

## online PhD Masterclass

EU external migration policy, law and migrants

### *Migrants' perspectives*

6 November 2020 – 14-17h

- Live: Paddenhoek 1.2, Campus Aula, Ghent University
- Online: registered participants will receive the link to the Zoom meeting by e-mail

### Invitation

The Ghent University Migration Law Research Group is very pleased to invite law, sociology, political science and other humanities researchers and students for a masterclass **with Prof. Dr. Barbara Oomen**.

Attendance is free and open to everyone interested, but registration is mandatory. Active participation to the discussion will be appreciated. Abstracts, papers and drafts of the speakers will be shared some days in advance.

#### PhD masterclass

The masterclass will present work in progress from junior researchers that focusses on **migrants' own perspectives on their rights** in migration law and policy contexts. Those perspectives are often overlooked in politico-legal analysis of migration and refugee movements, which tends to take a state-centred approach. In assessing EU's external migration and development policies, socio-legal approaches can overcome such methodological nationalism by looking into migrants' experiences and strategies regarding border policies and access to protection.

**Early research findings** on this issue will be presented by PhD and post-doc law and sociology researchers Imane Bendra (UAntwerpen), Eleonora Frasca and Francesca Raimondo (UCLouvain), and Ruben Wissing (UGent).

**Prof. Dr. Barbara Oomen** is our central guest and respondent at the masterclass. She is a leading expert on the interplay between law and society, with a special emphasis on human rights and cultural diversity. She holds a chair in the Sociology of Human Rights at Utrecht University, and works at University College Roosevelt, UU's Liberal Arts and Sciences College in Middelburg, where she was the Dean from 2012-2016. She wrote books like *Global Urban Justice: the rise of human rights cities* (2016) and *Rights for others: the slow home-coming of human rights in the Netherlands* (2014) and a wide variety of scholarly articles. She leads the NWO Vici project Cities of Refuge and is involved in the Horizon2020 ETHOS research. In Utrecht, she co-leads the focus area on Migration and Societal Change.

## Context: EU migration law and policy

The external dimension of the EU migration policy is increasingly characterised by two phenomena. One is the '**externalisation**' of its border controls and entry and return procedures to countries of departure or transit of EU-bound migrants in the Global South. The other is the instrumentalisation of **development cooperation** as a means to address root causes of migration (development-migration nexus).

The Ghent University Migration Law Research Group wants to scrutinise this EU external migration policy and its effects. Under the banner '*Externalisation or Cooperation*', it has partnered with the Belgian South-North cooperation umbrella 11.11.11 in order to bring an informed voice to the academic and political debates on the issue in Flanders and Belgium. A forthcoming academic **conference** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2021 – postponed due to public health measures – will focus on this EU policy and its implications for regional and bilateral policies, for states' responsibility for human and refugee rights under international law, and, of course, for the lives of migrants themselves.

On the occasion of the EU Commission's announcement of a **New Pact on Migration and Asylum**, we also organise a **public online event**, on the same day, 6 November. At 11am, 11.11.11 will host an online panel debate with a focus on the political analysis, including the allocation of development means for migration policy goals and its impact on local communities and on EU relations with neighbouring states in the Global South and regional actors such as the African Union.

### Registration

Attending the masterclass is free of charge, but registration is mandatory. There is a maximum of 25 participants (live and online attendance combined) and priority will be given to junior researchers.

Registration before **1 November** by e-mail to Ruben Wissing at [ruben.wissing@ugent.be](mailto:ruben.wissing@ugent.be)

Responsible organiser & contact:

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Provisional program:

- 14:00 Opening - **Prof. Dr. Ellen Desmet** (UGent, Migration Law Research Group), chair
- 14:10 Introduction - **Ruben Wissing** (UGent, Migration Law Research Group), organiser
- 14:15 Lecture - **Prof. Dr. Barbara Oomen** (Utrecht University, University College Roosevelt), central guest  
*'Law & society perspectives on migrants' rights'*  
(20 min presentation – 10 min Q&A)
- 14:50 Presentation 1 – **Ruben Wissing** (UGent, Migration Law Research Group):  
*'Asylum, protection and the law in the EU external borderland: Congolese survival migrants in Rabat'*  
(20 min presentation – 10 min response / Q&A)
- 15:25 Coffee break
- 15:40 Presentation 2 - **Eleonora Frasca** and **Dr. Francesca Raimondo** (UCLouvain):  
*'Forced sedentarism: how privatised and externalised EU border controls are designed to discourage migrants' mobility aspirations'*  
(20 min presentation – 10 min response / Q&A)
- 16:15 Presentation 3 - **Imane Bendra** (UAntwerpen):  
*'Brokering borders: Senegalese migrant street traders' navigation of externalised EU migration policies and bordering practices in Oujda, Morocco'*  
(20 min presentation – 10 min response / Q&A)
- 16:50 Concluding remarks – **Prof. Dr. Barbara Oomen** & **Prof. Dr. Ellen Desmet**

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