism from different social science sub-disciplines and at various stages of their research projects. The school was co-organised by UNU-CRIS and the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar (UASB), in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Latin American Trade Network (LATN), the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), and the Universidad de Puerto Rico. The partner institutions intend to repeat this successful undertaking in 2017.

4 TRAINEESHIP AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

UNU-CRIS offers students with an interest and background in regional integration studies the opportunity to take part in the activities of the Institute. The research traineeship and internship programme is intended for undergraduate and graduate students, respectively.

Trainees contribute to the activities undertaken under the research programme Monitoring and Assessing Regional Integration and are supervised by the head of this programme. Their research project consists in updating the RIKS platform, which provides direct access to information and data on regional integration processes worldwide. They may also be requested to assist in administrative or organisational tasks. Research interns take part in the activities of the research programme for which they applied. Their duties involve research assignments related to ongoing research projects and activities based on the needs of their supervisor. The latter provide interns with guidance and advice during the internship.

Trainees and interns are provided with office space, computer facilities, access to the online library of UNU and access to the library and the restaurant of the College of Europe. They are also welcome to take part in seminars, workshops, conferences and other events organised by UNU-CRIS, including informal briefings and roundtable discussions. In 2016, UNU-CRIS hosted one trainee and nine interns.

5 VISITING RESEARCHERS

UNU-CRIS offers doctoral researchers, academics, professors and other professionals with a background in regional integration the opportunity to undertake a research period in Bruges. Visiting researchers are "scholars in residence". They conduct their own research projects on topics related to the research programmes of the Institute. These projects are selected for their interdisciplinary, comparative and future-oriented approach, and for their relevance in terms of policy-making in regional integration. Visiting researchers finally are expected to contribute to the research activities of UNU-CRIS and to take part in seminars, workshops, conferences and other events, including informal briefings and roundtable discussions. In 2016, UNU-CRIS hosted six visiting researchers.

6 RESEARCH BRUNCHES



The Research Brunch initiative was launched in November 2010. These seminars, which are held once a month, provide a platform for informal dialogue among UNU-CRIS permanent researchers, trainees, interns and visiting scholars.

Young researchers are invited to present their incipient research for early guidance or the final findings of their project before the submission of their work. They thereby test their ideas in front of an audience and receive feedback and advice from their peers.

These brunches importantly contribute to fostering the internal dynamics of the Institute, be it from an academic or a social point of view. They strengthen the multidisciplinarity of the research performed thanks to comments from researchers working in other fields and highlight synergies among the various researchers' interests and foci.

COMMUNICATIONS

1 UNU-CRIS WEBSITE

A new website for UNU-CRIS was developed in the course of 2015, and was launched on 25 February 2016 (www.cris.unu.edu). It has a fresh look, and is more interactive and user friendly.

Because the google analytics tracking ID was changed with the launch of the new website, and was only added back to the UNU main tracking system at the end of April, there is a gap in the statistics between March and the end of April. Analytics for these two missing months show 14.218 page views by 2648 users.

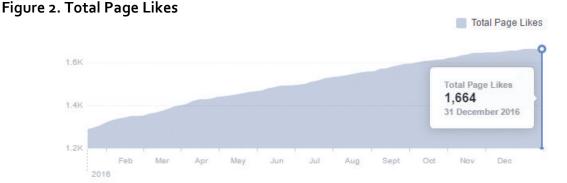
In total, 69.485 pages were viewed by **16.727** visitors in 2016. Most of the visitors reside in Belgium.

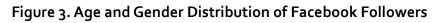


Figure 1. Google Analytics from the UNU-CRIS website

2 FACEBOOK

The UNU-CRIS Facebook page has been a genuine success since its creation in July 2013. At the beginning of 2014, the page had already been liked by 363 people. By the end of 2014, the number had increased to 746, 1287 by the end of 2015, and 2016 was closed with **1664** followers. An increase of 29,3% compared to the year before. Demographic analyses demonstrate that 40% of the followers are female, 59% are male and 1% is unknown (this number could include organisations). The 25-34 age group is the most prone to consult our Facebook page, and most of the followers are residing in Belgium.





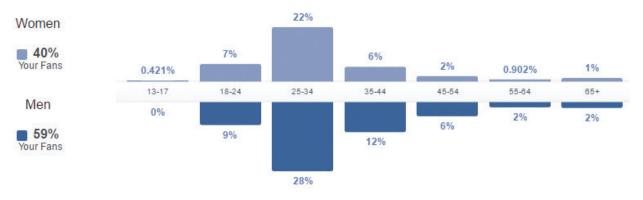
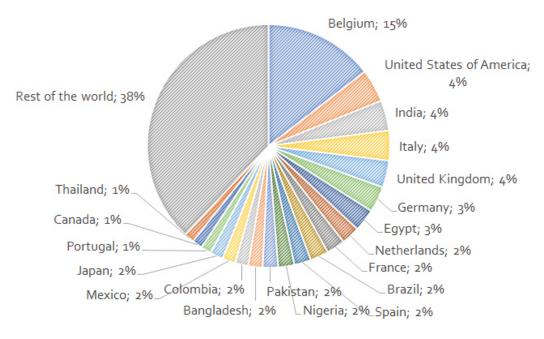


Figure 4. Country Distribution of Facebook Followers



3 TWITTER

The UNU-CRIS Twitter account was created in July 2012. At the end of 2016, the page featured 536 tweets. The number of followers rose from 368 at the end of 2015 to **538** at the end of 2016; an increase of 46.2%. Followers include the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, Palgrave Politics, the UN Chronicle, the Institute of Latin American Studies, the Institute of Development Policy and Management (University of Antwerp), Ashgate Politics, the Center for UN and Global Governance Studies, the Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs, Transparency International EU, GPPAC, UNU-FLORES (Dresden), UNU-GCM (Barcelona), UNU-IIGH (Kuala Lumpur), UNU-MERIT (Maastricht), UNU-WIDER (Helsinki), UNU Office at UNESCO, UNU Press, and many more.

4 LINKEDIN

The United Nations University - CRIS LinkedIn page was created in May 2013 and had 242 followers by the end of 2014, 382 by the end of 2015, and grew by 29,8% to **496** in 2016. The page provides a brief description of the Institute and provides a link to the UNU-CRIS website for further information. Most of the followers have a senior position, have a research function and come from an institute of higher

education.

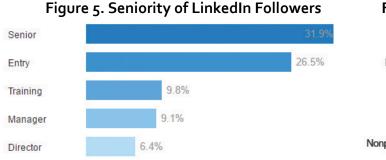


Figure 6. Industry of LinkedIn Followers

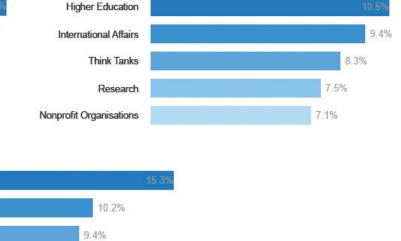
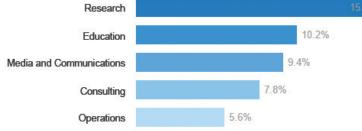


Figure 7. Function of LinkedIn Followers

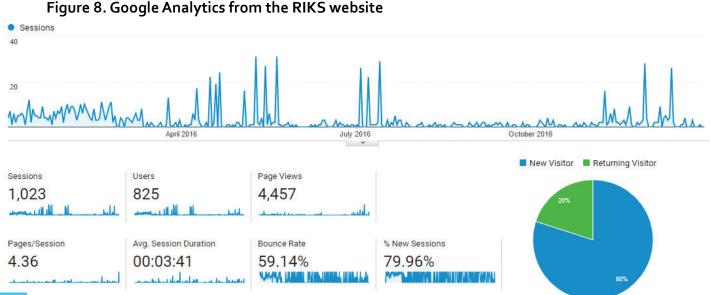


5 RESEARCHGATE AND ACADEMIA.EDU

These two social networking platforms for academics and scientists are used by UNU-CRIS researchers to share their research, monitor its popularity and follow the research of others in specific fields. The publications available on these websites can be consulted without charge, which increases their accessibility and, consequently, contributes to the dissemination of our research findings.

6 RIKS

Although the online platform RIKS (Regional Integration Knowledge System) was put under maintenance with the launch of the new UNU-CRIS website, it was still able to attract **825** users in 2016.



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7 NEWSLETTER

At the end of 2016, the electronic newsletter of UNU-CRIS was sent to **4172** subscribers. With 4,769 subscribers at the end of 2015, this means a decrease of 12.5% compared to the year before. New subscriptions can easily be made on the UNU-CRIS website, where previous versions of the electronic newsletters are still available.

8 UNU GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS MEETING

The third Global Communications Meeting was hosted by UNU-WIDER in Helsinki from 25 – 27 May. Eleven institutes were present, and UNU-CRIS was represented by Ewout Ramon, Research Assistant to the Director. The aims of the meeting were to understand the realities and possibilities of communications in the UNU system through dialogue between Centre, institutes, and programmes; to exchange views and best practices in order to enhance communications learning throughout the organisation; and, to provide a forum to explore and develop joint communications activities



leading to increased research uptake and strengthening the organisational brand.

On the first day short presentations were given by each participating institute/programme and the Centre covering issues that led to establish a common floor of understanding of different communication realities and priorities UNU is working with. On the second day, practical workshops were organised on specific topics led either by an expert within the communication group or by an external specialist to share knowledge and develop particular skills. On the third and final day, following the sharing and learning from the days before, the group tried to establish concrete areas/projects/initiatives to work on together that will contribute to the organizational brand. Results include a closer cooperation in social media campaigns, a one year trial agreement with the conversation global, and cooperation in UNU blog series.



LOCAL PRESENCE

1 EUTOPIA



EUtopia is a think-tank that aims to reflect critically on the future of the European Union. It regularly organises debates and lectures on EU-related topics in Bruges. UNU-CRIS founding director Luk Van Langenhove is a member of this organisation and occasionally acts as a lecturer or moderator.

On 24 March, Luk Van Langenhove participated in the EUtopia Event 'The Future of Europe' in Bruges. On 23 June, Luk Van Langenhove participated in the EUtopia Event 'Brexit or not to Brexit?' in Bruges.

2 UN CITY HALL TALKS



On 13 October, the UN Institute for Training and Research's International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders (UNITAR-CIFAL Flanders) organised a City Hall Talk in Bruges on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The event dwelled on the manner in which the SDGs are related to the actions carried out by local governments. Stephen Kingah, UNU-CRIS Research Fellow, intervened on the activities of UNU-CRIS and UNU and how these relate to the SDGs as well as the activities of sub-state regions such as Flanders.

3 COLLEGE OF EUROPE EVENTS

A UNU-CRIS delegation was present at the Opening Ceremony of the sixtyseventh academic year of the College of Europe, Bruges campus, on 8 November.



Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, delivered the opening address to the students of the John Maynard Keynes Promotion, professors, staff and invited guests of the College of Europe. Rector Jörg

Monar presented "The College of Europe in 2016-2017" and recalled John Maynard Keynes, Patron of the Promotion 2016-2017. Mr. Íñigo Méndez De Vigo, Spanish Minister of Education, Culture and Sports and President of the Administrative Council of the College of Europe, presided over the ceremony.

The College of Europe, founded in 1949 and based in Bruges and Natolin (Warsaw, Poland), was the first and is one of the most reputed institutes of European postgraduate studies. It structurally supported UNU-CRIS from its inception until the end of 2016.

4 DE HANZE



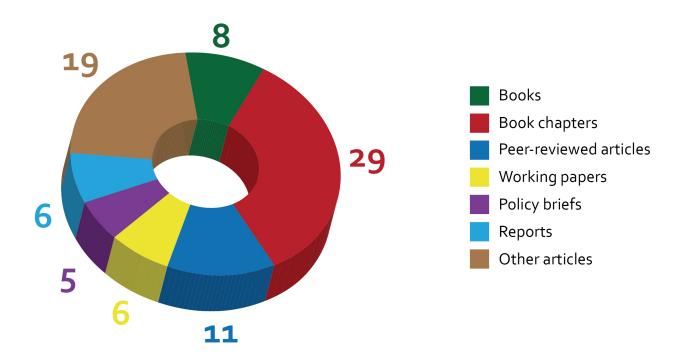
De Hanze - International Club of Flanders, was founded in 1978 and became an important meeting platform for the region. Politicians, business leaders, academics, etc. come together to discuss ideas. In the first place, De Hanze wants to be a meeting place, encourage business contacts and promote a wide range of economic, social and international objectives.

Founding UNU-CRIS Director Luk Van Langenhove is a member of the organisation and represented UNU-CRIS together with Director a.i. Anthony Antoine at the Hanze dinner meeting with Anne De Paepe, Rector of Ghent University, on 3 November.

THE SCHOLARLY OUTPUT

1 INTRODUCTION

Although 2016 was a year of transition for the institute, UNU-CRIS staff and associate research fellows generated a steady output. No less than eight monographs and 29 book chapters were produced. As an indicator of the top-quality of research, ten articles were published in peer-reviewed journals. A total of 36 working papers, policy briefs, reports and other articles were written. The section below provides a general overview of the academic output of UNU-CRIS in 2016 in terms of publications.



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5 WORKING PAPERS

Piccolino Giulia, "International Diffusion and the Puzzle of African Regionalism: Insights from West Africa", UNU-CRIS Working Paper, 1.

Molano Cruz Giovanni, "The Latin American-EU Inter-Regionalism's vis-à-vis the Trans-Pacific and Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreements", UNU-CRIS Working Paper, 2.

Kingah Stephen, Ana B. Amaya and Luk Van Langenhove: "Requirements for Effective European Union Leadership in Science and Cultural Diplomacy on (Inter)Regionalism in the South", UNU-CRIS Working Paper, 3.

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Kobayashi Kazushige, "Pax Integrationem? Exploring Institutional Responses to Regional Security Challenges", UNU-CRIS Working Paper, 5.

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7 REPORTS

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Arne Bigsten, Fredrik Söderbaum et al., "Ställ inte svenskt bistånd mot flyktingar", *Göteborgs-Posten Debatt*, 11 November.

9 WEBSITE ARTICLES

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Luk Van Langenhove, "Science Diplomacy: New Global Challenges, New Trend", 12 April, Available at RSIS and El-CSID website.

Luk Van Langenhove, "UN and EU: Partners in Security Governance", 4 May, Available at RSIS.

Luk Van Langenhove, "UN and EU: Partners in Security Governance", 9 May, Available at Eurasia Review.

Ana B. Amaya and Stephen Kingah, "What is necessary for effective Leadership that can promote (Inter)-Regionalism in Science and Cultural Diplomacy with the South?", 25 May, Available at EL-CSID website.

Philomena Murray and Margherita Matera, "Brexit and Australia: The Way Forward", 2 July, Available at The University of Melbourne.

Philomena Murray and Tamara Tubakovic, "Brexit: The Challenge for Theresa May", 12 July, Available at The University of Melbourne.

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Sara Dehm and Philomena Murray, "Refugee Policy Hardline and Heartless", 22 June, NTEU Advocate, pp.40-41.

Rodrigo Tavares, "Forget the Nation-State: Cities will transform the Way we conduct Foreign Affairs", 4 October, Available at the World Economic Forum.

Rodrigo Tavares, "London, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland deserve a Seat at the Brexit Negotiating Table, Available at the World Economic Forum.

Stephen Kingah, "Mygration Story: Longing for the Grass Fields of Cameroon", 20 December, Available at Mygration Story Series (by UNU-MERIT).

HUMAN RESOURCES

1 RESIDENT PERSONNEL

Name Anthony Antoine Luk Van Langenhove Ewout Ramon Stephen Kingah Ana Amaya Simon Schunz Léonie Maes Pascale Vantorre Noël Neven Lien Jaques Anne Keirse

<u>Position</u>

Director Ad Interim Director Research Assistant to the Director Research Fellow Post-Doctoral Research Fellow Research Fellow Project Researcher Secretary to the Director Financial and Administrative Officer Management Assistant Maintenance

<u>Term</u>

Since October 2016 October 2001 – September 2016 Since January 2016 Since September 2010 Since May 2014 January - June 2016 October 2011 – February 2016 Since June 2000 Since January 2002 November 2013 – September 2016 June 2004 – March 2016

2 ASSOCIATE RESEARCH FELLOWS

<u>Name</u>

Luk Van Langenhove Philippe De Lombaerde Fredrik Söderbaum Xinning Song Amitav Acharya **Bob Deacon** Andrew Cooper Ludo Cuyvers Lorenzo Fioramonti Luis Jorge Garay Gaspare Genna Lelio lapadre Dirk Kenis Eric Maertens Obadiah Mailafia George Mavrotas Bernard Mazijn **Edgard Moncayo** Philomena Murray **Rodrigo Tavares Timothy Shaw** Tatiana Skripka Nikki Slocum-Bradley Karel Van Hoestenberghe Lucio Vinhas de Souza An Vranckx Alex Warleigh-Lack Stephen Woolcock Simon Schunz Micha Wiebusch

Position

Associate Senior Research Fellow Associate Senior Research Fellow Associate Senior Research Fellow Associate Senior Research Fellow Associate Research Fellow

Associate since

October 2016 January 2016 April 2006 December 2008 October 2009 September 2007 April 2013 December 2011 May 2012 October 2005 February 2013 November 2006 February 2013 October 2007 February 2013 February 2010 January 2013 July 2009 July 2009 December 2008 January 2012 March 2012 December 2009 March 2009 October 2005 October 2009 February 2010 October 2005 July 2016 January 2016

3 LIST OF UNU-CRIS TRAINEES, INTERNS AND VISITING RESEARCHERS

3.1. TRAINEES

<u>Name</u> Michelle Huyghe	<u>Gender</u> ♀	<u>Nationality</u> Belgium	<u>Programme</u> Management	<u>Duration</u> 2 weeks
3.2. INTERNS				
<u>Name</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Nationality</u>	Research Programme	<u>Duration</u>
Michael Giesen	o [™]	Germany	The Role of Regions in Global Governance	4 months
Katharina Beyer	Ŷ	Germany	The Role of Regions in Global Governance	2 months

Benjamin Bogliacino	0 ⁷	Italy	The Role of Regions in Global Governance	2 months
Sung Woo Choi	O'	South Korea	The Role of Regions in Global Governance	3 months
Giulia Tarantini	Ŷ	Italy	The Role of Regions in Global Governance	6 months
Simon Augustyn	o ™	Belgium	The Role of Regions in Global Governance	5 months
María Borda	Ŷ	Italy	The UN and Regional Public Goods	2 months
Alexandra M. Vida	Ŷ	Belgium/ USA	Monitoring Regionalisation Processes	6 months
Eva Seiwert	Ŷ	UK	Role of Regions in Global Governance	6 months

3.3. VISITING RESEARCHERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Nationality</u>	Research Programme	<u>Duration</u>
Gabriel Jiménez-Peña	o ™	Colombia	Monitoring Regionalisation Processes	6 months
Riccardo Trobbiani	o ™	Italy	The Role of Regions in Global Governance	11 months
Margaryta Rymarenko	Ŷ	Ukraine	The Role of Regions in Global Governance	3 months
Ivaylo Gatev	o ™	Bulgaria	The Role of Regions in Global Governance	3 months
Pedro Caldentey	o ™	Spain	Monitoring Regionalisation Processes	3 months
Marta Lenartowicz	Ŷ	Poland	The Role of Regions in Global Governance	2 months

