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UNU-CRIS

**Institute on Comparative
Regional Integration Studies**

Annual Report 2020

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The United Nations University (UNU) is an international community of scholars engaged in research, postgraduate training and the dissemination 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, towards 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 graduate training programmes, the University enables 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 garnered from its activities to the United Nations and its agencies, to scholars and to the public, in order to increase the dynamic interactions in the worldwide 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



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**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 United Nations and generate new knowledge and ideas. Based in Bruges, UNU-CRIS focuses on the provision of global and regional public goods, and on processes and consequences of intra- and inter-regional integration. The Institute aims to generate policy-relevant knowledge about new patterns of governance

and cooperation, and build capacity on a global and regional level. UNU-CRIS acts as a resource for the United Nations system, with strong links to other United Nations bodies dealing with the provision and management of international and regional public goods (www.cris.unu.edu).

The mission of UNU-CRIS is to contribute to generate policy-relevant knowledge about new forms of governance and cooperation on the regional and global level, about patterns of collective action and decision-making.

UNU-CRIS focuses on issues of imminent concern to the United Nations, such as the 2030 Development Agenda and the challenges arising from new and evolving peace, security, economic and environmental developments regionally and globally. On these issues, the Institute will develop solutions based on research on new patterns of collective action and regional and global governance. The Institute endeavors to pair academic excellence with policy-relevant research in these domains.

UNU-CRIS receives its core funding from the Flemish Government and has an alliance with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and Ghent University since October 2016. Its offices are located on the second floor of the Episcopal Seminary (Grootseminarie), thanks to the Province of West-Flanders.

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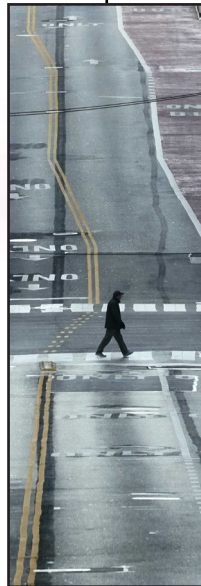
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Message from the Director



When writing the introduction to last year's Annual Report, at the end of March 2020, I wrote that "the world [found] itself in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis". One could

not have imagined then that this was only the beginning of a long crisis which is still ongoing. One year later, the global total of confirmed cases is now around 125 million infected persons, still on the rise, and obviously underestimating the real number (see www.ourworldindata.org, www.arcgis.com). The number of confirmed daily deaths is around 9000, which is grossly double the number of one year ago. The cumulative number of confirmed deaths is approaching 2,8 million. This is also an underestimation and hides substantial variation in registration methods, registration capacities and registration policies. According to the latest OECD estimations, world GDP showed a contraction of about -3,4% in 2020. However, this average figure hides quite some variation: whereas countries like Argentina or the UK showed numbers of around -10%, and the Euro area around -7%, countries like Turkey and China managed to maintain positive growth

numbers (+1,8% and + 2,3%, respectively) (see www.oecd.org/economic-outlook/march-2021). These national figures are again averages that hide variation; for many people around the world, COVID-19 means, if not illness or worse, job or income loss and poverty. Available projections allow for some optimism though: the world economy is projected to grow by more than 5% in 2021 and around 4% in 2022. The speed and the coverage of the vaccination campaigns are thereby a crucial variable.

The COVID-19 crisis has invited us, all over the world, to reflect on the effectiveness of health and other public policies, on "the world we want", on the role of the state in the economy and in society, and on the multi-level nature of governance and policy-making. The most comprehensive tracking exercise of COVID-related public policy responses worldwide to date leads to some interesting findings (see Thomas Hale's "What we learned from tracking every COVID policy in the world" in *The Conversation*, 24 March 2021): even if certain patterns of effective policy response can be identified (typically involving sharper restrictions in combination with stronger economic support), it is not yet clear which factors that contribute to pandemic preparedness



Photo: Timothy A Clary / AFP



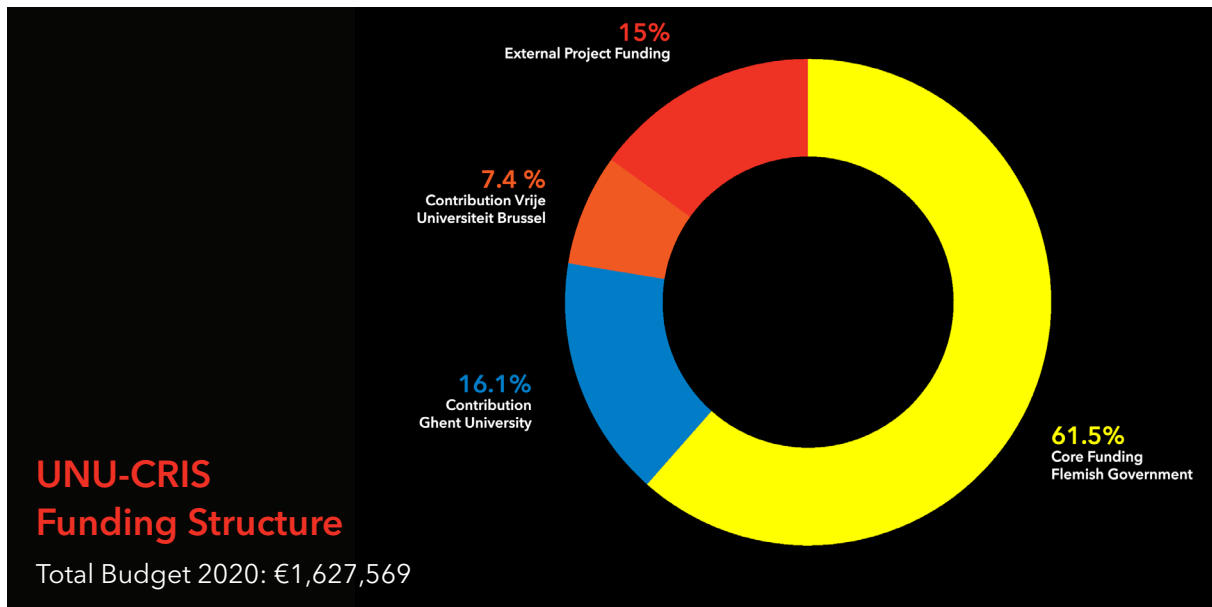
matter most. It is yet not clear how national healthcare capacity, income levels, democracy or administrative centralisation contribute to policy responsiveness in a health crisis situation of this magnitude. However, the authors behind the Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker do come to the conclusion that more inter-governmental cooperation will be needed to leave the pandemic behind us.

This inter-governmental cooperation will have to play out at different levels: in border zones, bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally. Of particular relevance for UNU-CRIS is the observation that, as also illustrated in different parts of the world, there is potential (need?) for more regional cooperation to tackle this pandemic and to increase health system preparedness for future crisis situations. The role of regional cooperation and regional organizations potentially ranges thereby from serving as bridges between national and global policy levels, over strengthening disease surveillance, facilitating trade of goods and services, joint procurement, border management, to coordination of health policies (for example, see my article with Ana Amaya "Regional cooperation is essential to combatting health emergencies in the Global South" in

Globalization and Health, 17:9, 2021).

UNU-CRIS has contributed and continues to contribute to this discussion by producing think pieces and analyses in different formats: blogs, policy briefs and working papers (see pg. 33).

Above all, the COVID-crisis has been a difficult period to navigate for our institute, due to lockdowns, restrictions on international travel, and obligatory telework. Some of our staff members have also personally been affected by the disease. But overall, we have shown agility to adapt to the new circumstances. This Annual Report includes some testimonials on the impact of COVID-19 on their research (see from pg. 9). Several events were either cancelled or postponed, including the bi-annual EU in International Affairs Conference held in Brussels (postponed to 26-28 May 2021), our traditional Doctoral School on Comparative Regionalism held in Quito, the UNESCO Day and Feest in't Park both in Bruges, regular research seminars, invited lectures, and more. We experimented with virtual internships and virtual visiting research fellowships. This way, we were able to welcome several new faces, be it by means of Zoom meetings.



In spite of all the difficulties that we faced, we tried to be as productive as possible. The new structure of our research programme was implemented (see "UNU-CRIS Research Structure" on the previous page). It is now organized around a core of work streams (clusters) under the heading of 'regional public goods' (RPGs): migration and social policy, trade and investment, digital governance, climate and natural resources, health, and security. This work is further supported with data-related work in the RIKS cluster (Regional Integration Knowledge System) and the cross-cutting work on conceptual frameworks and institutional dynamics in the Re-LAB cluster (Regions and Cities Governance Lab). Thanks to the efforts of all personnel, we have again harvested a rich bundle of impactful research outputs and activities, as can be discovered in this report.

At the end of 2020, we have welcomed the decision of the Flemish Government to bring the core funding, after several years, back to its historical level of 1 million EUR annually (see figure above). This, together with the continued support of our university partners (UGent and VUB), should allow UNU-CRIS to operate in the coming years again at a minimum

scale needed to be a performant research institute and deliver in proportion to its ambitious (global) mandate. UNU-CRIS will continue its efforts to attract additional external research funding, even if a context of tightening public research funds can be expected.

Finally, I would like to thank all personnel members for their efforts, patience and resilience in this difficult year. I would also like to thank the continued support of our stakeholders: UNU, under the leadership of Rector Dr. David Malone; the Flemish Government for its financial support; our two Flemish partner universities, Ghent University (UGent) and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB); the Province of West-Flanders; the City of Bruges; the Universidad Andina - UASB; the Diplomatische Akademie Wien; other funding agencies, policymakers and regionalism scholars with whom we collaborate all over the world. Looking forward to a better year?

Philippe De Lombaerde

Director ad interim

March 2021

Message from the Mayor of Bruges



2020 was an extraordinary year to say the least. The COVID-19 crisis hit Bruges hard: hotels, bars, restaurants and many shops closed, events were cancelled, schools and universities

had to arrange online classes, and people had to balance working at home with their private life. As the mayor of Bruges, I have been very proud of the flexibility and patience of the people who live and work here. From the very beginning, there also emerged a great sense of solidarity between our inhabitants. It is with such a positive attitude that we will be able to tackle future obstacles and rebuild what needs to be fixed. I have high hopes that better times are ahead and that Bruges - and UNU-CRIS - will once again be able to welcome people from near and far.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dirk De fauw'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dirk De fauw
Mayor of Bruges

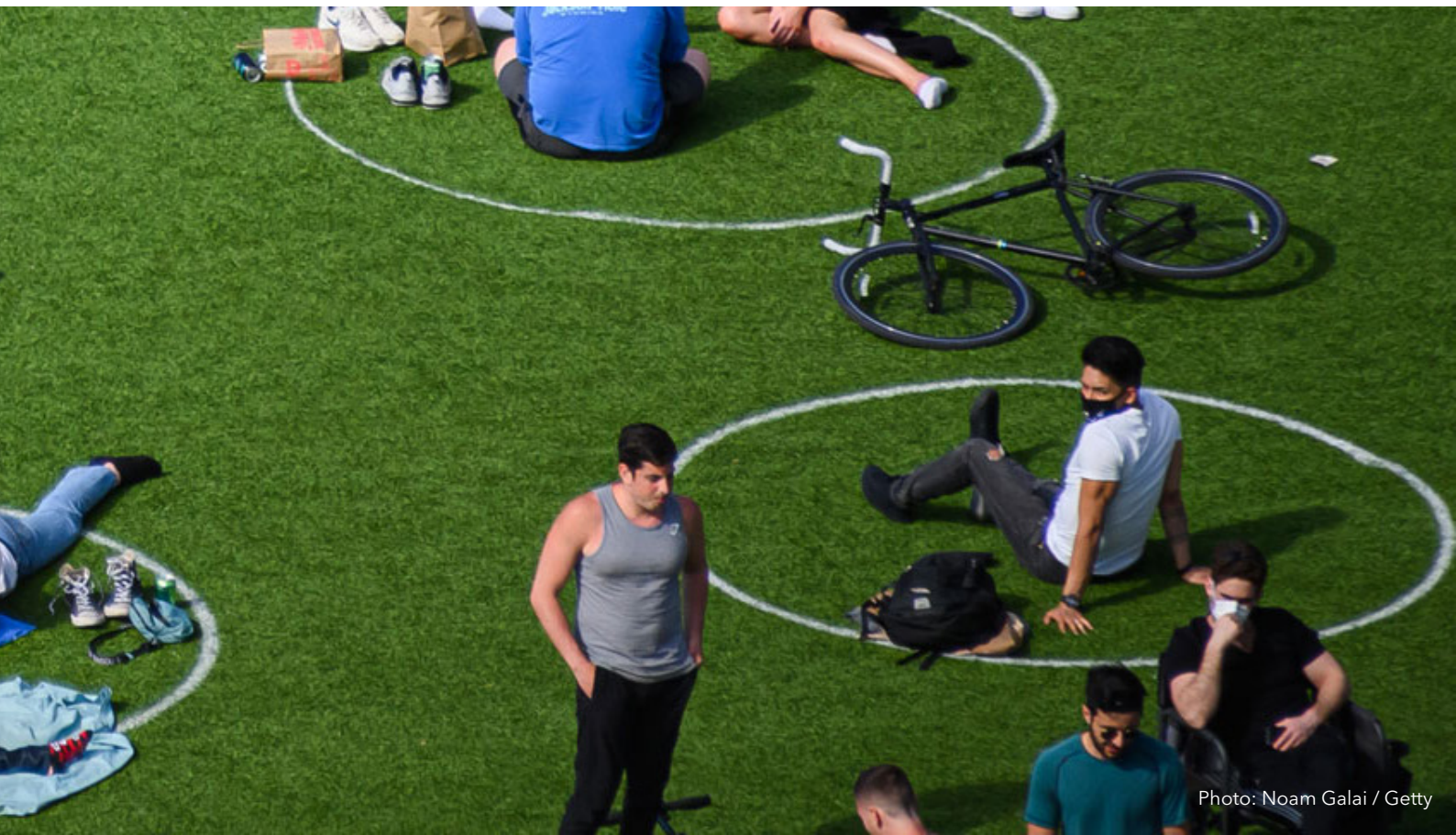


Photo: An American in Rome



Covid-19 and UNU-CRIS

A first-hand account from some of our experts on how Covid-19 affected their research, together with some highlights of our Covid-19 coverage, in what was one of the most difficult years personally and professionally for UNU-CRIS and its personnel.



Rossella Marino

Close Calls: Repatriation and Lost Interviews



The first wave of the pandemic occurred while I was in the field, and caused me to leave it abruptly.

My research regards the infrastructure of migration-

management erected by the European Union and its Member States in the West African country of The Gambia. In addition to policy analysis and literature reviews, such a study requires adequate fieldwork periods aimed at interviewing relevant actors and observing their practices. In turn, this leads

the researcher, especially if an outsider to the field, to gain appropriate knowledge of the broader context which the research is embedded in.

For this reason, I left for The Gambia for an exploratory fieldwork stay on 8 March 2020. I was able to visit several stakeholders, talk to locals and observe the broader context. However, as I was doing that, the international community was realising how serious the Covid-19 menace was. That conjuncture proved me the importance of her research network to the safety and well-being of the researcher. I was in daily contact with my supervisor, who, in turn, was constantly considering my situation with our institution. When it became apparent that the European Union was about to close its borders to the rest of the world and aviation would be disrupted, my supervisor arranged with our institution for my immediate repatriation. It was hard to leave the field, considering that I had interviews scheduled that I was never able to conduct. However, in hindsight, that was the wisest and safest choice for everyone involved.

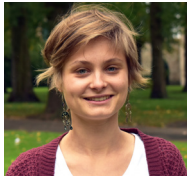
Upon my return to Belgium, I was confronted with more limited data collected than expected. To mitigate this, my supervisor and I organised digital interviews to integrate what I already observed in the field. Digital research means have proved crucial to circumvent the hurdles for research posed by the pandemic. However, they pose several challenges: among others, the difficulty of establishing trust relationships with the participants, the technical problems that might emerge and the limitation of the researcher's freedom to explore the field. At the same time, they allow physical distances to be shortened and therefore enlarge research possibility, with substantial economic and environmental benefits for the public. In the face of these changes, it seems that traditional fieldwork continues to be seen as the most desirable way of collecting qualitative data and, therefore, research output mostly based on limited in-person observation and a lesser number of in-person interviews is susceptible to be judged unfavourably by reviewers. This will cause me and many other researchers to have to juggle with the personal challenges of the pandemic and the feeling of failure attached to being rejected by an academic community which is out of step with the research reality of the day. Aware to be part of a reconsideration (of the appropriateness of) research methods and strategies which was, if not produced, accelerated by the pandemic, research centres' offer of additional funds to extend disrupted PhDs could be a welcomed relief for us, the immobilised qualitative researchers.



Photo: IOM The Gambia

Elke Verhaeghe

Worlds Apart: Adjusting Data Collection Methods as a Result of Covid-19



My PhD project concerns the Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) between the European Union (EU) and timber producing countries, which form the external leg of the Forest Legality Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan. Through the VPAs, the EU negotiates with timber-producing countries on forest management reforms related to ecological and social sustainability, in return for market access for verified legal timber products. These reforms are subject to extensive multi-stakeholder dialogues.

My PhD examines to what extent and how the VPAs influence advocacy and mobilisation for environmental justice in the forest sector through the in-depth case study of two VPA processes in Vietnam and Honduras, as well as a comparison of both processes. The research proposal included long-term research stays in both countries, which would allow me to conduct fieldwork, including elite interviews and qualitative network mapping. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, changes were made in the data collection methods.



Photo: Logging Off

"It is hard to predict the implications of this online mode of field research for access to the respondents and the quality of the research."

For the first case, Vietnam, I have based my research on the data collected during the initial 1-month research stay in April-May 2019, which was complemented with some additional interviews conducted in Brussels and online. In addition, I expanded the scope of the research from the organisation and participation of domestic Vietnamese NGOs in the VPA process to visible forms of contestation against the VPA by researching online manifestations of contestation to the VPA in the form of open letters, speeches, and social media posts. This in turn influenced my theorisation of the relation between institutionalised participation and advocacy as not just a potentially enabling, but also a constraining force, with particular attention to the discursive contours of participation practices. For the second case, Honduras, I have decided to switch entirely to online data collection methods, notably through online interviews with Honduran stakeholders. As interviews are still ongoing, it is hard to predict the implications of this online mode of field research for access to the respondents and the quality of the research.

Diāna Potjomkina

Missed Opportunities: Cancelled Grants and the Move Online



My PhD topic is multistakeholderism in international trade governance. The most visible impact of COVID-19 on my research activity

consisted of making my second fieldwork abroad impossible. I had obtained a grant for a 2-month visit to Colombia from the FWO and had already booked tickets for May 2020.

The plan was to conduct interviews in Bogota and Monteria, two Colombian cities, which would provide essential input for one of the articles of my PhD. Before that, I had carried out research in Georgia, which yielded highly valuable and new data. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 pandemic, I had first to postpone the grant until indeterminate time and then to cancel it altogether as it became clear that I would not be able to go in 2020. This demanded significant time investment from me and my supervisors, both in order to postpone and then give up the FWO grant, and to decide on an alternative course on action.

Ultimately, I am carrying out my second fieldwork digitally, which poses its own unique set of challenges such as: time zone difference, difficulties to reach out to interviewees, impossibility to acquire any documents which exist in printed form in the target country, and low quality internet connection on one or another side which makes it more difficult to conduct interviews and process interview recordings.

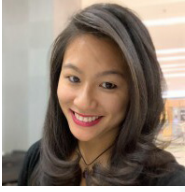
Concomitantly, COVID-19 has also left indirect impact on my research activity, in particular, because significant time had to be invested in order to switch to digital teaching, because no in-person exchanges with foreign colleagues have been possible, and because of the psychological toll of the pandemic on everyone.



Photo: Pedro Szekely / Flickr

Nadia Tjahja

Moving from Belgium to The Netherlands: Covid Hurdles and Tax Hurdles



In March 2020, I was invited to join the GREMLIN project (see pg. 30). Due to the Covid-19 restrictions and closed borders, I was unable to move. We agreed that I was to stay in the Netherlands until it was safe.

In August, I received notice that following my contract, I was required to move to Belgium or else I would be substantially taxed for working in the Netherlands. In addition, social security had also been provided for me. Upon speaking with the tax authorities in The Netherlands, I was informed that if I receive a bursary/ scholarship from an EU country, I will not have to pay tax in the country. However, in Belgium I was told that official notice was received that PhD grantees would have to pay tax, and that I would be required to move. Currently, there is still no clarity on this issue. To prevent any fines or tax issues, I endeavoured to move to Belgium - which in turn, raised other cross-border concerns.

At the time, Belgium mandated a negative PCR test report upon arrival in the country, which meant that one had to be tested in their home country. However, in the Netherlands, you could only get tested if you showed symptoms. There were also no private test centres - which meant that I could not cross the border, legally. Later, they introduced the Passenger Locator Forms. Additionally, if you were only in the country for less than 48 hours, you could go without PCR tests. However, with this limitation it meant that I would have to drive 6 hours every day to and from Belgium to view houses.

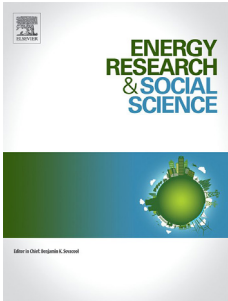
The house viewings weren't easy to manage either. Both Belgium and the Netherlands had limitations on the number of people whom you were allowed to meet (outside your household). At some point this number was four in Belgium - and subsequently, it was only one. Besides these restrictions, there were also health limitations with individual homeowners and letting agents requesting PCR test proofs, that are costly to obtain every two days and range between 60-150 EUR. In the Netherlands, testing was not open to the general public while in Belgium, it was only available to registered Belgians with a general physician. Gradually, an option for free testing upon arrival in Belgium became available after 2 weeks of quarantine. In tandem, people also became more flexible about meeting others, as long as they were from Belgium.



Photo: Kyle Wagaman / Flickr

Publication

Covid-19 and the Politics of Sustainable Energy Transitions



What are the implications of Covid-19 for the politics of sustainable energy transitions?

That's the central question addressed by Thijs Van de Graaf and his co-authors, an interdisciplinary group of social scientists, as they examine the political, economic and social changes caused as a result of the pandemic, and how these have the potential to influence sustainable energy transitions.

Publication

COVID-19 and the Relentless Harms of Australia's Punitive Immigration Detention Regime

In this article published in *Crime, Media, Culture: An International Journal*, Philomena Murray and her co-authors shed light on the plight of those held in Australian immigration detention centres during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In an position of increased precarity as migration pathways have been seriously disrupted by the pandemic, above all, argue the authors, the experience of those incarcerated in immigration detention is a concrete reminder of COVID-19's 'disproportionate impact', in the words of UN Secretary General António Guterres, on people seeking asylum, refugees and other non-citizens.



Blog

The COVID-19 Crisis and Regional Organisations: More Money, More Problems?

Despite the evident transnational dimension of Covid-19, most regional organisations across the world struggled to emerge as key actors in the crisis. In this blog, Frank Mattheis looked at how, despite nation states jumping the gun, regional organisations might come out of the Covid-19 crisis with enhanced powers and resources, but warned that more money may equal more problems.



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CLUSTER REPORTS

A Clean Planet for all

A European strategic
long term vision for a
prosperous, modern,
competitive and
climate neutral
economy



Regional Integration Knowledge System

Samuel Standaert

Coordinator



Embedded within its goal of being a central node for information exchange on regional integration processes worldwide, the Regional Intergration Knowledge System (RIKS) cluster hit a few key milestones in 2020. The web-based platform is aimed at providing public access to detailed information on regional organisations around the world and tracking the changes in their level of integration. Since its launch, RIKS has been presented across several platforms, including UNU-CRIS and Vienna School of International Studies' second Summer School (2020) and during a class on regional integration at the diplomatic academy of Ecuador.

In 2020, the RIKS platform expanded the number of treaties in its database from 110 to 160, while also including crucial and updated developments in regional integration. To establish a clear context, this upgrade was complemented by the addition of historical treaties, like the World Trade Organisation (WTO) membership, within its database. The past year also saw interesting mergers between the RIKS and other existing databases. For instance, RIKS' information on multilateral organizations was combined with the repositories of WTO and the Design of Trade Agreements (DESTA), that are essentially focused on bilateral trade arrangements. Similarly, RIKS' data on the changes within the membership of ROs was integrated within the Comparative Regional Organizations Project's (CROP) information on the content of the treaties.

Besides its database, the RIKS also experienced growth in terms of its team, bringing onboard experts working across diverse subjects and dimensions, such as Frank Mattheis working on the budgets of regional organizations; Justine Miller performing a network analysis

on the overlap in the contents of and membership to regional organisations; Adelina Sharipova working on the direct and indirect effects of PTAs; Lelio Lapadre working on a variety of topics, including the measurement of regional integration using both indices and network analysis tools; Lucas Rabaey working on the indicators to track institutional content of agreements and assessing how they impact the effectiveness of organisations (RIKS has collaborated with the team behind the CROP at the University of Göttingen for this project); and Peter Claeys working on modelling the fiscal policies among other the European Commission, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Looking ahead, the second branch of the RIKS platform is focused on the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To operationalise this, Samuel Standaert and Glenn Rayp with the aid of Alvertos Konstatinos, measured and analysed the SDG performance of over 300 Flemish cities and municipalities in what is one of the most detailed and complete analyses of local SDG performance to date. The process of setting up a network of partners to regularly update and effectively disseminate its results, is currently underway. Practically speaking, the next round of improvements for the RIKS platform have also been initiated. These adjustments are essentially to improve the manner in which membership information is displayed on the map and to best represent the indicators of integration.

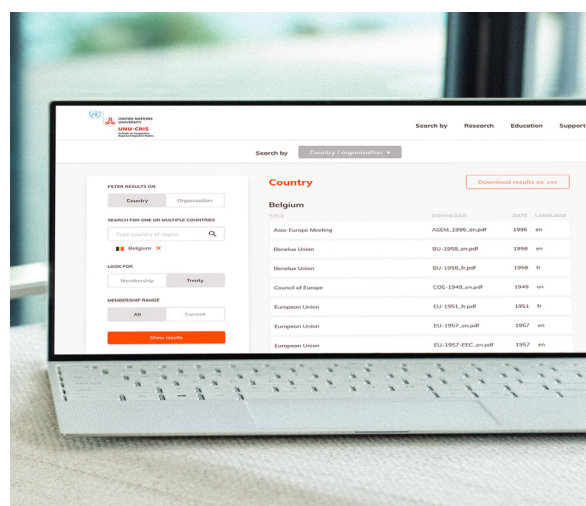
Overall, much of the progress in the cluster has laid the groundwork for future research, which will bear fruit in the coming months and years.

Feature

RIKS 2.0

As an increasing number of countries shy away from global intergovernmental organizations such as the World Trade Organization, inter- and intra-regional agreements play an increasingly important role in the world system. Knowledge of these systems of regional integration has therefore become indispensable in research of global governance and its many processes and interactions.

Central to this understanding the processes of regional integration and interaction is data. This is where the Regional Integration Knowledge System 2.0, the rebirth of the original platform launched more than ten years ago, is of great value to researchers, students, journalists and policymakers worldwide, acting as the 'missing link' between the existing regional initiatives for information provision on regional integration and cooperation, by offering a central node for information exchange on regional integration processes.



RIKS 2.0 builds upon the foundation of the original platform, as well as adding some exciting and innovative new features. While RIKS 1.0 only covered trade, RIKS 2.0 also includes migration and foreign direct investment, opening up a range of possibilities for interdisciplinary research to better understand the interactions between these different fields of study. To broaden its use and appeal to users beyond quantitative researchers, it now includes an interactive map that allows the user to visualise the changes in membership of regional organizations over time.

The RIKS 2.0 platform was launched on 20 October with a demonstration of its features from its architects and heard testimonials from researchers at the forefront of their fields on how the platform is of use to them.





Event

New Approaches to Measuring and Assessing Regional Cooperation and Integration

Philippe De Lombaerde was invited to participate and present at the Asian Development Bank's New Approaches to Measuring and Assessing Regional Cooperation and Integration workshop, held virtually on 16 & 17 April.

Taking part in session one, Methodological Approaches to Measuring Regional Integration moderated by Cyn-Young Park, Director of Regional Cooperation and Integration Division at the ADB, Dr. De Lombaerde's presentation covered indicator-based monitoring of regional economic integration.

Publication

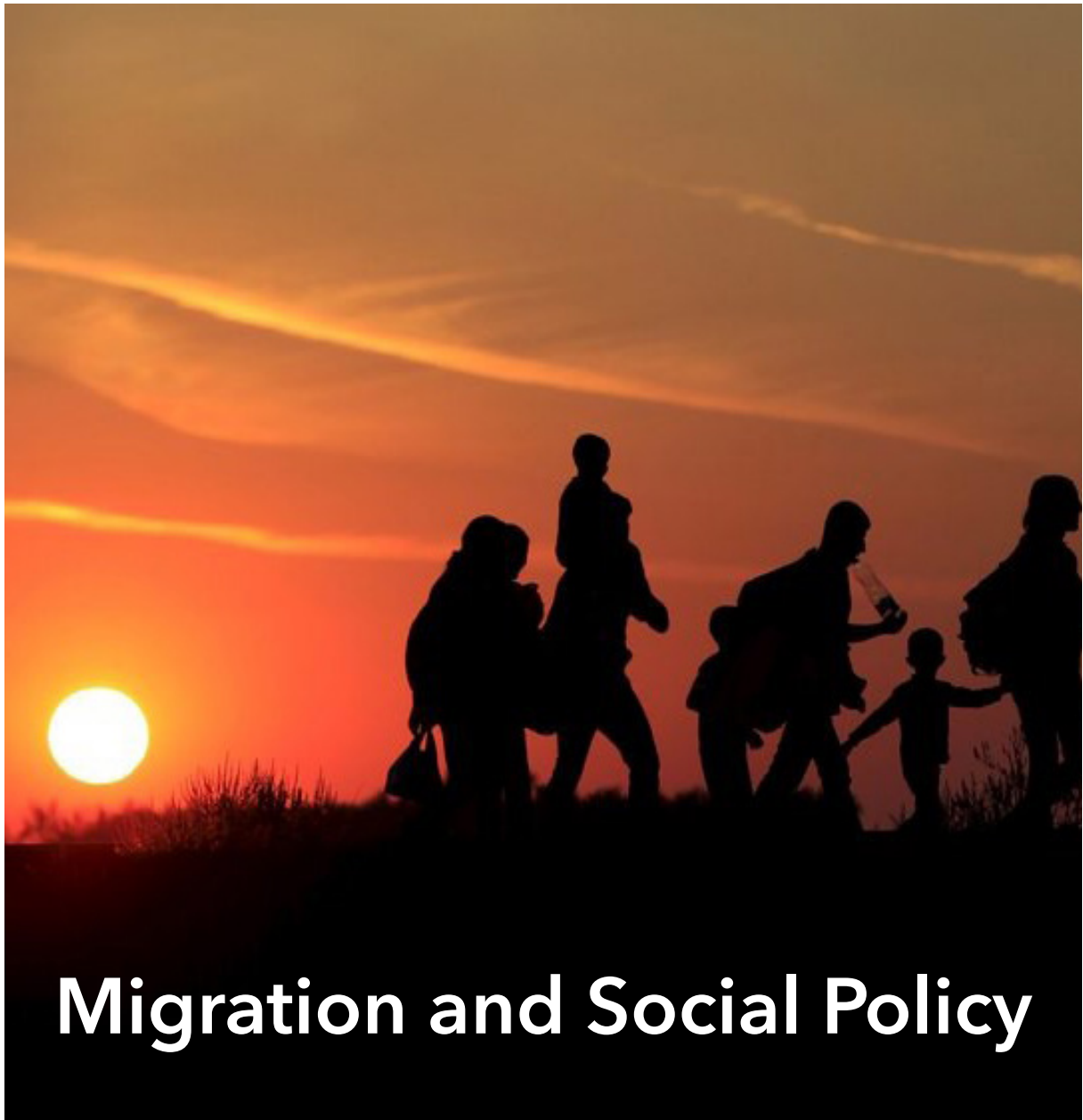
The Flanders City SDG Index: A Feasibility Study

It is estimated by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) that 65% of the successes of the SDGs depend on the immediate and active involvement of the municipalities in the implementation processes, making clear the need for an accurate method of measuring the success of this process.

Samuel Standaert, Glenn Rayp and Alvertos Konstantinis, in this report published in November, proposed a comprehensive, straightforward, yet sufficiently sophisticated methodology for monitoring the progress of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by the municipalities of Flanders, Belgium.

The Flanders cities SDG indexes are designed to guide policymakers to those areas where improvement is most needed while keeping a broader overview of the overall SDG performance, and allow for the identification of the Flemish municipalities that can offer up best-practices for each SDG and indicator.





Migration and Social Policy

Ine Lietaert

Coordinator



The Migration and Social Policy Cluster unites research and researchers investigating peoples mobility within and across nations and regions, the regimes, infrastructures and practices developed at national, regional and global level that govern their mobility and support migrants. The research on social policy follows the same two-pronged approach of increasing understanding of social needs of individuals and groups, in interaction with access to welfare services and welfare policies developed at the national, regional and global level. The clear junction between these two fields, both experiencing pressure of the contemporary conditions of globalization and evolving amidst calls for more cooperation and coordination at the regional and global level, together with the obvious mutual interplay between welfare and mobility, creates a leeway for innovative cross-fertilization.

At the cluster's launch in January 2020, the main area of research focused on interdisciplinary research into return migration, return governance, climate migration, aspirations to migrate and determinants of migration, both from a quantitative and qualitative perspective. Within the cluster, special attention is attributed to the most vulnerable categories of migrants, to the role of regions in migration governance and to decentralizing the debate on migration governance by bringing in perspectives from the Global South. In the course of 2020, this translated into a variety of outputs. The width and depth of the cluster's research findings as well as the broad audience that is targeted in the dissemination, is clearly visible in the range of topics addressed in (co) organised workshops, research seminars, presentations, working papers and policy briefs. These topics were, among others, sustainable reintegration, migration intention and environmental stress, return

migration infrastructure in the Philippines, internally displaced people, immobility, migration and care, securitisation of EU migration policies, EU bordering practices, EU development policy, EU migration policy selectivity and effectiveness. Also academic articles and book chapters have been published on these topics and the range of journals in which research outcome has been published - among others Regions and Cohesion, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, International Migration, European Journal of Social Work and the Journal of Rural Studies, Digital Policy, Regulation and Governance - exemplifies again the cluster's profound interdisciplinary approach. Particularly relevant to highlight here are the UNU-CRIS edited book "Regional Integration and Migration Governance in the Global South" (Rayp, Ruysen and Marchand) and the collaborative UNU-CRIS - UNU-MERIT special issue in International Migration on "Conceptualizing and Contextualizing Reintegration in the context of return migration" (Lietaert and Kuschminder).

The Social Policy track was less developed at the cluster's start, yet was significantly elaborated in 2020. This was facilitated via a newly initiated research project focussing on the access to welfare services in the context of regional separatism dynamics. Moreover, the newly established international network coordinated by Ilse Ruysen (CliMigHealth), which centralises health outcomes and access to health care in relation to migration and climate change, will importantly contribute to insight on health care as a particular part of social policy. Moreover, it has the connection with migration and climate change at its core, hence it overarches the Cluster's focus and makes a bridge with the Climate and Natural Resources Cluster.

Feature

Regional Integration and Migration Governance in the Global South

Focused on the complex challenges of migration governance and regional integration, a new volume titled *Regional Integration and Migration Governance in the Global South* presents original and recent research on migration flows through the lens of the Global South.

Written by experts from different regions and published by Springer as part of the United Nations University Series on Regionalism, this book highlights the priorities for the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration in the region. The volume was penned considering the intergovernmental agreement of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations in 2016, and one of the major recent events in international migration governance. Targeted at those interested or involved in international migration governance, development studies, and regional studies, the book has been written by credible researchers and professionals active in the field.

Owing to Covid-19 restrictions, the volume was launched virtually on 18 December 2020 and comprised key author insights on regional integration and migration governance. The launch event featured Maureen Achieng (Chief of Mission IOM Ethiopia and Representative to the African Union and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa), who shared her views on the priorities of migration governance in the Global South. In addition, the session also included insights from speakers including Ilse Ruysen (UNU-CRIS), Melissa Siegel (UNU-MERIT), Richa Shivakoti (Ryerson University), and Maud Martens (IES - VUB).

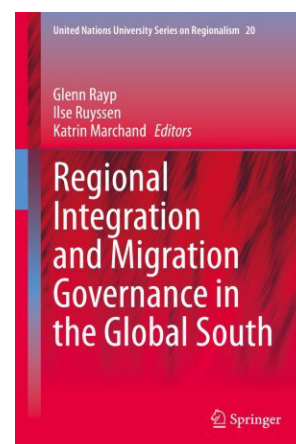


Photo: Jorge Ríos / Flickr

Event

Conceptualizing and Contextualizing Reintegration

An uptake in the study of the reintegration in recent years has revealed to many and reinforced to others that it is a challenging, multi-dimensional, long-lasting and non-linear process, and one that is constantly evolving.

Within this context, UNU-CRIS, UNU-MERIT, the UNU Migration Network and the RET-MIG network launched a special issue on 12 November, to be published in *International Migration*, that aims to address the need for further conceptualisation and contextualisation of the concept of reintegration.

The launch heard presentations from Ine Lietaert of UNU-CRIS, Katie Kuschminder of UNU-MERIT, as well as other experts from UC Merced in California, Samuel Hall, the University of Copenhagen, LPED - Aix-Marseille University and Ghent University.

Event

Narratives of the Excluded and Invisible

This event on 30 October examined the plight of internally displaced persons (IDPs), one of the most vulnerable groups, in Ethiopia, Mongolia, and the Philippines.

The aim was to challenge current definitions and understanding of internal displacement, by bringing concrete evidence and experiences from three settings into the debate and asking key questions like how do we differentiate internal migrants from IDPs and when does displacement end?

Project

International Thematic Network on Climate-Migration-Health

The nexus between climate change, migration and health(care) is complex, and there remains a lack of understanding of the effects of interactions between the different driving forces and actors.

Coordinated by Ilse Ruysen and counting 17 partners from across Africa, North America, Oceania and Europe, the CliMigHealth network, launched in December, will seek to improve the understanding of this nexus, strengthen existing networks and foster new ones, and increase interdisciplinary collaboration to further examine the key migration and health(care) challenges arising as a result of climate change.



Photo: Julien Harnais / Flickr



Trade and Investment

Glenn Rayp

Coordinator



The main activities in the trade and investment cluster were the start of two new PhD research projects, respectively on the direct and indirect effects of regional trade agreements and the effectiveness of regional organizations (RO).

The first project aims at a better assessment of the impact of preferential trade agreements by taking into account and estimating its indirect effects in addition to the direct effects on which the literature exclusively focuses. This project simultaneously analyses the impact of PTAs, BITs, and BLAs on bilateral trade, investment, and migration flows in a seemingly unrelated regression (SUR) model. This will allow to disentangle the direct and indirect effects of each integration agreement and identify the three-way linkages between trade, migration and FDI- flows in the presence of PTAs, BITs and BLAs. In the next stage, the project analyses the contents of the agreements (PTAs, BITs, and BLAs) by means of text-as-data analysis. By mapping the heterogeneity of the agreements in depth, the mechanisms behind their impact were disentangled. Moreover, the text-analysis of the contents as such will provide valuable input for further research on the effectiveness of international policy making. Finally, by examining the contents of PTAs, BITs, and BLAs, and incorporating the heterogeneity of these agreements into a SURE-model of structural gravity equations, will be identified through which provisions, in what kind of agreements, and under what circumstances, the bilateral trade, FDI and migration flows are most affected.

This project will enhance our knowledge of the effects of international agreements on economic flows and provide valuable policy making insights for transnational regional integration. It was granted FWO research funding in August. A first important achievement last year was the finalisation of the program coding for the estimation of the simultaneous system of trade, investment and migration flows. The first estimation results of the direct and indirect effects of regional integration agreements are scheduled to be presented at the ETSG conference in September 2021.

The second research project on the effectiveness of regional organizations aims at measuring RO effectiveness and identify its determinants. First, a comprehensive measure of de jure integration between countries will be provided that will include both the institutional structure and the policy scope of regional organizations. This work is done jointly with Anja Jetschke (University of Göttingen) and Patrick Theiner (University of Göttingen) using the CROP database (Comparative Regional Organizations Project). The indicators of de jure integration will be used in a structural gravity analysis to assess their impact on the de facto integration of the region. By incorporating indicators of de jure integration along various dimensions, the dimensions of de jure integration that are most the effective at raising the level of de facto integration will be identified. A recent body of literature has focused on the role of trade policy uncertainty in explaining the effects of preferential trade agreements. We will extend this analysis to incorporate RO effectiveness and uncertainty about agreement compliance. The determinants of RO effectiveness will be identified, using an empirical test of the determinants of the effectiveness of ROs, based on a simple theoretical framework that extends a tariff game between two countries with a monitoring cost of the rules stated in the agreement.

With the estimation of an indicator of the policy scope of the agreements, the first stage in constructing an index of de jure integration was completed in June 2020. The results were presented at the workshop on " Conceptual and Empirical Perspectives on the Performance of Regionalisms in the Global South: From State Fragility to Africa-EU relations, and beyond.", held at the University of Mainz. In the second part of this year, a comprehensive indicator of the institutional strength of the RO was developed. At the International Studies Association annual conference in April 2021, a new version of the de jure integration index will be presented that includes both policy scope and institutional strength.

Feature

Trade Policy Implications of Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic was devastating for global trade, with the WTO forecasting a 9.2% decline in the volume of world merchandise trade for 2020, almost three times larger than the 3.5% drop predicted by the IMF for world GDP.

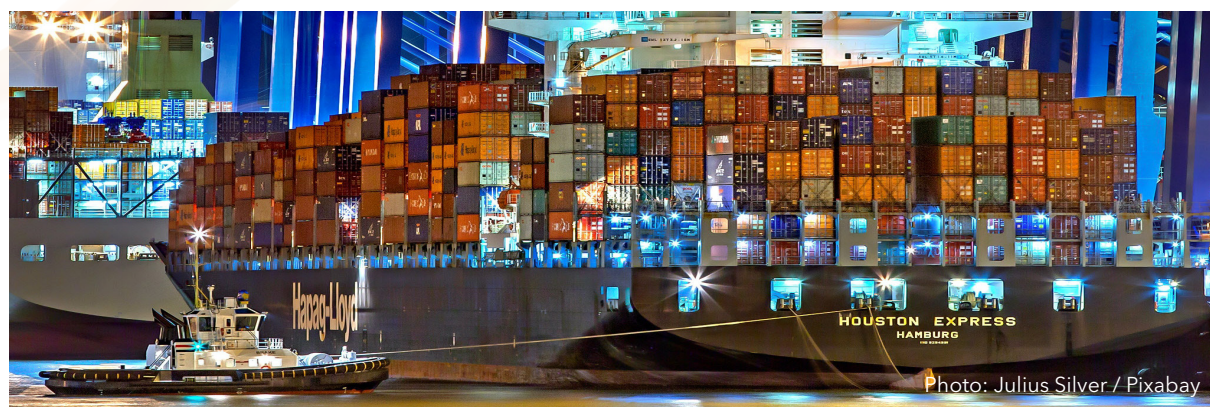
Throughout 2020, we endeavoured to provide comprehensive coverage of the pandemic's implications for global trade in what was, and remains, an ongoing and developing situation. Below, we highlight some of the contributions from across our network.

Jan Orbie and Ferdi De Ville discussed the EU's trade policy response to Covid-19 in their policy brief "Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on EU Trade Policy: Our Five Cents to the Debate", warning that while the resilience of the neoliberal free trade paradigm in the post-Covid-19 era should not be underestimated, at least in the short term, the medium- and long-term outlook may lead to a dangerous alternative - securitisation.

In "Turning Lemons to Lemonade: Impact of COVID-19 on the African Continental Free Trade Agreement" Lynda Iroulo examined the benefits of African Continental Free Trade Agreement and the implications of COVID-19 on the functioning of the secretariat, member state commitment, and the economy, concluding by highlighting the necessary steps needed to salvage the situation.

Patrick Holden took a broader view in his working paper "Regional Integration and Trade in the Era of COVID-19: A First Look", analysing the different types of trade and economic policy responses to COVID-19 and how they relate to regional integration. He found that, excluding the European Union, the response was, as was always likely to be the case, overwhelmingly state-led, and the regional role was more as a coordinator/norm promoter.

"The economic impact of the coronavirus or COVID-19 will be dramatic and long-lasting" begins the blog in March from Oscar Guinea and Iacopo Monterosa titled "Trade Policy and the Fight Against the Coronavirus", setting the tone for a piece that employed governments to remove restrictions and tariffs that delay the purchase of medical equipment and make them more expensive.



Project

The Direct and Indirect Effects of Economic Integration Agreements

This project by PhD Fellow Adelina Sharipova focuses on in-depth analyses of the contents of bilateral and multilateral economic integration agreements.

Specifically, the focus goes out to the direct and indirect effects of trade, investment and labour agreements on international trade, migration, and FDI-flows.

The main method consists of seemingly unrelated structural gravity equations.

Project

The Effectiveness of Regional Organisations

Focusing on the effectiveness of regional organizations, this project, undertaken by PhD Fellow Lucas Rabaey, studies the link between de jure and de facto integration.

This is done by examining the effects of policy scope and institutional structure of regional organizations on the economic flows between their member states. In addition, we will also study the determinants of the effectiveness of regional organizations.

Project

Taxation, International Cooperation and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

Building on a workshop held in Bruges in 2019, this forthcoming book, to be published by Springer as part of the UNU Series on Regionalism and edited by Irma Mosquera Valderrama, Dries Lesage and Wouter Lips, will address the link between international taxation, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the medium-term revenue strategy concept.

With contributions from experts with an interdisciplinary mix of expertise in tax law, international political economy, global governance and international relations, this volume will provide an elaborate reference and evaluation framework for multilateral cooperation on tax and development to strengthen the revenue system of developed and developing countries.

It will also discuss the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda goals that are relevant for taxation and assesses the current work done by international organizations, regional tax organizations and countries to achieve these Sustainable Development Goals.

"The fiscal legacy from the Covid-19 pandemic suggests that making national public finances sound and sustainable will take considerable time in some countries."

Excerpt from "The European Monetary Union after Covid-19: Towards Fiscal Integration Aligned with Monetary Policy", a Policy Brief written by Ad Van Riet.



Digital Governance

Jamal Shahin

Coordinator



The UNU-CRIS Cluster on Digital Governance comprises of a group of researchers that execute research on the ongoing digital transformation of society and its influence on global, regional, and state-driven governance in the 21st Century. In keeping with the spirit of the UNU, the research is both academic and policy-oriented, and engages with issues that impact on the governance of technology in a global sense. Research is driven by a desire to understand the complexities of the new global order, and how technology plays a role in these developments.

The Digital Governance Cluster is a relatively new actor in the UNU-CRIS research portfolio, and it has emerged out of the GREMLIN Project (operational since 2017). The Cluster has emerged out of this research project, and aims to broaden its portfolio in the course of 2021, in order to provide a broader contribution to the UNU family. However, preliminary work has been launched in a number of fields.

In the initial stages of establishment of the Cluster, which has been carried out during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the team has been working to identify key areas of research where the Cluster can contribute to academic and policy debates, also within the UNU system. Charlotte van Wieren (intern, UNU-CRIS) and I executed a scanning exercise on the nature of institutes and research centres around the world that identify themselves as working on the topic of Digital Governance. This scanning exercise will be written up as a short note on 'the nature of Digital Governance research'. Such a scanning exercise helped the team identify the type of research activities that are underway in this field and scope out potential collaborations.

In terms of events, the Digital Governance Cluster contributed to the UNU-CRIS Summer School on Modern Diplomacy, by

organising a session on Digital Diplomacy. Additionally, a research seminar was organised by the Cluster, where Clément Perarnaud, PhD researcher from the University of Pompeu Fabra (Spain) presented his ongoing work.

When it comes to research activities undertaken in 2020, Haydn Wiles (intern, UNU-CRIS) worked alongside Orsolya Gulyás (VUB) and myself to draft a paper examining EU, US and ASEAN Digital Strategies. This paper was presented by the team at an international conference. The study carries out a critical discourse analysis of major strategy documents from the European Union, the US President's Office, and ASEAN over a period of 30 years.

Another research activity focused on Cybersecurity. This emerged as a key area of interest to the Cluster. Charlotte van Wieren produced a working paper on the Formulation of Cybersecurity Policies in Regional Organisations. This study carried out a deep textual analysis of the cybersecurity strategies of the European Union and ASEAN.

The Cluster has become more engaged in discussions on security-related topics, as discussions on the topic of 'Digital Sovereignty' have been raised in many different global fora. The Cluster is engaged in planning a series of events on this topic for 2021, in collaboration with a range of different stakeholders from around the world.

In addition, the Cluster will maintain a regional institutions focus, by continuing to work on the institutional responses to technologic developments from regional actors around the world.

Feature

Global and Regional Multistakeholder Institutions

2020 was for the Global and Regional Multistakeholder Institutions (GREMLIN) project a year requiring great adjustment due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as was certainly the case for many research projects within UNU-CRIS and others around the world.

However, despite the challenging environment, the project, which aims to further understanding of the impact of multistakeholderism on global and regional governance through examining the policy field of digital and trade governance, pushed ahead and had one of its most productive years to date.

Not only was this the case in terms of research output, with a number of articles published in academic journals as well as papers presented at conferences such as GIGANET, UACES, and the European Transoceanic Encounters and Exchanges Kick-Off Conference, it also expanded its team of experts, bringing onboard PhD Fellow Nadia Tjhaja as well as a number of talented interns for short-term projects, within the larger framework of the projects work on digital governance.

Beyond research, the project also aims to influence digital governance policy, one of the most dynamic policy areas and growing in importance with every click. Trisha Meyer was a contributor to the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development's global report "Balancing Act: Countering digital disinformation while respecting freedom of expression" as the lead author of the chapters mapping and evaluating government and platform responses to disinformation. The report was launched on 29 September.

As life continues under the blanket of the Covid-19 pandemic, with more aspects of life taken online, the need for rigorous research to inform effective digital governance grows. The digital arm of the GREMLIN project stands ready to meet this need in 2021 and beyond.

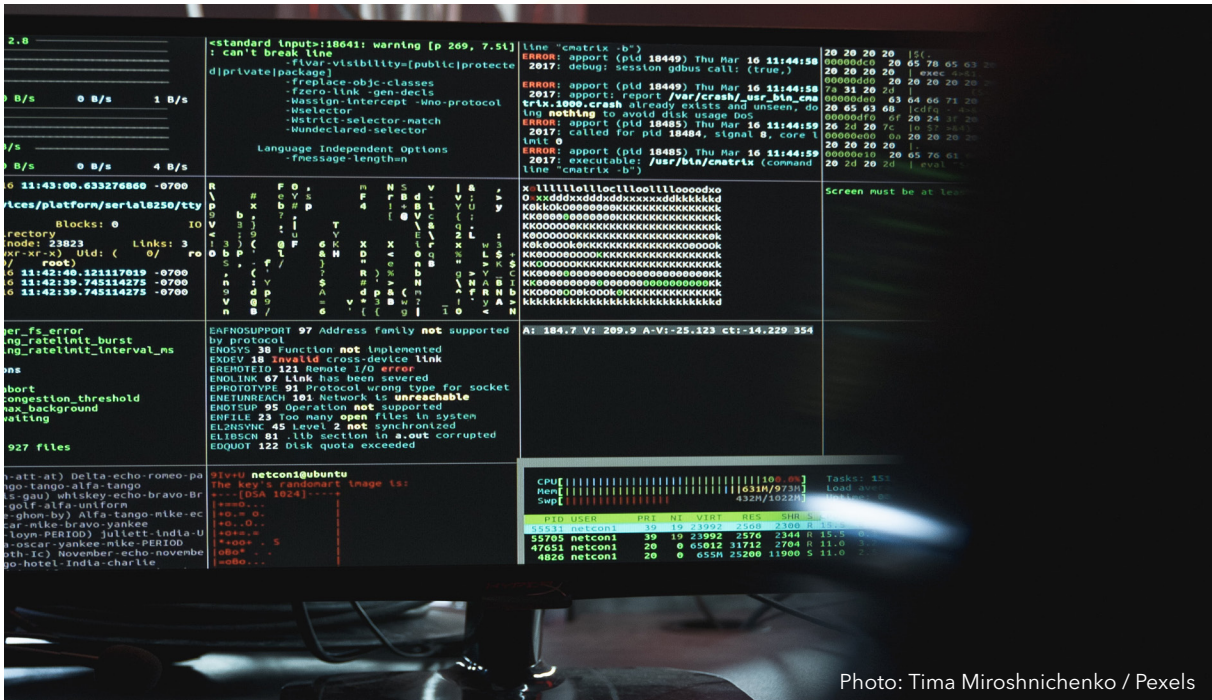


Photo: Tima Miroshnichenko / Pexels

Event

'Digital Services Act (DSA) in Perspective' Seminar Series

The proposed new Digital Services Package will profoundly reshape the future of online platforms and the fight against disinformation and illegal content.

In this seminar series offering an academic perspective on the new proposals, Trisha Meyer, together with researchers from the Brussels School of Governance, invite leading experts to debate the implications of this complex subject.

Event

Acting Responsibly in the New Digital Age

Nadia Tjahja was invited to speak at the Citizens International Youth Summit 2020, where she gave an address titled "Acting Responsibly in the New Digital Age" to a virtual group in celebration of International Youth Day 2020 on 9 August.

Her interactive speech touched upon topics such as integrating our real life and virtual workplaces, and the environmental impact of our digital activity.

Project

The Age of Digital Interdependence?

Haydn Wiles, Orsolya Gulyas and Jamal Shahin carried out a critical discourse analysis of major strategy documents from the European Union, the US President's Office, and ASEAN over a period of 30 years, resulting in a paper presented at the European Transoceanic Encounters and Exchanges: ETEE Kick-off Conference in October.



Publication

We Go Digital: The South Korean Case and Sustainable Digital Transformations

At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, South Korea may well have been one of the most cited cases on how to effectively flatten the infections curve without shutting the economy, but while the core of its strategy was aggressive testing and precautionary practices, these were facilitated by a controversial third method: the public use of digital technologies.

In this thought-provoking piece for the Connecting Ideas blog, JeongHyun Lee tracked the evolution of the digital response to Covid-19 in the country and placed it within the context of a wider digital transformation towards a contactless society, already underway in many parts of the world, but with increasing urgency to tackle the socially-distant reality and the unexpected changes to everyday life brought about by Covid-19.



Climate and Natural Resources

Project

Investigating Water and Climate-Related Conflicts and Migration

Partnering with the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) and the Research Center for Water Resources of the Congo basin (CRREBaC in French), this PhD project aims to investigate water and climate-related conflicts and migrations towards empowerment focused solutions for policy integration in the northern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Publication

China's Climate Change Policy: Central-Local Governmental Interaction

What's driving the recent changes in China's domestic climate change policy?

This article by Yunhan Zhang, Jan Orbie and Sarah Delputte, published in *Environmental Policy and Governance*, contributes to the theoretical research on Chinese climate change policy by developing and applying a theoretical framework, addressing the insufficient attention paid to political science accounts of central-local relations in climate governance.

Publication

The European Union's Arctic Policy Discourse: Green by Omission

As a result of climate change, the Arctic has simultaneously turned into an environmentally highly fragile space and a region with enormous economic opportunities.

The 'Arctic Paradox', as this precarious position is known, perfectly captures the trade-off between environmental protection needs and economic prospects.

This publication by Simon Schunz, Bram De Botselier and Sofía López Piqueres investigates how the European Union has positioned itself regarding this Paradox by asking to what extent its Arctic policy discourse integrates environmental concerns, directly addressing the notion that the Arctic is, according to the EU, 'green by omission'



Publication

Covid-19: Latin America Needs to Rebuild Regional Integration in Health

The Covid-19 pandemic hit Latin America at a time of high fragmentation and, above all, of complete narrowing of its programmatic agenda. In this policy brief, Maria Belén Herrero and Santiago Lombardi Bouza ask the tough questions about the future in a region with a long history of integration in health, is waiting for governments to rebuild spaces for discussion and institutional mechanisms for action.

Blog

Covid-19 and Its Effect on Conflict-Affected and Displaced Women: The Sudanese Case

The risk to women in conflict-affected countries is at an all-time high. Ikhlas Mahmoud took a closer look at the case in Sudan, where women, already suffering from issues related to poverty and vulnerability caused by violence and conflicts in their communities, are at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 as they simply often cannot comply with health instructions that prevent the spread of the disease.

Project

Challenges and Opportunities for Regional Health Cooperation: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic and Other Infectious Diseases

Despite having WHO international health regulations and pandemic guidelines in place for years prior, COVID-19 demonstrated that national health care systems and regional cooperation, such as the EU, ASEAN, CAN, Mercosur or SAARC, are not prepared and struggle to tackle together a pandemic challenge of this magnitude.

This forthcoming special issue, edited by Philippe De Lombaerde, Ana Amaya, and Doreen Montag, seeks to contribute to the research on the driving factors and mechanisms of regional health cooperation that have been vital (or not) in managing the pandemic, by addressing key questions such as what is needed and what has not worked, what can we learn from this experience and earlier experiences, and how can we protect future generations by relying on regional solutions?



Blog

The EU and the UN: Partners for a Purpose

Fresh from his address to the UN Security Council, High Representative of the European Union Josep Borrell argued in this blog that, with the stress on multilateralism exacerbated by Covid-19, the world needs a Security Council able to take the necessary decisions and not one that is paralysed by vetoes and political infighting, so multilateralism can deliver results for the people who need it most.

Lecture

No Peace from Corona: Defining EU Strategy for the 2020s

In an age of great power competition, must Europe pick a side, or is an alternative grand strategy still possible? In the 2020 Annual Lecture of the Journal of European Integration held at the College of Europe in Bruges on 15 October, Sven Biscop discussed how the European Union can position itself within a great power rivalry exacerbated by the Covid-19 crisis.

Publication

Platform Values and Democratic Elections: How Can the Law Regulate Digital Disinformation?

How can governments regulate the values of social media companies that themselves regulate disinformation spread on their own platforms?

This article by Trisha Meyer, Chris Marsden and Ian Brown examines the effects that disinformation initiatives have on freedom of expression, media pluralism and the exercise of democracy, from the wider lens of tackling illegal content online and concerns to request proactive (automated) measures of online intermediaries.



Regions and Cities Governance Lab

Philippe De Lombaerde

Coordinator a.i.



In 2020, the Regions and Cities Governance Lab (Re-LAB) was created to bundle the conceptual work on regions and regionalisms within UNU-CRIS and to organise the (comparative) work on the institutional dynamics of regionalisms worldwide.

Whereas the Regional Public Goods clusters focus on specific policy areas, this cluster is transversal and focuses on institutions and their dynamics. This is not limited to the (traditional) intergovernmental regional organizations, but includes a wider view on regional actorness. It is also not limited to the supranational variety of regions, but covers also the subnational varieties of regions and cities, as well as their interactions, as you can see in some examples on the right-hand side of this page, exploring processes from cross-border regions to city councils, and to the UN General Assembly at the very top.

This cluster studies both horizontal interactions (i.e. interregionalism) as well as vertical interactions (i.e. multi-level governance), including the emerging non-traditional modalities of diplomacy that this involves. In combination with RIKS, the cluster is also interested in the translation of the SDGs into level-specific goals. This cluster considers thus the world itself as a laboratory of continuous institutional adaptation.

In 2020, a new project was initiated on “The Shared Neighbourhood between the EU and Russia”. A Handbook is under way on “Regional Cooperation and Integration” (Edward Elgar), as well as a special issue on “Disintegrations” (Comentario Internacional). A textbook was published on “The Changing Order - Challenges and Prospects”, edited by Madeleine Hosli and Joren Selleslaghs, Springer/UNU Series on Regionalism.

As this field of study grows and evolves so will we, so stay tuned.



Photo: Estonia-Russia CBC Programme



Photo: Jared Piper / PHL Council



Photo: Eskinder Debebe / UN Photo

Feature

Tenth Anniversary Special Edition of Regions and Cohesion - Re-thinking Regions: a Citizen Perspective

The inaugural edition of *Regions & Cohesion* in 2011 was entitled "Regiones, régions, regions, everywhere. ... But what about the people?" and alluded to the notion, held by some scholars at the time, that regions could one day substitute nation-states as prominent actors in global affairs. Region-building success, it noted, was measured in terms of economic prosperity and political stability, but do regions serve the needs of their peoples, or just the needs of their regional economies? And, above all, what are regions without cohesion?

Ten years later, and "Ten years of re-thinking regions from citizens' perspectives", the tenth anniversary special edition brought together a diverse group of experts from across professions, backgrounds, races, and ages, to offer a snapshot of the state of regional integration in the world today.

Co-edited by Philippe De Lombaerde and featuring think pieces from a number of UNU-CRIS academics such as Luk Van Langenhove, Timothy Shaw, Ine Lietaert, the volume covers topics such as the psychology of regions, the regionalism process in the ASEAN community, "new regionalisms" emerging out of Africa, the EU strategy in the Baltic Sea Region, and the supposed fifth wave of Latin American regionalism.

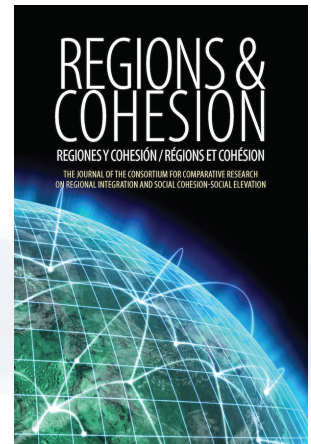


Photo: Paul Kagame / Flickr



Publication

The State of Paradiplomacy

Paradiplomatic practices are on the rise. More and more competences shift towards substate entities and these entities seek to articulate their interests in foreign territories as well. From “twin cities”, to trade facilitation, the ratification of international treaties, and even secessionist movements, paradiplomacy can take various forms.

This working paper by Philipp Häntsche seeks to find a way to cluster and categorize paradiplomatic behaviour.

Publication

EU International Cultural Relations

The 2016 Joint Communication on EU international cultural relations was a milestone achievement for the European Union, but has faced a hostile environment since its adoption with the weakening of democratic practices and the rise of nationalistic and personalised political agendas.

This policy brief by Domenico Valenza and Damien Helly analyses the main policy trends at play in the implementation of the Joint Communication since its publication.

Event

The Finances of Regional Organisations

How do the budgets and resources of regional organisations - specifically those located in the Global South - work and what do their patterns reveal about the regionalism at stake?

That was the core question for this research seminar with Frank Mattheis in February, the last physical event of the year in Bruges, as he presented comparative insights from a new book on the finances of regional organisations in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Asia.

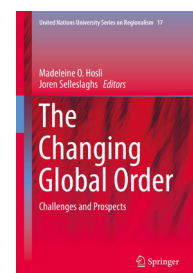
Publication

The Changing Global Order: Challenges and Prospects

This timely volume comprehensively evaluates the concept of the global order, paying particular attention to the role of regional organizations and their role within global governance institutions, such as the United Nations.

Edited by Madeleine Hosli and Joren Selleslaghs, this interdisciplinary volume features contributions from experts around the globe and covers topics such as political economy, international law, institutions of global governance, in conjunction with the academic field of International Relations.

With this cross-cutting approach, it aims to help its readers understand the theoretical and practical foundations underpinning the dynamic arena of global affairs.



HIGHLIGHTS



Second Summer School on Modern Diplomacy

Organised by UNU-CRIS and Vienna School of International Studies, in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Flanders, Ghent University and Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the Second Summer School took place between 24 August - 04 September 2020, with a focus on modern diplomacy.

As social distancing became a norm and the nature of global interactions took a sharp turn, the Summer School adopted a virtual format to decode the onset of a new age of diplomacy. Rooted within a multiplicity of actors, levels and approaches, the school featured discussions with nearly 40 global practitioners, academics and policymakers at the forefront of fields such as International Diplomacy, Health Diplomacy, Climate Diplomacy, Cultural Diplomacy, Economic Diplomacy among others.

From the climate crisis to migration - the need for intersectional approaches involving actors across levels and tracks has never been more pressing. Underpinning the diverse discussions and debates on the most challenging issues of our times during the Summer School, was an acknowledgement towards a new age of diplomacy that is no longer limited to formal handshakes, closed-door discussions and other classical forms of conversations. It instead, emphasised upon the complex interactions, connections and facets lying at the heart of today's new-age diplomacy.

Attended by 43 participants across the six continents, the Summer School was a confluence of thoughts, in-depth insights and analyses on the implications and pathways for these new age diplomatic practices.

"I liked the general organisation by the UNU-CRIS team, and most importantly the high calibre of experts who lectured during the summer school. Even the selection process of the participants was well thought-out, consisting of a vast array of professionals from all walks of life, and a true representation of the world."

Quote from a participant of the Second Summer School on Modern Diplomacy

Below: A group photo of the participants.

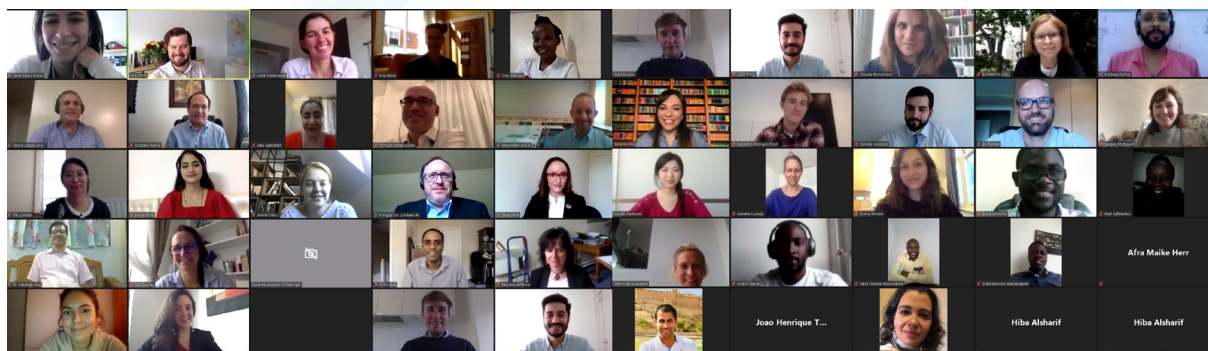




Photo: Embassy and Consulates of Belgium in the United States

Above: Johan Verbeke, Former Belgian Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Ambassador to the United Kingdom and the United States of America, opened the summer school with his view on strategic shifts and diplomatic practice.

Below: Jovan Kurbalija, Executive Director of DiploFoundation and Head of the Geneva Internet Platform, gave a masterclass on creating a multistakeholder-driven digital future.



Photo: European External Action Service

Above: Karel De Gucht, Former European Commissioner for Trade and Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, gave a practitioners insight into economic diplomacy.

Below: Linda Yueh, Chair of the LSE Economic Diplomacy Commission, presented in the Economic Diplomacy Module.



Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia / Twitter

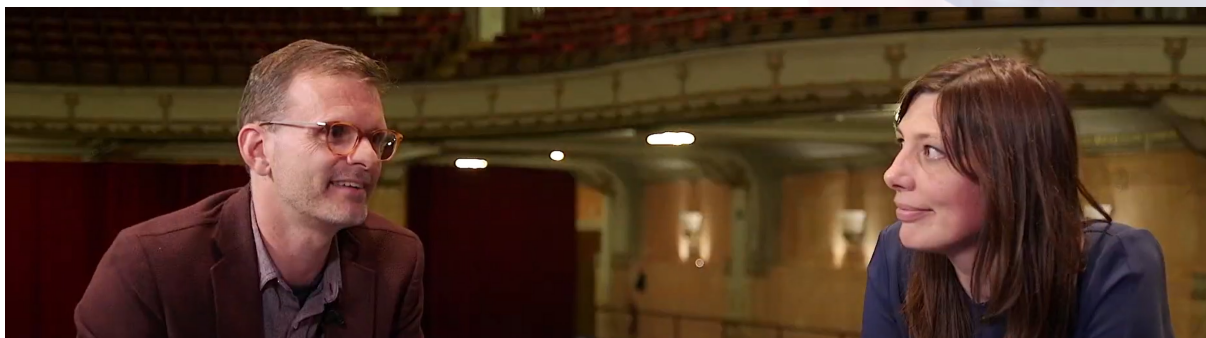


Photo: Remy Steinegger / World Economic Forum

Selected Highlights



Philippe De Lombaerde with College of Europe Rector Federica Mogherini and former College of Europe Rector Jörg Monar



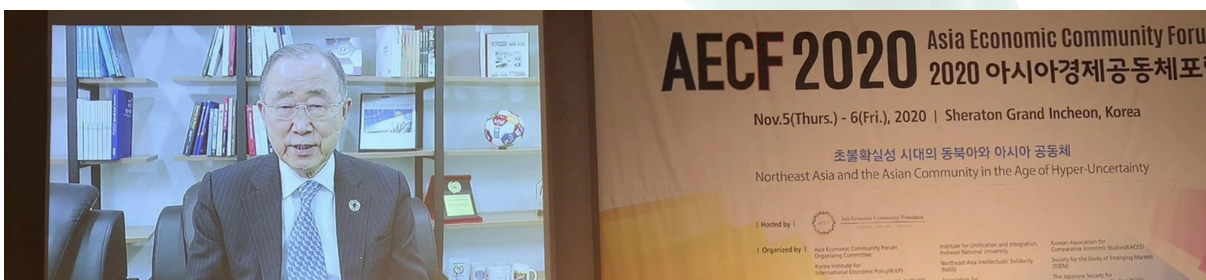
Jan Orbie in conversation with Els Hertogen and Gie Goris for MO News



Fabienne Bossuyt speaking at Regional Integration in Eurasia & the European Union: Exploring Opportunities for Collaboration



Philippe De Lombaerde at the final GEM-STONES conference and AGORA Forum



Philippe De Lombaerde was invited to present at the Asia Economic Community Forum 2020, a gathering of leaders in the fields of academia, politics and business from all over the world. The keynote address was given by Ban Ki-moon, former UN Secretary General

Selected Academic Journal Articles



West African Interests in (EU) Migration Policy. Balancing Domestic Priorities with External Incentive

Authors:

Ilke Adam, Florian Trauner, Leonie Jegen and Christof Roos

Appearing in:

Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies

Studies on EU–Africa migration cooperation often focus on the interests of the EU and its member states. But what do African states themselves seek to achieve with respect to migration policy? This article presents an in-depth look at Ghana and Senegal, two stable West African democracies, and assesses which types of migration policies they support, and why. We suggest that a distinction ought to be made between West African policymakers' more domestically-driven migration policy goals (to cooperate more closely with the diaspora or creating legal migration channels, for example) and internationally-induced ones (such as the reinforcement of border control capacities). Each type of policy interest is defended by an increasingly diverse set of national actors whose interests often – but not always – converge. This distinction should be considered as a continuum, as most West African migration policy preferences are driven by domestic as well as international factors, albeit to diverging degrees. Our findings demonstrate that migration policy-making in countries targeted by international cooperation can only be studied as an 'intermestic' policy issue, reflecting the dynamic interplay of international and domestic interests.



Migrants' Post-Return Wellbeing: A View From the Caucasus

Authors:

Ine Lietaert

Appearing in:

International Migration

Despite the increasing attention in academic literature, it continues to be extremely challenging to capture the complexity of reintegration processes and post-return situations. This article argues that the concept of well-being, which captures contextual differences, self-chosen points of reference and summarizes a multitude of outcomes, has the potential to fill some of the gaps in current studies. This approach is translated into a longitudinal and qualitative research, applied to study the post-return situations of 65 (rejected) asylum applicants and undocumented migrants who return through an assisted return programme from Belgium to their country of origin Armenia or Georgia. The findings reveal particular accents, priorities and vulnerabilities linked to personal trajectories and pre- and post-return contexts and touches upon different connections, contrasts and interactions between components of post-return well-being. Accordingly, the results highlight that the lens of well-being is a useful strategy to uncover the complexity and dynamics of post-return situations.



Addressing Legitimacy in the EU's Interregional Approach to Climate Change: The Case of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

Authors:

Reinhilde Bouckaert and Sarah Delputte

Appearing in:

European Foreign Affairs Review

The 2015 Paris Agreement adopted at the twenty-first Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) constitutes a major landmark in the combat against climate change. However, international climate governance and the climate deal have been confronted with concerns about their legitimacy and accountability. In the same vein, while the combat against climate change also takes centre stage in the EU's inter-regional relations, the EU's approach has suffered from democratic deficits as well. Literature on parliamentary diplomacy and interregionalism has pointed at the potential of inter-parliamentary assemblies' monitoring and deliberation functions in addressing the legitimacy gap of intergovernmental agreements. This article puts the focus on the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean and climate change, and analyses to what extent and how the Assembly fulfils these monitoring and deliberation functions. In doing so, the article aims to examine how inter-parliamentary assemblies can contribute to the legitimacy of the EU's inter-regional approach to climate change.



La Corte Africana de Derechos Humanos y de los Pueblos: un análisis sobre los patrones de resistencia contra un tribunal joven

Authors:

Tom Gerald Daly and Micha Wiebusch

Appearing in:

Revista Latinoamericana de Derecho Internacional

A primera vista, parece que la Corte Africana de Derechos Humanos y de los Pueblos –el primer tribunal de escala continental de la Unión Africana (UA) destinado a la protección de los derechos humanos– encarna los avances alcanzados por los tribunales internacionales en África en la última década. Desde su primera sentencia en 2009, la Corte ha adoptado una postura firme en lo que respecta a su mandato y la cantidad de casos sobre los que se pronuncia crece rápidamente. Sin embargo, un análisis más profundo sobre el contexto general en que la Corte opera revela que ella también es sensible a muchos de los patrones de resistencia que dificultan el desenvolvimiento de otros tribunales internacionales de la región, los que afectan el desarrollo de su autoridad y capacidad de incidencia. Este trabajo analiza las formas y los patrones de resistencia que enfrenta la Corte Africana y los sujetos involucrados, haciendo especial hincapié en las dificultades adicionales que entraña esquematizar la resistencia que enfrenta un tribunal joven, comparando su situación con la de tribunales consolidados de larga tradición como lo son el TEDH y la Corte IDH.



Lost in Regulation: Nord Stream 2 and the Limits of the European Commission's Geo-Economic Power

Authors:

Moniek de Jong and Thijs Van de Graaf

Appearing in:

Journal of European Integration

Scholars of the EU's external relations have long debated the question which 'power' the EU represents. When it comes to the EU's external energy relations, there is a convergence of views that the Commission has begun to assert its regulatory power beyond its own borders. Yet, few scholars have attempted to open the black box of this 'liberal mercantilist' model. This paper aims to fill that gap by process tracing and explaining the Commission's attempts to stymie the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline project. Our analysis shows that the Commission has attempted, largely in vain, to achieve geopolitical ends through legal means. We find that this outcome can be explained through the lens of new integration theories. Our analysis illustrates both the limits of the Commission's regulatory toolbox and its efforts to broaden its mandate and strengthen its regulatory powers.



The Turkish FTA Puzzle

Authors:

Philippe De Lombaerde and Ilya Ulyanov

Appearing in:

Estey Journal of International Law and Trade Policy

According to the textbook definition of a customs union, member states of such a union liberalize mutual trade while they adopt a common external tariff or, more broadly, a common trade policy towards third countries. Likewise, art. XXIV of the GATT stipulates that “substantially the same duties and other regulations of commerce are applied by each of the members of the union to the trade of territories not included in the union”. It is – at first sight - surprising to see then that the EU and Turkey negotiate and sign FTAs separately while being bound by a customs union at the same time. This is the puzzle which is addressed in this short article. We illustrate the actual divergence in FTA policies, show the reasons behind it, and point to the sub-optimality of the current arrangement. We also show the relevance of this case for the post-Brexit EU-UK trade relations.



The Development of an Analytical Framework to Compare Reception Structures for Unaccompanied Refugee Minors in Europe

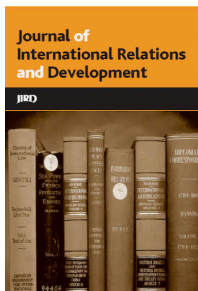
Authors:

Ine Lietaert, Malte Behrendt, Océane Uzureau, Sarah Adeyinka, Marina Rota, Floor Verhaeghe, Charles Watters and Ilse Derluyn

Appearing in:

European Journal of Social Work

The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child stipulates that unaccompanied refugee minors (URM) are entitled to specific and adapted accommodation structures and care. Despite the general strive in EU policy to reach common standards for those reception structures, they still vary largely, resulting in unequal treatment and care conditions. In this article, we aim to build an analytical framework, based on central features of concrete reception practices in different EU countries, which can serve as a tool for in-depth comparative researches of reception and care systems. Starting from the comparative framework of Watters and Hossain [(2008). Policy in practice: Reception practices and minimum standards (End report for ARG project)], we draw a new framework on reception structures for URM based on insights from various disciplines and extensive participant observations in 58 accommodation settings for this group in different EU Member States. Our framework includes four analytical axes: (1) separation versus integration; (2) control versus autonomy; (3) immigration control versus welfare protection; and (4) low intensity versus high intensity care and illustrates how organisational arrangements and choices made within the different axes strongly influence the realisation of care and support. As such, this framework may serve as a first, necessary step in creating increased evidence on how reception structures may impact URM' well-being.



EU External Policy Coherence in the Trade-Foreign Policy Nexus: Foreign Policy through Trade or Strictly Business?

Authors:

Fabienne Bossuyt, Jan Orbie and Lotte Drieghe

Appearing in:

Journal of International Relations and Development

This article focuses on the horizontal coherence between EU trade and foreign policy, from the perspective of EU trade instruments. Drawing from different strands of literature, it puts forward the argument that synergetic coherence between the trade and foreign policy spheres of the EU is not likely to be realised due to the constraining impact of institutional-ideational factors within the EU, more specifically the continuing institutional compartmentalisation and cross-pillar divides of the EU system of external policy, with DG Trade being a highly autonomous sub-system. The establishment of synergetic coherence in the trade-foreign policy nexus has been further impeded since the mid-1990s by the emergence of three interrelated factors: legal restraints imposed by the World Trade Organization, growing export-oriented interests of EU businesses and the ideological pro-liberalisation bias of the EU. This argument is empirically illustrated through an analysis of various EU trade initiatives, including the Global Europe agreements, the Economic Partnership Agreements, the Generalised System of Preferences, and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas with the countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy.



Post-normal Times: Re-thinking The Future of the EU-Africa Relationship

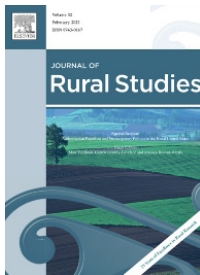
Authors:

Frank Mattheis, Robin Bourgeois and John Kotsopoulos

Appearing in:

European Journal of Futures Research

The nature of the relationship between the European Union (EU) and Africa is in permanent evolution. Historically, the EU mostly dominated the relationship while Africa developed adaptive/reactive strategies. With the establishment of new powers as well as efforts to decolonise the thought and practise of North-South interactions, it is crucial to understand what the future of the relationship could be. The purpose of this paper is to draw lessons from the "Broadening the debate on EU-Africa relations" workshop whose aim was to advance perspectives on EU-Africa relations from the point of view of African scholars. The process consisted of identifying major influential factors in the relationship and assessing what role they played in the past and what role they could play in the future. The results indicate a decline of the importance of EU-dominated factors and the emergence of African agency related factors. We interpret these results as a transformation of this relationship, using the concept "post-normal" to highlight indeterminacy, insolvability and irreversibility as the new context. Implications are discussed regarding the type of research that needs to be developed in order to further investigate this transformation, particularly the meaning of a shifting focus from (normal times) EU-Africa relationship to (post-normal times) Africa-EU relationships.



How does International Migration Impact on Rural Areas in Developing Countries? A Systematic Review

Authors:

Chinedu Obi, Fabio Bartolini, Gianluca Brunori and Marijke D'Haese

Appearing in:

Journal of Rural Studies

This study is a systematic review of literature on the impact of international migration on rural areas. We examined this impact on six rural welfare indicators, including labour, livelihood activities, income, food security, land use, and rural development. We selected 44 papers from a pool of 1544 articles published from 2007 to 2018. We found that the impact of international migration on selected indicators varies and are highly context-specific. The results point to the existence of heterogeneity in impacts, capable of creating a space of losers and winners among migrants and non-migrants households. The immediate impact is the loss labour effect, which leads to a process of feminisation of agriculture and the use of child labour. In the intermediate, this trend changes the power relationship in rural areas, briefly increasing the opportunities for the non-migrants household to control land. However, remittance helps the migrant household to move up in the income ladder, improving their food security, enabling the repurchase of land and causing a transition away from agriculture. We submit that international migration from developing countries could create a dynamic process of structural and functional transformations in rural areas, which may ultimately lead to a transition away from agriculture. We provide several policy implications and identified some research gaps for future studies.



Managing High Public Debt in Euro-Area Countries: Financial Repression as Fiscal Insurance?

Authors:

Ad Van Riet

Appearing in:

FinanzArchiv / Public Finance Analysis

This article gives a narrative account of the main standard and nonstandard public-debt management tactics that euro-area governments applied during the sovereign-debt crisis. To secure market liquidity, they inter alia targeted public-debt supply more at residents and often also sought to create a captive domestic demand for sovereign bonds. Where fiscal solvency was impaired, they arranged a »voluntary« debt restructuring, pressed official creditors for debt forgiveness, or considered imposing a haircut on official-sector claims. This cross-country analysis indicates the return of financial repression as fiscal insurance against government funding stress and a public-debt overhang.



Aportes teóricos para el estudio de la cooperación transfronteriza de unidades subestatales de doble periferia

Authors:

Nahuel Oddone and Stella Juste

Appearing in:

CUPEA

El presente artículo propone un acercamiento teórico al estudio de la cooperación transfronteriza de unidades subestatales de doble periferia. Es decir, las acciones de cooperación transfronteriza de unidades subestatales de la periferia de un Estado que, a su vez, se inserta en la periferia del sistema internacional. El estudio de la cooperación transfronteriza resulta un campo de acción internacional clave para las unidades subestatales en esta condición. El artículo se compone de tres partes. La primera parte aborda, desde el punto de vista teórico, la conceptualización de doble periferia. El análisis se enfoca en las variables que determinan la doble dependencia: el aislamiento geográfico, la cohesión y movilidad social, la calidad de los liderazgos, la inestabilidad institucional, la capacidad de pensar en un modelo de desarrollo propio, y la articulación productiva y las cadenas de valor. El segundo apartado se dedica a la cooperación transfronteriza de las unidades de doble periferia, como herramienta de superación de esa condición y estrategia de desarrollo subestatal. Por último, se presentan algunas reflexiones finales.



Shifting Senses of Solidarity and Belonging in the Internal Migration Pathways of Citizens in ger areas in Ulaanbaatar: A Social Work Perspective

Authors:

Bayartsetseg Terbish, Ine Lietaert and Griet Roets

Appearing in:

International Social Work

Mongolia has witnessed an ongoing internal rural-urban migration and urbanization process in recent decades, resulting in families settling informally in suburban 'ger' areas and in areas with concentrations of social and environmental problems in the city of Ulaanbaatar. In social policy and social work practice in Mongolia, there is a critical lack of understanding and information regarding the experience of ger residents in shaping their lives. This article explores and examines evolving meanings and mechanisms of solidarity and senses of belonging in ger residents' internal migration pathways. It aims to contribute to a deeper understanding that may assist social work practice and policy to embrace ger residents' strengths and capability to aspire.



Digitalization and Migration: The Role of Social Media and Migrant Networks in Migration Decisions. An Exploratory Study in Nigeria

Authors:

Chinedu Obi, Fabio Bartolini and Marijke D'Haese

Appearing in:

Digital Policy, Regulation and Governance

This paper aims to explore the connectivity between social media use, access to migrant networks, information asymmetry and migration intentions. The study was conducted using data from individuals living in Nigeria and analysed with a generalized structural equation model, which is rare for this kind of research. The authors find a dual mediating role of the social media and the migrant networks in facilitating migration, i.e. reducing the threshold cost required to migrate and introducing a bias in terms of information asymmetry. While social media and access to migrant networks directly increase migration intentions, this changes when incomplete information is provided. People who use social media and their migrant networks for information are more likely to have information about destination countries than information on the transit risk. The study adds valuable insights for designing awareness campaigns aimed at reducing irregular migration. This study contributes to the understanding of the intersection of migration and digitalization.



Euro clearing after Brexit: Shifting Locations and Oversight

Author:

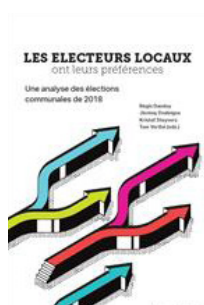
Sven Van Kerckhoven and Jed Odermatt

Appearing in:

Journal of Financial Regulation and Compliance

This paper investigates the impact of moving Central Counterparty Clearing Houses (CCPs) that clear euro-denominated transactions to the Eurozone after the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union. Prior to Brexit, the City of London had a dominant position in euro-clearing, but in the aftermath of Brexit, clearing houses might decide to move to the EU27. This paper aims to investigate the impact of moving euro-clearing to the EU27. This paper provides an economic, political and legal investigation based on desk research. It studies the relevant materials, as they relate to the functioning of Central Counterparty Clearing in the aftermath of Brexit, with specific attention to the potential shift of locations and oversight. The development of a EU27 financial hub and the possibility to increase oversight over euro-denominated financial transactions, which were partly at the roots of the financial and Eurozone crisis, could strengthen the market shaping of European financial markets. However, localizing euro-denominated transactions in Europe could potentially give rise to efficiency losses and a higher risk for companies and investors. Furthermore, the European regulatory framework currently faces certain weaknesses, obstructing the regulatory potential of the EU. There exists an important trade-off with regard to shifting locations that need to be at the forefront of the discussions and the negotiations when dealing with Brexit. This seems to be neglected in a lot of the current policy debates. This paper takes stock of the ongoing debate and how it relates to the functioning of CCPs.

Published Books and Edited Volumes



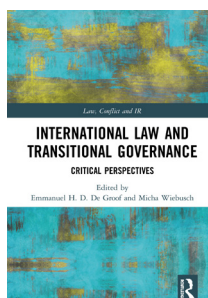
Les électeurs locaux ont leurs préférences. Une analyse des élections communales de 2018

Authors:

Régis Dandoy, Jérémy Dodeigne, Kristof Steyvers and Tom Verthé

Published by:

Gent: Vanden Broele Publishers



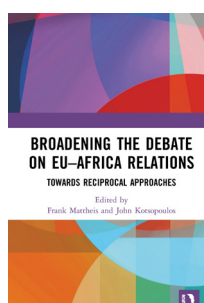
International Law and Transitional Governance - Critical Perspectives

Editors:

Emmanuel De Groof and Micha Wiebusch

Published by:

Abingdon: Routledge



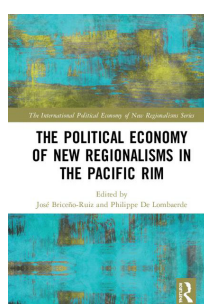
Broadening the Debate on EU-Africa Relations

Editors:

Frank Mattheis and John Kotsopoulos

Published by:

Abingdon: Routledge



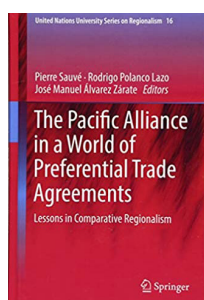
The Finances of Regional Organisations in the Global South: Follow the Money

Editors:

Ulf Engel and Frank Mattheis

Published by:

Abingdon: Routledge



Global Energy Politics

Editors:

Thijs Van de Graaf and Benjamin K. Sovacool

Published by:

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- Hosli, Madeleine and Thomas Dörfler. 2020. The United Nations Security Council: History, Current Composition, and Reform Proposals. In *The Changing Global Order - Challenges and Prospects*, edited by Madeleine Hosli and Joren Selleslaghs, 299-320, Dordrecht: Springer.
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Van Kerckhoven, Sven, Michelangelo Van Meerten and Casey Wellman. 2020. The Dynamics of the Hops Industry, in *New Developments in the Brewing Industry: The Role of Institutions and Ownership* edited by Erik Strojer Madsen, Jens Gammelgaard and Bersant Hobdari, 72-102, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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Van Riet, Ad. 2020. "Het vertrouwen in centrale banken komt te voet en gaat te paard". In *A passion for research and PhD supervision in financial economics: Liber Amicorum, offered to Prof. dr. Sylvester Eijffinger*, edited by Harry Huizinga and Louis Raes, 58-65. Tilburg: Tilburg University, Netherlands.

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Academic Presentations at International Conferences (with selection committee) and Invited Lectures

Murray, Philomena, Laura Allison-Reumann and Margherita Matera. Australia and the EU: From trade tensions to FTA negotiations. Paper presented to Jean Monnet Workshop on EU-Asia Trade Relations, 30-31 January, The University of Melbourne.

Iapadre, Lelio. Economic complexity and regional labour productivity growth: evidence from Italy. Paper presented at the XVIII Workshop Annuale, 31 January, Venezia - Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia.

Shaw, Timothy. Rethinking African Political Economy in 2020. Paper presented at 10th International Conference on 'Africa & the Formation of the New System of International Relations', 28 February, RUDN University, Moscow.

Delputte, Sarah and Julia Schöneberg. 2020. Bridging EU and post-Development Studies: the EU in the pluriverse. Paper presented at Inaugural workshop of Jean Monnet Project 'Diversity, Inclusion and Multidisciplinarity in European Studies' (DIMES), 5-6 March, Leiden.

Amaya, Ana B. Health policy-making on Universal Health Coverage: the positions of actors in the Global South. Paper presented at International Studies Association conference. 25-28 March, Honolulu, USA [Conference cancelled due to COVID-19].

Bossuyt, Fabienne. The 'Good Life' as an Alternative to Neo-Liberal Governance: Proposing a Post-Development Approach to EU resilience-building in Central Asia. Paper presented at the IR Section of the HSE XXI International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development, 18 May, Moscow (online).

Šime, Zane. Paper "Baltic 2030: Glocalised SDGs". Paper presented at the International SDG Research Symposium "Global Goals 2020", 10 June, Zoom online session. Hosts located at the University of Utrecht.

Šime, Zane. Presentation of the preliminary findings titled "European Research Area - a Routine Network Oiling the Environmental Diplomacy With Collaborative Research Inputs" Paper presented at InsSciDE workshop "What is the role of science in environmental diplomacy?", 12 June, Zoom online session. Hosts located at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden.

Meyer, Trisha. 2020. Mapping curatorial responses to disinformation online, Paper presented at HIIG Workshop on Empirical Approaches in Platform Governance Research, 17 June, online.

Šime, Zane. Presentation "The EU Science Diplomacy Towards the Southern Neighbourhood: Reappraising the EU Structural Diplomacy". PhD research proposal presented at the 8th ENP PhD Summer School "In Search of a New Rationale: The EU, the European Neighbourhood Policy in a Post-Brexit Order", 1 July online. Hosts located at the Natolin Campus of the College of Europe in Warsaw, Poland.

Wanki, Presca (co-authors: Ilse Derluyn and Ine Lietaert). Let Them Make it Rain and Bling!: Unveiling Community Expectations towards Returned Migrants in Cameroon, paper presented at the IMISCOE Conference, 1-2 July, online.

Rabaey, Lucas, Glenn Rayp, Samuel Standaert, Anja Jetschke, Sören Münch and Patrick Theiner. Building and assessing indicators of de jure integration of regional organizations in the Global South. Paper presented at virtual workshop "Conceptual and Empirical Perspectives on the Performance of Regionalisms in the Global South", 2-3 July, online.

Mattheis, Frank (with Elisa Lopez Lucia). "Regionalisms and their inadvertent performance: towards a conceptual framework of unintended consequences". Paper presented at virtual workshop "Conceptual and Empirical Perspectives on the Performance of Regionalisms in the Global South", 2-3 July, online.

Mattheis, Frank. "The Financial Performance of Regional Organisations in the Global South". Paper presented at virtual workshop "Conceptual and Empirical Perspectives on the Performance of Regionalisms in the Global South", 2-3 July, online.

Mattheis, Frank. Categorising Regional International Organisations According to Their Financial Culture. Paper presented at the ECPR General Conference held online 24 to 28 August.

Bouckaert, Reinhilde. The Global Energy Transition and the Changing Relationship Between the EU and the MENA Region. Paper presented at the ECPR general conference, 24 August, online.

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Verhaeghe, Elke. (Post)politicising Timber Trade Governance. Participation and Contestation in the EU-Vietnam Voluntary Partnership Agreement. Paper presented at the ECPR general conference, 24 August, online.

Verhaeghe, Elke and Camille Nessel. Devil's Pact or Steppingstone? The Narrative Construction of Ethical Trade in the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement and the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement, paper presented at the ECPR general conference, 28 August, online.

Dandoy, Régis, Kristof Steyvers and Bram Wauters, Does Electronic Voting Have an Impact on Turnout in a Compulsory Voting Setting? A Longitudinal Analysis for the Local Elections in Belgium, Paper presented at the Virtual ECPR General Conference, 24-28 August, online.

Dandoy, Régis and Giulia Sandri, Methodological Sub-Nationalism and Measures of Quality of Democracy, Paper presented at the Virtual ECPR General Conference, 24-28 August, online.

Šime, Zane. Pérez-Porro, Alicia. Cabrera Medina, Johana L. Salas Paredes, Paola. Cumba Garcia, Luz. Taaffe, Jessica. Skosana, Bongelike. Manuscript "Science Diplomacy After the AAAS Science Diplomacy and Leadership Workshop 2018" prepared for the call for submissions for the special issue of Science & Diplomacy (December 2020) "Future-Casting Science Diplomacy. Twelve Months of COVID-19: Shaping the Next Era of Science Diplomacy". Manuscript presented during the panel 304 "Gendering the EU" of the UACES Virtual Conference, 9 September, online.

Delputte, Sarah, Jan Orbie and Nathan Lauwers. The politicization of the migration-development nexus: parliamentary discourse on the European Trust Fund on Migration. Paper presented at UACES Virtual Conference, 10 September, online.

Šime, Zane. "EU-India Relations in the Multi-Vector Matrix of Science Diplomacy and Asia-Europe Meeting" prepared for the themed issue "Asia-Europe Sustainable Connectivity" of the journal "Research in Globalization". Paper presented during the scientific session 1 "People-to-People Connectivity" of the conference "Asia-Europe Sustainable Connectivity Scientific Conference: Strengthening Asia-Europe links through data and research", 23 September, online.

Mattheis, Frank. "Unclaimed sovereignty: regionalism in a context of imperial continuity". International Relations Conference of the German Political Science Association, 7-9 October, online.

Amaya, Ana B. The Role of Health Diplomacy in Supporting the Promotion of Health as a Human Right. Paper presented at American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, 24-28 October, online.

Šime, Zane. "Europe-Asia Sustainable Connectivity in an Age of Flux" submitted to *Comentario Internacional* call for papers "Disintegrations". Paper presented at the UACES Sustainable European Futures Seminar 1, 12 November, online.

Tjahja, Nadia, Trisha Meyer and Jamal Shahin. What is civil society and who represents civil society at the IGF? An analysis of civil society typologies in Internet Governance. Paper presented at GigaNet 2020, 2 November, online.

Genna, Gaspare M. Trust, Influence, Self-Esteem, and the Brexit Vote, Paper presented at 2020 Netherlands Institute of Governance Annual Work Conference, 12 November, Utrecht, The Netherlands, online.

Wanki, Presca. "Negotiating Return": The Role of the Family in Return and Reintegration Processes of Cameroonian Returnees, Paper presented at the Second Transmob Webinar: Return Mobilities: Connecting Places, Meanings and Belonging, 7 December, online.

Penkala: Alina. Discourses on the Ukrainian Female Migration, Paper presented at the Second Transmob Webinar: Return Mobilities: Connecting Places, Meanings and Belonging, 7 December, online.

Oddone, Nahuel. 2020. MERCOSUR and 2030 Agenda. Diplomado en Integración Ciudadana, Fronteras y MERCOSUR. Instituto Social del MERCOSUR (ISM), Instituto Misionero de Estudios Superiores (IMES), Universidad Nacional de Itapúa (UNI), and Universidade Regional do Nordeste do Estado do Rio Grande Do Sul (UNIJUÍ), Paraguay (5 online lectures).

Oddone, Nahuel. 2020. MERCOSUR and 2030 Agenda. Curso Planificación y Territorialización de la Agenda 2030. Instituto Social del MERCOSUR (ISM), Instituto Latinoamericano de Planificación de la Economía y Social (ILPES) de la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL) and Comisión ODS Paraguay, Chile (8 online lectures).

Oddone, Nahuel. 2020. Cooperación Internacional. Especialización en Gobiernos Locales. Universidad de Quilmes, Argentina (13 online lectures).

Oddone, Nahuel. 2020. Mercociudades and Cooperación Transfronteriza en MERCOSUR. Diplomado en Desarrollo, Políticas Públicas e Integración Regional. FLACSO Argentina (2 online lectures).

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Oddone, Nahuel. 2020. Fortalecimiento de cadenas de valor. Especialización en Negocios Internacionales. Universidad Siglo XXI Argentina (4 online lectures).

Oddone, Nahuel. 2020. ZICOSUR: el papel de los gobiernos subnacionales en la cooperación internacional y la articulación productiva regional. Zona de Integración Centro Oeste de América del Sur (ZICOSUR), Universidad San Pablo Tucumán y Gobierno de la Provincia de Tucumán (4 online lectures).

De Lombaerde, Philippe. 2020. Latin American Regionalism, Maastricht Graduate School of Governance & UNU-MERIT, M.Sc. in Public Policy & Human Development, 3 March, Maastricht.

De Lombaerde, Philippe. 2020. Introduction to Comparative Regionalism, Maastricht Graduate School of Governance & UNU-MERIT, M.Sc. in Public Policy & Human Development, 9 March, Maastricht.

De Lombaerde, Philippe. 2020. Comparative Regionalism: Quantitative Methods, Maastricht Graduate School of Governance & UNU-MERIT, M.Sc. in Public Policy & Human Development, 16 March, Maastricht (online course).

De Lombaerde, Philippe. 2020. Trade in Comparative Regionalism; Maastricht Graduate School of Governance & UNU-MERIT, M.Sc. in Public Policy & Human Development, 23 March, Maastricht (online course).

Murray, Philomena. 2020. William Trevor's 'Fools of Fortune', 10 Great Books: a Melbourne Masterclass. Faculty of Arts. 27 March. The University of Melbourne. Melbourne.

Orbie, Jan. 2020. The EU as a development actor: a sort of critical perspective, 2 April, University of Kent. Online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjh8gdBMINw>

Oddone, Nahuel. 2020. ¿Qué es y cómo estudiar la paradiplomacia?. Licenciatura en Relaciones Internacionales, Universidad de Querétaro (UQ), 7 April (online lecture).

Valenza, Domenico. 2020. Russia's Cultural Diplomacy in the Post-Soviet Space, College of Europe, 7 April, Bruges (online course).

Valenza, Domenico. 2020. Culture & Development. Old Wine in New Bottles or an Opportunity for Change?, 5 May, Ghent (online course).

Bossuyt, Fabienne. 2020. The geopolitical context of the EU's place and role during the current crisis. EU-Central Asia videoconference on the Covid 19 pandemic's implications in Central Asia, organized by the EEAS, 14 May, Brussels, online.

Mattheis, Frank. 2020. The Finances of Regional Organisations in Comparative Perspective. Regionalism Observatory. San Tiago Dantas, UNESP. 20 May, public webinar.

Qoraboyev, Ikboljon. 2020. COVID-19 and International Relations, International Dialogues on Global pandemic and globalization organized by Postgraduate Program in Law of Catholic University of Pernambuco (PPGD/UNICAP) and Judicial school of 6th Regional Labour Tribunal in Brasil (webinar). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuWzTLMLB60>

Amaya, Ana B. 2020. Importancia de la gestión pública en el área de salud, Equipo Impulsor de la Reforma a la Función Pública Webinar, June, San Salvador, online.

Orbie, Jan and Ferdi De Ville. 2020. Research on Trade Policy webinar series | Impact of covid-19 on EU trade policy. Institut Barcelona Estudis Internacionals, Barcelona, 12 June (webinar).

Tjahja, Nadia. 2020. "Acting Responsibly in the New Digital Age". Sri Lanka Citizens International Youth Summit, 9 August, online.

Orbie, Jan. 2020. Plenary panel of panel on 'The future of global governance and the role of the EU', 26th Annual Conference on Alternative Economic Policy in Europe, 22 September, online <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SuNfOohMHc>

Meyer, Trisha. 2020. Platform responses to the 'disinfodemic', EU DisinfoLab, Annual Conference, 1 October, online.

Delputte, Sarah. 2020. Van "moreel voorbeeld", over bedreigde supermacht, naar een post-ontwikkelingssector? Een kritisch perspectief op verandering en continuïteit in EU ontwikkelingsbeleid? Oktober, Gent.

Šime, Zane. 2020. Lecture at the Riga 46st secondary school in the framework of the "Back to School / Back to University" campaign co-organised by the European Commission Representation in Latvia and club "The House" - Youth for United Europe on the occasion of the annual celebrations of Europe Day, 12 October, Riga.

Biscop, Seven. 2020 Lecture of the Journal of European Integration: No Peace from Corona: Defining EU Strategy for

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the 2020s, 15 October, College of Europe, Bruges.

De Lombaerde, Philippe. "From Old Regionalism to New Regionalism, and Back?", Session on Political Economy of Regional Integration from a Comparative Perspective, Asia Economic Community Forum 2020, 5 November, Incheon (hybrid).

Mattheis, Frank. 2020. EU-Africa relations : overlaps and fluidity and the interregional relations between these two actors. Université catholique de Lille (Faculté libre de droit)., 11 November, public webinar.

Lietaert, Ine. 2020. Introduction, Webinar to Special Issue: Conceptualizing and Contextualizing Reintegration, 12 November, online.

Tizazu, Ashenafi and Ine Lietaert. 2020. Towards a Definition for Returnees' Reintegration Processes in the Context of Rural Ethiopia, Webinar to Special Issue: Conceptualizing and Contextualizing Reintegration, 12 November, online.

Lietaert, Ine. 2020. Migrants' Post-Return Wellbeing: A View from the Caucasus, Webinar to Special Issue: Conceptualizing and Contextualizing Reintegration, 12 November, online.

Dandoy Régis. 2020. Election Management Capacity Building Program on "Fostering Transparency in Political Finance", 17 November, online.

Qoraboyev, Ikboljon. 2020. State Sovereignty and Constitutional Foundations of Foreign Policy. Tashkent State University of Law, 18 November (online master-class).

Meyer, Trisha. 2020. Countering disinformation in the digital age, Polis Analysis, 23 November, online.

Orbie, Jan. 2020. EU fair Trade. Guest lecture for course on Development Economics, 27 November, Ghent University, online.

Bossuyt, Fabienne. 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic as an EU opportunity for a people-focused and people-driven approach to its engagement with Central Asia, International Conference "Opportunities and Prospects of the EU Strategy in Central Asia", organised by Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung, 27 November, online.

Tjahja, Nadia. 2020. Guest lecture at NHL Hogeschool on Internet Governance and Information Disorder, 10 December, online.

Ruysen, Ilse. 2020. Book Launch Webinar: Regional Integration and Migration Governance in the Global South, 18 December, online.

The Indeterminacy of Policy Objectives: A Shortcoming, an opportunity or Both? The Case of Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development and Sustainable Reintegration, UNU-CRIS, 11 February, Bruges.

Joint Partnership Research Seminars and Colloquia

Mattheis, Frank. A Comparative Approach to the Finances of Regional Organisations, 18 February, Bruges.

UN Agencies in Brussels: encounter between Directors of IOM Regional Office for the EU, Norway and Switzerland, UN Environment Programme Europe and UNFPA Europe, and UNU-CRIS researchers and College of Europe students, 21 February, Bruges.

Pallister-Wilkins, Polly. Humanitarian Geographies of Whiteness: Entanglements of Race, Immobility, and Care: Research Seminars on the Securitisation of Europe's Migration Policies, 21 February, Ghent University.

Andersson, Ruben. Borders as Markets: How Fighting Migration became Big Business: Research Seminars on the Securitisation of Europe's Migration Policies, 28 February, Ghent University.

Regional Integration in Eurasia and the European Union: Exploring Opportunities for Collaboration. DOC in collaboration with UNU-CRIS and University of Warwick 10 March, Brussels.

Designing Monitoring Systems for (Eur-)Asian Integration, UNU-CRIS in collaboration with ADB, UNECE and DOC, 11 March, Brussels.

Kalir, Barak. Qualifying Deportation: Bordering Europe: Research Seminars on the Securitization of Europe's Migration Policies, 12 March, Ghent University.

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Van de Graaf, Thijs. 2020. "Book launch: Global Energy Politics," webinar hosted by Payne Institute, Colorado School of Mines, USA, 17 June, online.

Perarnaud, Clement. Coordination Processes as Informal Power Resources: Comparative Study of Member States' National Coordination Apparatus With Their Bargaining Satisfaction in the Council of the EU, 25 June, online.

Narratives of the Excluded and Invisible: Understanding Nuances in Internal Displacement and Migration from Ethiopia, Mongolia, and the Philippines, 15 October, online.

Rayp, Glenn, Samuel Standaert and Philippe De Lombaerde. Launch of Regional Integration Knowledge System (RIKS) 2.0, 20 October, online.

Davesa, Ferran. A Critical Discourse Analysis of EU, US and ASEAN Digital Strategies. October 27, online.

Rayp, Glenn, Ilse Ruysen and Samuel Standaert. Selecting Only the Best and Brightest? An Assessment of Migration Policy Selectivity and its Effectiveness, 30 October, online.

Workshop on Network Analysis, 5 November, online.

Ine Lietaert et al. Presentation of Special Issue: Conceptualizing and Contextualizing Reintegration, International Migration, 12 November, online.

Ine Lietaert, Presca Wanki and Alina Penkala: Second Transmob Webinar: Return Mobilities: Connecting Places, Meanings and Belonging, 7 December, online.

Lefevere, Jonas. Ambiguous Parties: Causes & Consequences, Chaired by Trisha Meyer, Sven van Kerckhoven as Discussant. 15 December, online.

Glenn Rayp, Ilse Ruysen et al. Book Launch Webinar: Regional Integration and Migration Governance in the Global South, UNU Migration Network, 18 December, online.

*D'Hooghe, Michel. FIFA and the Regulation of Football. May (cancelled due to Covid-19)

*A Discussion on Refugees in Bruges. Organised in collaboration with Amnesty International and Vorming Plus Brugge. 8 November (cancelled due to Covid-19)

Amaya, Ana B. 2020. Importancia de la gestión pública en el área de salud, Equipo Impulsor de la Reforma a la Función Pública Webinar, June, San Salvador (El Salvador)

Presentations for Think-Tanks and Civil Society

De Lombaerde, Philippe. "From Old Regionalism to New Regionalism, and Back?", Session on Political Economy of Regional Integration from a Comparative Perspective, Asia Economic Community Forum 2020, 5 November, Incheon (hybrid).

De Lombaerde, Philippe. "Indicator-based Monitoring of Regional Economic Integration". The Asian Development Bank's New Approaches to Measuring and Assessing Regional Cooperation and Integration workshop, 16-17 April, online.

Lietaert, Ine. Evolutions in Assisted Return in Belgium: Getting in and reaching out. Paper presented at Durable solutions for rejected asylum seekers? Academic workshop ReSOMA network, 17 January, Rotterdam.

Orbie, Jan. 2020. Heeft het zin om fair trade te kopen? Vormingplus Gent-Eeklo, Wereldwinkel Lievegem, 6 oktober.

Tjahja, Nadia. 2020. Plenary speaker at Global Media and Information Literacy Youth Virtual Summit: Making Tech more Humane, 21 November, online.

Scholarly Output

Working Papers

Higgott, Richard and Luk Van Langenhove. 2020. Avoiding “Mixed Messages” (in times of COVID-19): Towards a Consistent EU Position on World Order. W-2020/1. Bruges: UNU-CRIS.

Skalli-Housseini, Yannis. 2020. Personalities, Neoliberal Globalisation and European Integration: Explaining the Unlikely Alliance behind The Single European Act. W-2020/2. Bruges: UNU-CRIS.

Holden Patrick. 2020. Regional Integration and Trade in the Era of COVID-19: A First Look. W-2020/3. Bruges: UNU-CRIS.

Bekaert, Els, Ilse Ruysen and Sara Salamone. 2020. Domestic and International Migration Intentions in Response to Environmental Stress: A Global Cross-Country Analysis. W-2020/4. Bruges: UNU-CRIS.

Standaert, Samuel, Glenn Rayp and Alvertos Konstantinis. 2020. The Flanders City SDG Index: A Feasibility Study. W-2020/5. Bruges: UNU-CRIS.

Ad van Riet. 2020. The European Monetary Union after Covid-19: Towards Fiscal Integration Aligned with Monetary Policy. W-2020/6. Bruges: UNU-CRIS.

Marinelli, Alice. 2020. EU-China Relations on Food Security and Agri-Food Trade. W-2020/7. Bruges: UNU-CRIS.

Häntsche, Philipp. 2020. The State of Paradiplomacy: Sub-State Entities as the Better Representatives of Population? Towards an Analytical Framework. W-2020/8. Bruges: UNU-CRIS.

Orendain, Dan and Ine Lietaert. 2020. Exploring Return Migration Infrastructures in the Philippines. W-2020/9. Bruges: UNU-CRIS.

Häntsche, Philipp. 2020. The Local, the National and the International: Diplomacy Transformation and SubState Responses A Study of State Coherence and Constituent Emancipation. W-2020/10. Bruges: UNU-CRIS.

Barboza, Marco and Doreen Montag. 2020. El COVID-19 y su impacto socio cultural: emociones, poderes y nuevas solidaridades”. *Documentos de Trabajo*. IELAT – Universidad de Alcalá.

Bertoli, Simone, Frédéric Docquier, Hillel Rapoport and Ilse Ruysen. 2020. Weather Shocks and Migration Intentions in Western Africa: Insights from a Multilevel Analysis, CESifo Working Paper, No. 8064, Center for Economic Studies and ifo Institute (CESifo), Munich.

Lozka, Katsiaryna. 2020. Burden-sharing in Conflict Mediation? Intergovernmental Spillover and EU Mediation in Georgia and Ukraine. Working Paper #11, Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP).

Wiebusch, Micha. 2020. Africanization of Constitutional Law. Working Paper Series, No. 227, iCourts, Copenhagen.

Policy Briefs

Bossuyt, Fabienne. 2020. The Perks of an Unlikely Couple: Why Cooperation between the EU and Russia in Central Asia is Worth Considering. PB-2020/1. Bruges: UNU-CRIS.

Orbie, Jan and De Ville, Ferdi. 2020. Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on EU Trade Policy: Our Five Cents to the Debate. PB-2020/2. Bruges: UNU-CRIS.

Alpes, Maybritt Jill and Izabella Majcher Who Can Be Sustainably Reintegrated After Return? Using Post-Return Monitoring for Rights-based Return Policies. PB-2020/3. Bruges UNU-CRIS.

Iroulo, Lynda. 2020. Turning Lemons to Lemonade: Impact of COVID-19 on the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. PB-2020/4. Bruges: UNU-CRIS.

Belén Herrero, Maria and Santiago Lombardi Bouza. 2020. Covid-19: Latin America Needs to Rebuild Regional Integration in Health. PB-2020/5. Bruges: UNU-CRIS.

Dibble, Susannah. 2020. Sinn Féin in the EU: The Evolution of Self-Determination Policy Post Brexit. PB-2020/6. Bruges: UNU-CRIS.

Helly, Damien and Domenico Valenza. 2020. EU International Cultural Relations Since 2016: Progress Report. Culture

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Solutions. cS2020/2. <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CS-BRIEF2.pdf>

Helly, Damien and Domenico Valenza. 2020. Digital Change and EU International Cultural Relations. Culture Solutions. cS2020/5. <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/publications/digital-change-and-eu-international-cultural-relations/>

Khandekar, Gauri, Marco Giuli and Sven Van Kerckhoven. 2020. European Recovery Post COVID-19 and the Green Deal, Institute for European Studies Policy Brief, 04/2020.

Murray, Philomena. 2020, Europe, the UK and Australia after Brexit, Economic and Political Overview 2020, Melbourne, CEDA - the Committee for Economic Development of Australia. 51-55.

Qoraboyev, Ikboljon. 2020. Central Asian Regionalism Must Evolve Taking into Account Trends of Globalization and Regionalization, Eurasian Studies Quarterly, (13): 1-8

Human Resources

Personnel

Name	Position	At UNU-CRIS since
Philippe De Lombaerde	Director ad interim	January 2020
Anthony Antoine	Special Advisor to the Director	October 2016
Andrew Dunn	Policy and Communications Officer	August 2018
Ajsela Masovic	Administrative Assistant	February 2018
Noël Neven	Financial and Administrative Officer	January 2002
Pascale Vantorre	Management Assistant	June 2000
Sarah Delputte	Professorial Fellow	July 2018
Ine Lietaert	Professorial Fellow	November 2018
Glenn Rayp	Professorial Fellow	April 2017
Jamal Shahin	Professorial Fellow	December 2017
Samuel Standaert	Professorial Fellow	October 2019
Luk Van Langenhove	Professorial Fellow	October 2016
Ilke Adam	Professorial Fellow	June 2017
Sven Biscop	Professorial Fellow	July 2020
Fabienne Bossuyt	Professorial Fellow	June 2020
Peter Claeys	Professorial Fellow	May 2017
Marijke D'Haese	Professorial Fellow	July 2020
Dries Lesage	Professorial Fellow	July 2020
Bernard Mazijn	Professorial Fellow	January 2013
Trisha Meyer	Professorial Fellow	January 2019
Sebastian Oberthür	Professorial Fellow	July 2018
Jan Orbie	Professorial Fellow	December 2017
Ilse Ruysen	Professorial Fellow	June 2017
Stefaan Smis	Professorial Fellow	July 2020

Human Resources

Name	Position	At UNU-CRIS since
Florian Trauner	Professorial Fellow	June 2017
Thijs Van de Graaf	Professorial Fellow	July 2020
Sven Van Kerckhoven	Professorial Fellow	November 2020
Ferran Davesa	Research Fellow	January 2019
Els Bekaert	PhD Fellow (BOF with UNU-CRIS Label)	July 2018
Alix Debray	PhD Fellow (BOF with UNU-CRIS Label)	October 2019
Rossella Marino	PhD Fellow (BOF with UNU-CRIS Label)	October 2019
Domenico Valenza	PhD Fellow (BOF with UNU-CRIS Label)	June 2017
Reinhilde Bouckaert	PhD Fellow	July 2018
Killian Foubert	PhD Fellow	October 2020
Gaëlle Le Pavic	PhD Fellow	October 2020
Katsiaryna Lozka	PhD Fellow	November 2020
Chinedu Temple Obi	PhD Fellow	October 2019
Alina Penkala	PhD Fellow	October 2019
Diana Potjomkina	PhD Fellow	December 2017
Lucas Rabaey	PhD Fellow	July 2020
Dereje Regasa	PhD Fellow	December 2019
Adelina Sharipova	PhD Fellow	October 2020
Nadia Tjahja	PhD Fellow	June 2020
Ashenafi Tizazu	PhD Fellow	October 2018
Elke Verhaeghe	PhD Fellow	September 2017
Presca Wanki	PhD Fellow	June 2019
Obijofor Aginam	Visiting Research Fellow	December 2020
Mario Apostolov	Visiting Research Fellow	November 2020
Kutluhan Bozkurt	Visiting Research Fellow	December 2020
Ruben David	Visiting Research Fellow	February 2020
Susannah Dibble	Visiting Research Fellow	September 2019
Jacques Pelkmans	Visiting Research Fellow	November 2020

Name	Position	At UNU-CRIS since
Afaf Rahim	Visiting Research Fellow	April 2020 - August 2020
Sara Salomone	Visiting Research Fellow	June 2017
Mehari Taddele Maru	Visiting Research Fellow	November 2020

Associate Research Fellows

Name	Position	Affiliation	Associate since
Amaya B. Ana	Associate Research Fellow	Pace University, New York / London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	January 2017
Andrew Bradley	Associate Research Fellow	Université Libre de Bruxelles	May 2019
Andrew Cooper	Associate Research Fellow	Centre for Global Cooperation Research University of Waterloo	April 2013
Ludo Cuyvers	Associate Research Fellow	University of Antwerp	December 2011
Régis Dandoy	Associate Research Fellow	Université libre de Bruxelles	June 2020
Dimpho Deleglise	Associate Research Fellow	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung-Mozambique	November 2020
Lorenzo Fioramonti	Associate Research Fellow	University of Pretoria	May 2012
Gaspere Genna	Associate Research Fellow	The University of Texas at El Paso	February 2013
Amandine Gnanguênon	Associate Research Fellow	European Council on Foreign Relations Africa Programme	June 2020
Lelio Iapadre	Associate Research Fellow	University of L'Aquila	November 2006
Stephen Kingah	Associate Research Fellow	Pan African University Institute on Governance and Social Sciences, Yaoundé	January 2017
Eric Maertens	Associate Research Fellow	International Labour Organization, Geneva	October 2007
Frank Mattheis	Associate Research Fellow	Université libre de Bruxelles	April 2020
Doreen Montag	Associate Research Fellow	Queen Mary University of London	June 2020
Philomena Murray	Associate Research Fellow	University of Melbourne	July 2009
Nahuel Oddone	Associate Research Fellow	Social Institute of MERCOSUR, Paraguay	June 2020

Ikboljon Qoraboyev	Associate Research Fellow	University in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	June 2020
Simon Schunz	Associate Research Fellow	College of Europe	September 2019
Selleslaghs Joren	Associate Research Fellow	Leiden University	August 2017
Timothy Shaw	Associate Research Fellow	University of Massachusetts Boston	January 2012
Fredrik Söderbaum	Associate Research Fellow	University of Gothenburg	April 2006
Tatiana Skripka	Associate Research Fellow	Maastricht University UNU-MERIT	March 2012
Rodrigo Tavares	Associate Research Fellow	Granito Partners	December 2008
Ad van Riet	Associate Research Fellow	Tilburg University	February 2019
Jan Vandemoortele	Associate Research Fellow	Formerly UNDP and UNICEF	September 2019
Micha Wiebusch	Associate Research Fellow	University of Antwerp	January 2016

Interns

Name	Gender	Nationality	College / University	Duration
Huseyn Aliyev	M	Azerbaijan	Ghent University	8 months
Emiel Buffel	M	Belgium	University of Antwerp	6 months
Marco D'Attoma	M	Italy	LUISS Guido Carli University, Rome	4 months
Lucas D'Hondt	M	Belgium	Hogeschool West-vlaanderen, Brugge	2 months
Lucy D'Hondt	F	Belgium	Université Libre de Bruxelles	3 months
Linde De Vliegheer	F	Belgium	Hogeschool West-Vlaanderen, Brugge	2 weeks
Mona Fias	F	Belgium	KULeuven	2 months
Inês Francisco	F	Portugal	The University of Amsterdam	6 months
Megan Garland	F	USA	Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS)	3 months
Alvertos Konstantinis	M	Greece	The University of Groningen	3 months
Arla Mannersuo	F	Finland	Leiden University	6 months
Justine Miller	F	Belgium	KULeuven	3 months
Dan Orendain	M	The Philippines	The United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, Tokyo	6 months
Patrik Plavec	M	Czech Republic	College of Europe, Bruges	3 months

Zane Sime	F	Latvia	"KULeuven/ University of Latvia"	8 months
Natalia Skripnikova	F	Russia	University of Gothenburg	8 months
Servaas Taghon	M	Belgium	Ghent University	6 months
Ilya Ulyanov	M	Russia	Higher School of Economics, Moscow	8 months
Charlotte Van Wieren	F	The Netherlands	University of Amsterdam	6 months
Haydn Wiles	M	UK	University of Amsterdam	3 months
Irene Zanus Fortes	F	Italy	University of Trento	6 months

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