

PhD Masterclass

EU external migration policy, law and migrants

Migrants' perspectives

6 November 2020 – 14:00-18:00

Paddenhoek 1.2, Campus Aula, Ghent University

Call for abstracts

deadline: 5 October

We are pleased to send out this call for early career researchers, including PhDs and junior post-docs for a masterclass with Prof. Dr. Barbara Oomen.

PhD masterclass

This masterclass wants to focus on **migrants' own perspectives on their rights**, which are often overlooked in the dominant politico-legal research on migration. In the assessment of EU external migration and development policies, socio-legal approaches look at migrants' experiences and strategies regarding border policies and access to protection.

This PhD masterclass wants to serve as a forum to present **early research findings** on this issue from a socio-legal or political science approach, by PhD students and junior researchers of different disciplines in the humanities at Belgian universities.

Prof. Dr. Barbara Oomen will be 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, both Cambridge University Press) 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 is one of the leaders of 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 so-called ‘**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 2nd 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** with its increased focus on externalisation as a migration mitigation strategy, we also organise a **public online event**. 11.11.11 will host an online panel debate (early November – exact date t.b.c.) with a focus on the political analysis, including the allocation of development means for migration policy goals and its impact on local communities in the Global South and on EU relations with neighbouring states in the Global South and regional actors such as the African Union.

Application

To apply, please submit an abstract of not more than **300 words** summarizing your presentation (which can be of preliminary findings, of advanced research or of a finalized paper). Accepted participants will be asked to submit their paper by 31 October.

Applications are due on 5 October and can be sent to the attention of Ruben Wissing at ruben.wissing@ugent.be

Responsible organiser & contact:

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