

Curriculum Vitae

CASIER, Marlies Leen Lies

Born on the 9th of June, 1980, Kortrijk, Belgium.

Postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Social Work, Ghent University and member of the Migration Law Research Group (MigrLaw) at Ghent University's Law Faculty.

Postdoctoral lecturer at the Department of Conflict and Development Studies, Ghent University

E-mail: marlies.casier@ugent.be

STUDIES

- 2006-2010:** PhD in Political Sciences, Ghent University, Department of Conflict and Development Studies
- 2004-2005:** Master after Master in Conflict & Development, Ghent University (high distinction)
- 2002-2004:** Master in Moral Sciences, Ghent University (highest distinction)
- 2001-2002:** Bachelor in Moral Sciences, Ghent University (high distinction)
- 1998-2001:** Bachelor in Social Work, Social Cultural Work at the Artevelde Hogeschool in Ghent, Belgium (distinction).
- 1992-1998:** Economics & Modern Languages at Don Bosco College, Kortrijk

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2023-today:** Postdoctoral researcher at the Ghent University's Department of Social Work, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

FWO-research project 'Advocacy for migrants in transit zones. Innovative strategies for political change', supervised by Prof. Dr. Robin Vandevordt (CESSMIR, Social Work) and Prof. Ellen Desmet (Migration Law)

2023-today: Postdoctoral lecturer at the Ghent University's Department of Conflict and Development studies, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences.

2013-2023: Visiting Professor at the Ghent University's Department of Conflict and Development studies, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences.

2011-2023: Policy advisor at SENSOA, Flemish centre for expertise on sexual health. Analysis: policy support and advocacy on Belgium's national and international policies on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

2006-2010: PhD research in Political Sciences at the Ghent University and affiliated researcher of the Middle East and North Africa Research Group (MENARG), supervised by Prof. Dr. Sami Zemni, funded by the FWO.

PhD on the influence of transnational political mobilisation on homeland conflict. Case-study of the Kurdish nationalist movement and its transnational political activism towards the European Institutions. Research based on qualitative research methods, with extended research stays in Turkey (Ankara, Istanbul, Diyarbakir) as well as research in the EU institutions in Brussels and Strasbourg, involving elite & activist interviewing and (participant) observations.

2005-2006: Researcher at the Ghent University, Ghent, at the Center for Islam in Europe, supervised by Prof. Dr. Sami Zemni, funded by the Instituut voor de Gelijkheid van Vrouwen en Mannen.

Research on partner choice and marriage formation amongst girls and women with a migration background in Belgium. Qualitative research, with focus groups and semi-structured interviews with girls and women, as well as social workers and officials in both the French and Dutch-speaking parts of the country and in Brussels.

ACADEMIC HONOURS, AWARDS AND PRIZES

Awarded *De Jaarprijs Politicologie 2012* by de Nederlandse Kring voor de Wetenschap der Politiek (NKWP), the Dutch Political Science Association for the dissertation titled *The Kurdish Nationalist Movement (in-) between Turkey and Europe. Transnational political activism and the transformation of home through the EU.*

TEACHING

As a visiting professor at the Ghent University at the Department of Conflict and Development Studies

- ‘Ethnography of Conflict and Development’ (7 semesters), an optional course in the Master in Sociology and Master in Global Studies, that made students familiar with ethnographic research methods.
- ‘Processen van Conflict en Ontwikkeling’ (5 semesters)
- ‘Debates in Conflict and Development’ (3 semesters, of which 2 focussing particularly on Fortress Europe)
- ‘Transnationalism and Migration’ (4 semesters, ongoing), an optional course that critically inquires international migration policies and politics, for students of the Master of Science in Conflict and Development and the Erasmus Mundus Global Studies.

Both the courses and my teaching competencies have been regularly evaluated, with high levels of appreciation in the student evaluations.

ACADEMIC SERVICES

- Supervision of graduate students in the Master of Science on Conflict and Development, Master in Global Studies, and undergraduates as well as graduates in International Politics in their research and writing of theses, since 2006.
- Editing of a Routledge edited volume and a special issue in the European Journal of Turkish Studies.
- Organization of conference panels at the Middle East Studies Association of North America’s Annual Conference and the World Congress of Middle Eastern Studies.
- Organization of an International Lecture Series *Turkish and Kurdish Nationalisms and Political Islam in Turkey*, autumn 2008, Ghent University, Middle East and North Africa Research Group.
- Reviewer for the Journal *Democratization*, *Nations and Nationalism*, *Journal of Kurdish Studies* and for *Routledge publications in Middle East Studies*.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Renewal of the e-tutorial on sexual and reproductive health and rights, Body&Rights.be, to build the capacity of stakeholders of international cooperation, including civil servants and diplomats.
- Organization of multiple on- and offline conferences and panels on sexual and reproductive rights for Belgian parliamentarians and other stakeholders in Belgium’s international cooperation.

MEMBERSHIP

- Member of CESSMIR, the Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees

- Member of the Department of Conflict and Development studies, Ghent University
- Former Chair of the SRHR Working Group of Be-cause Health, the Belgian Platform for International Health
- Former member of the advice and support group 'Relations' of Ella vzw, Knowledge Centre on Gender and Ethnicity

VOLUNTARY WORK

- Member of the Board of Directors (Raad van Bestuur) of Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen
- Member of #GentZonderGrenzen, Ghent citizen initiative advocating for the inclusion of vulnerable migrants in the city of Ghent
- Member of the General Assembly of vzw Vrede, Peace NGO
- From 2007-2012 core member, editor and writer for *TiensTiens – de andere k(r)ant van Gent*, volunteer-run alternative city magazine, critically covering city urban development plans, social work challenges, diversity and the role of artists in bringing about change in Ghent and/or other major cities in Flanders.
- Former member of the General Assembly of KifKif vzw

LANGUAGES

- Dutch: mother tongue
- English: fluent writing, reading, speaking, and understanding
- French: fluent reading and understanding, good speaking and writing
- Turkish: basic understanding, writing, speaking, reading
- German: basic reading and understanding

PUBLICATIONS

Publications in journals and books with peer review

Casier, M. (2018). The omnipresent absentee? Challenges in researching the Kurdistan Workers' Party in Europe and Turkey. In B. Baser (Ed.), *Methodological approaches in Kurdish studies : theoretical and practical insights from the field* (pp. 145–164). Lanham Maryland: Lexington Books.

Casier, M., (2015) Beyond Kurdistan? The Mesopotamia Social Forum and the appropriation and re-imagination of Mesopotamia by the Kurdish Movement. In Jongerden, J. & Gambetti, Z. (Eds.) *The Kurdish Issue in Turkey. A Spatial Perspective*. London: Routledge, pp. 136-154.

Casier, M. & Jongerden, (eds.) (2015) *Nationalisms and politics in Turkey: Political Islam, Kemalism and the Kurdish issue*. New York: Routledge. (paperback)

Casier, M., Heyse, P., Clycq, N., Zemni, S. and Timmerman, C., (2013) Breaking the in-group out-group: shifting boundaries in transnational partner choice processes of individuals of Moroccan, Tunesian, Algerian, Turkish, Punjabi Sikh, Pakistani and Albanian descent in Belgium. *Sociological Review*.

Casier, M. & Jongerden, J., (eds.) (2013) *Türkiye’de Milliyetçilik ve Politika. Politik Islam, Kemalizm ve Kürt Sorunu*. Istanbul: Vate Yayınevi.

Grojean, O. & Casier, M., (2012) Between integration, autonomization and radicalization. Hamit Bozarslan on the Kurdish Movement and the Turkish Left. *European Journal of Turkish Studies*, 14. Online: <http://ejts.revues.org/4663>

Casier, M. & Jongerden, J. (2012) Understanding today’s Kurdish movement: Leftist heritage, martyrdom, democracy and gender. *European Journal of Turkish Studies*, 12. Online: <http://ejts.revues.org/4656>

Casier, M. (2011) Beyond Kurdistan? The Mesopotamia Social Forum and the appropriation and re-imagination of Mesopotamia by the Kurdish Movement. *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, 13 (4): 417-432.

Casier, M., Jongerden, J., and Walker, N., (2011) Fruitless Attempts? The Kurdish initiative and the containment of the Kurdish movement. *New Perspectives on Turkey*, 44: 103-127.

Casier, M. (2011) Neglected Middle Men? Gatekeepers in homeland politics. Case: Flemish nationalists’ receptivity to the plight of Turkey’s Kurds. *Social Identities*, 17 (4): 501-521.

Casier, M. & Jongerden, J. (Eds) (2011) *Nationalisms and politics in Turkey: Political Islam, Kemalism and the Kurdish issue*. New York: Routledge.

Casier, M. (2011) The Politics of Solidarity. The Kurdish Question in the European Parliament. In: M. Casier & J. Jongerden, J. (Eds.), *Nationalisms and politics in Turkey: political Islam, Kemalism and the Kurdish issue*. New York: Routledge, pp. 199-121.

Casier, M. (2010) Turkey’s Kurds and the Quest for Recognition. Transnational Politics and the EU-Turkey accession negotiations, *Ethnicities*, 10 (1): 3-25.

Casier, M. (2010) Designated Terrorists. The Kurdistan Workers' Party and its Struggle to (Re)gain Political Legitimacy. *Mediterranean Politics*, 15 (3): 395-415.

Casier, M. (2009) Contesting the 'Truth' of Turkey's Human Rights Situation: State-Associations interactions in and outside the Southeast. *European Journal of Turkish Studies*, 10. Online: <http://ejts.revues.org/index4190.html>

Non-peer reviewed publications in journals and books

Casier, M., (2017) Het autonomiestreven van de Koerdische rebellen in Syrië. In: Adam, J. & Suykens, B. (Eds.) *De alledaagse rebel. Tien rebellengroepen in het Zuiden*. Gent: Academia Press, pp. 19-42.

Casier, M., Jongerden, J. and Walker, N. (2013). Turkey's Kurdish Movement and the AKP's Opening: A Kurdish Spring or Fall? In: Ahmed, M. & Gunter, M. (Eds) *The Kurdish Spring*. Costa Mesa: Mazda Press, pp. 135-162.

Casier, M., Hilton, A. and Jongerden, J. (2009) "Road Maps" and Roadblocks in Turkey's Southeast. *Middle East Report Online*, October 30, 2009. Online: <http://www.merip.org/mero/mero103009.html>

Zemni, S. & Casier, M., (2007) De moderniteit van de jihad tussen islamitische staat en identiteit. DEVISCH, I. & DE KESEL, M. (eds.), *Fundamentalisme face à face*, Kampen/Kapellen: Klement/Pelckmans, pp. 45-73.

Casier, M. (2008) Grenzeloos thuisland, eindeloos conflict? Transnationale politieke mobilisatie en conflict. In: Doom, R. (ed.), *Conflict en Ontwikkeling. Overleven in de grensgebieden der Globalisering*. Gent: Academia Press, pp. 491-508.

Conference papers and lectures

Casier, M., Contesting the "truth" of Turkey's human rights situation: state-association interactions and the Kurdish national movement in Turkey. *Lecture* at the Lund University, Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, Sweden, 1 November 2012.

Casier, M., Challenges and pitfalls in doing field research. *Lecture* at the Ghent University, 28 april 2011.

Casier, M., Another Middle East is possible! Turkey's Kurdish Movement's capitalization of the Social Forum. Instrument for internal change or internationalization of the cause? *Conference paper* presented at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA), San Diego, 18-21 November 2010.

Casier, M., Tackling the Kurdish issue through Europe. Kurdish diplomacy under AKP reign. *Conference paper* presented at the World Congress of Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES), as part of the Symposium on 'Peace in Turkey', Barcelona, 19-24 July 2010.

Casier, M., PKK and the 'terrorist label': consequences and future prospects. *Conference paper* presented at the international workshop 'The global "war on terror" and contemporary armed intrastate conflicts', at the Ghent University, Ghent, 15 December 2009.

Casier, M., The PKK and the terrorist label: a challenge to Kurdish nationalism? *Conference paper* presented at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA), Boston, 21-24 November 2009.

Casier, M., Human Rights Defenders, 'the Kurdish question', and the Turkish state after OHAL: Continuity or change? *Conference paper* presented at the international conference 'The Kurds and Kurdistan: History, Politics and Culture', at Exeter University, Centre for Kurdish Studies, Exeter, 2-3 April 2009.

Casier, M., Putting Turkey's Kurds on Europe's agenda. Investigating the transnational political practices of Turkey's Kurdish Immigrants. *Conference paper* presented at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA), Montreal, 17-20 November 2007.

Casier, M. & Zemni, S., Hoe denken meisjes en vrouwen over preventie, handelingsstrategieën en hulpverlening betreffende de problematiek van gedwongen huwelijken? (*How do girls and women think about prevention, coping strategies and aid in relation to the question of forced marriages?*) Presentation of the research findings of our qualitative research on the freedom of partner choice amongst girls and women from foreign descent in Belgium, presented at the interactive seminar for social workers on the question of arranged and forced marriages, organized by the Institute for Equality of Women and Men (Instituut voor Gelijkheid van Vrouwen en Mannen), Brussels, 6 June 2006.

Book reviews

Casier, M., (2008) Secular and Islamic Politics in Turkey: The making of the Justice and Development Party. By Ümit Cizre (ed.), 2008, Routledge. *Middle East Policy*, 15(3): 169-172.

Casier, M. (2013) Contesting Kurdish Identities in Sweden: Quest for Belonging among Middle Eastern Youth. By Barzoo Eliassi, 2013, Oxford: New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 234 pp. *Kurdish Studies*, 1(1), 2013.

Contributions to popular scientific publications

Bogaert, K., Carlier, J., De Smet, B., Casier, M., Vanden Boer, D., & Mazijn, B. (2019). "Justice" not "aid" for the Global South. The GIC Network.

Casier, M. (2010) Transnationaal 'Koerdistan', knooppunt Brussel. *Agora*, 26 (2): 14-17.

Casier, M. (2010) *In de Bres voor de Koerden*. Brussel: Koerdisch Instituut Brussel.

Policy Reports

Zemni, S., Casier, M. & Peene, N., Studie naar de factoren die de vrijheid van keuze van een echtgenoot beperken, bij bevolkingsgroepen van vreemde oorsprong in België. Onderzoeksrapport. Universiteit Gent, September 2006.

Dissertation and theses

Casier, M. (2011) The Kurdish Nationalist Movement (in-) between Turkey and Europe. Transnational political activism and the transformation of home through the EU. Ghent University, Political Sciences, supervisor Prof. Dr. Sami Zemni

Casier, M. (2005) Transnationaal politiek activisme en de Global Jihad beweging. Ghent University, Master in Conflict and Development, supervisor: Prof. Dr. Sami Zemni

Casier, M. (2004) Inburgering en 'the Politics of Recognition'. Ghent University, Master in Moral Sciences, supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ronald Commers

Casier, M. (2001) Buurtwerk in de hoogte? Artevelde Hogeschool, Bachelor in Social Work, supervisor: Sammy Vienne