

**Contact**

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**Summary**

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*Ruben Wissing is a doctor of law (PhD) and a legal practitioner in the field of migration. He completed a PhD on the protection of refugees in Morocco from a multidisciplinary perspective at Ghent University. Ruben is now a teaching assistant in Law and Society as well as in the Migration Law legal clinic. He is also an independent consultant in asylum and migration law, currently assisting lawyers with appeal requests for asylum seekers and NGO's with reports on asylum policy.*

*Ruben studied Law in Leuven and Madrid, and also holds a bachelor in Philosophy. He practised as a lawyer in migration and asylum law and worked as a legal officer and policy coordinator at different Belgian non-profit organisations and as an independent consultant for European NGOs and the UN Refugees Agency (UNHCR), and was a co-founder of NANSEN, the Belgian refugee council.*

*Ruben's research interests are situated at the intersection of refugee and asylum law, human rights, migration studies, sociology and philosophy. His scholarly work entails doctrinal analysis, socio-legal research, critical and postcolonial perspectives and alternative knowledge production. He has developed solid coordination, valorisation and societal engagement skills.*

**Professional experience**

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| Jan. 2023 – present   | <b>Freelance Consultant</b><br>Independent consultancy on migration and asylum law and policy  |
| Sept. 2022 – present  | <b>Teaching Assistant Legal Clinic Migration Law</b><br>Ghent University, Migration Law Research Group<br>Prof. dr. Ellen Desmet   |
| Oct. 2022 – present   | <b>Teaching Assistant Law &amp; Society</b><br>Ghent University, Migration Law Research Group<br>Prof. dr. Ellen Desmet  |
| Mar. 2018 – Nov. 2022 | <b>PhD Researcher</b><br>Ghent University, Migration Law Research Group<br><i>'Safe with the neighbours? Legal and actual protection of forced migrants in the Global South: Perspectives on and from Morocco'</i><br>(Promotor prof. dr. Ellen Desmet – Public defense: 28 Nov. 2022) |
| Jan. – Dec. 2017      | <b>Teaching Assistant Migration Law</b><br>Ghent University, Migration Law Research Group<br>Prof. dr. Ellen Desmet  |
| July – Dec. 2017      | <b>Coordinator</b><br>NANSEN vzw (Brussels)<br>national UNHCR partner  |

- May 2016 – June 2017 **Associate Protection Officer on Detention** (consultancy)  
 UNHCR, Protection Unit for Belgium & Luxemburg, Regional Representation  
 Western Europe (Brussels)
- Nov. 2015 – Dec. 2016 **Freelance Consultant** on migration and asylum law, and policy  
 BxlConsul (independent)  
 (incl. ECRE Asylum Information Database national expert)
- Jun. 2009 – Jan. 2016 **Legal and Policy Officer**  
 BCHV-CBAR (Belgian Refugee Council) (Brussels)
- Oct. 2008 – Jun. 2009 **Legal Officer**  
 Flemish Minorities Centre  
 (now the public agency for integration of the Flemish Community government)
- Jun. 2004 – Dec. 2007 **Lawyer/Attorney**  
 Kati Verstrepen Law Firm (Antwerp)
- Jan. – June 2004 **Campaigner**  
 Red Cross (Madrid, Spain)

## Education

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2018 – 2022	<b>PhD in Law</b>	Ghent University
2003 – 2004	<b>Candidate in Philosophy</b>	KU Leuven
1999 – 2003	<b>Licentiate in Law</b>	KU Leuven Complutense University of Madrid
1997 – 1998	<b>Candidate in Law</b>	KU Leuven, Kortrijk Departement (KULAK)
1991 – 1996	<b>Latin-mathematics</b>	Sint-Jozefinstituut, Kortrijk

## Publications

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### International peer reviewed articles and book chapters

- Wissing, R. (2022). 'Between Aspirations and Law: Protection Consciousness of Congolese Forced Migrants in Rabat', *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, vol. 41, no. 4, 700–724.  
 ○ *Shortlisted for the Rinus Penninx Best Paper Award at the 2021 IMISCOE annual conference*
- Wissing, R. (2019). 'Allocating Responsibility for Refugee Protection to States: Actual and Potential Criteria in International (Case-)law', in G.C. Bruno, F.M. Palombino and A. di Stefano (eds.), [Migration and Development: Migration Issues before International Courts and Tribunals](#), Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) & Istituto di Ricerca su Innovazione e Servizi per lo Sviluppo (IRiSS), Napels, 45-90.

### Ready for submission:

- Wissing, R. (2023). 'An African Agenda. Morocco's migration discourse in the African Union and its Janus-faced migration diplomacy'

### National peer reviewed articles and book chapters

Wissing R. (2015). 'Eerste land van asiel – een nieuwe grond om vluchtelingen van bescherming uit te sluiten?', *Tijdschrift voor Vreemdelingenrecht*, no. 2, 74-85

### Journal articles without peer review and editorials

Wissing R. (2017). 'Artikel 3 EVRM beschermt ernstig zieke vreemdelingen tegen een verwijdering van het grondgebied en beidt hen procedurele garanties (EHRM-arrest Paposhvili)', *Tijdschrift voor Mensenrechten*, jg. 15, no. 1, 15-16

Wissing R. (2014). 'Grenzen aan het grensbeleid? Fort Europa doorgelicht door de VN', *Tijdschrift voor Mensenrechten*, jg. 11, no. 4, 8-11

### Reports

Desmet, E., Wissing, R., Lembrechts, S., & Casteleyn, L. (2021). [Aanbevelingen voor het nieuwe Migratiewetboek](#), 44 p.

Desmet, E., Dictus, T., Schorpion, B., & Wissing, R. (2020). [Het "Australisch model" in Europa?](#), Advies inzake het voorstel van resolutie van 30 september 2020 over de invoering van een humaan Europees migratiemodel dat mensensmokkel en illegale migratie effectief bestrijdt, 23 p.

Brems E., Desmet E., Dhondt B., Lavrysen L., Smet S., Wissing R. (2019). [Schendingen van mensenrechten in het verkiezingsprogramma 2019 van Vlaams Belang](#), 31 p.

Wissing R., ECRE (2013), [Asylum Information Database: Country Report Belgium](#), 63 p.

Wissing R., ECRE (2014), [Asylum Information Database: Country Report Belgium, 1<sup>st</sup> Update](#), 63 p.

Wissing R., ECRE (2014), [Asylum Information Database: Country Report Belgium, 2<sup>nd</sup> Update](#), 76 p.

Wissing R., ECRE (2015), [Asylum Information Database: Country Report Belgium, 3<sup>rd</sup> Update](#), 85 p.

Wissing R., ECRE (2015), [Asylum Information Database: Country Report Belgium, 4<sup>th</sup> Update](#), 89 p.

### Unpublished:

Wissing R., UNHCR (2017). "Is this jail?" / "C'est comme prison" – *Monitoring Detention in Belgium, Findings & Recommendations*

Wissing R., UNHCR (2017). *National Action Plan Global Strategy Beyond Detention, April 2017*

### NGO publications

Wissing R. (2014). 'Biedt India 'reële bescherming' aan Tibetanen? – Welke 'reële bescherming' is vereist om van een 'eerste land van asiel' in de zin van artikel 48/5 §3 van de Vreemdelingenwet te kunnen spreken?' (CBAR-BCHV)

Wissing R., Daem G., Lepoivre C. (2013). 'Kinderen in asiel: rekening houden met hun kwetsbaarheid en hoger belang' (CBAR-BCHV)

Wissing R. (2013), Belgian case Summaries for European Database of Asylum Law (EDAL) (<http://www.asylumlawdatabase.eu/en/case-law-search>)

Wissing R. (2012). 'Het behoren tot een sociale groep', 'Uitsluiting', en 'Het specifieke probleem van recent verblijf' in *60 Jaar Vluchtelingenverdrag – Analyse van de Belgische Praktijk en het Internationale en Europese kader* (Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen, CIRE, BCHV-CBAR).

Wissing R., e.a. (2012). 'Nieuwe gegevens voor de Raad voor Vreemdelingenbetwistingen in volle rechtsmacht: in lijn met het Europees recht?', (CBAR-BCHV)

Wissing R., e.a. (2011). 'Is de vrees gegrond? Het gebruik en de toepassing van landeninformatie in de asielaanvraag', (CBAR-BCHV)

Wissing R. (2010), 'Demandes d'asile multiples : 'element nouveau'? – Application de l'article 51/8 de la loi du 15 décembre 1980 au regard de la directive 'Procédure' et du cadre constitutionnel' in CBAR-BCHV, *L'accès à la procédure d'asile en Belgique*

Wissing R. (2009), 'Ouderlijke Verantwoordelijkheid', op [vreemdelingenrecht.be](http://www.vreemdelingenrecht.be) (Steunpunt IPR, VMC), (<http://www.kruispuntmi.be/thema/vreemdelingenrecht-internationaal-privaatrecht/familiaal-ipr/ouderlijke-verantwoordelijkheid>)

### Research and preliminary drafting for:

Sheridan C., Taylor A., van Krimpen I., Zelvenska J, ECRE (2017), *Preliminary Deference? The impact of judgments of the Court of Justice of the EU in cases X.Y.Z., A.B.C. and Cimade and Gisti on national law and the use of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights*

## **Fellowships, grants and funding**

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- Zeit Stiftung, Beyond Borders, Dissertation Completion Scholarship (2021) (not granted)
- King Baudouin Foundation, Venture Philanthropy Fund (2020), for Globe Aroma vzw (80.000€)
- Ghent University Global Mind Fund (GMF), Capacity Building in University Development Cooperation (2019), for the organization of a conference, masterclass and public event 'Cooperation or Externalisation? EU migration policy, law, and the migrants' (7500€)
- UNHCR project 'Legal and administrative assistance to asylum-seekers in Belgium' (2017), by the consortium CESSMIR (promoters Katrijn Maryns and Ellen Desmet) and NANSEN vzw (64.000 euro)
- Porticus Foundation project 'Strengthen and Improve Protection Standards for Detained Asylum Seekers: rights to asylum and to liberty' (2018), for NANSEN vzw (77.000 euro)
- European Commission, AMIF Community Action MINERVA project proposal 2015, with consortium of NGOs (Hungarian Helsinki Committee), IGOs (UNHCR) and asylum authorities (CGVS) (not approved)

## **Academic research & professional expertise related activities**

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### **Fieldwork**

- Elite interviews with experts on Morocco's African migration policy in Rabat and online, October 2021
- Focus group with interviewed Congolese migrants in Rabat on preliminary findings, October 2021
- Qualitative data collection through semi-structured interviews and participatory observation with Congolese and Sub-Saharan migrants in Rabat, Morocco, October-December 2019

### **Presentations at conferences, seminars and study days**

- 'An African Agenda on Migration. Morocco's Forced Migration Discourse, Protection Policies and Migration Diplomacy in Africa', panel 'Inter-State Relations, Equality and Refugee Protection' Refugee Law Initiative Annual Conference, London 22 June 2023
- Panel discussant 'Vulnerabilities and Time in the Asylum Procedure', VULNER project final conference, Louvain-la-Neuve, 8 June 2023
- 'Legal concepts and lived experiences in forced migration law and studies', PhD masterclass 'Language, Migration and Refugees', CESSMIR, Ghent University, 8 December 2022
- Panel 'Migrants & Refugees Making Decisions. Connecting Aspirations, Capabilities and Liberties in (In-)Voluntary (Im-)Mobilities', HDCA Conference, Antwerp, September 2022
- 'An African Agenda on Migration. Morocco's migration diplomacy in a postcolonial Africa', Workshop 'Decolonising Global Migration Law Towards Building a Collaborative Research Agenda' (discussant Loren Landau), Hertie School Centre for Fundamental Rights Berlin, 10 June 2022
- 'An African Agenda on Migration. A piece of Morocco's migration diplomacy', panel 'Shrinking space of asylum in Africa', The Africa Centre for Transregional Research (ACT) Conference 'Africa-Europe: Reciprocal Perspectives', University of Freiburg, 9 June 2022
- Presentation photo portrait project 'Article 15', Ghent University Law Faculty Research Day, 17 May 2022
- 'Between Aspirations and Law: Protection Consciousness of Congolese Forced Migrants in Rabat', Young Researchers Workshop 'Between Borders and Territories: Law or Migration' at EDEM Conference "The Time of Territories", Université catholique Louvain-la-Neuve, 9 May 2022
- 'Actualia asielrecht', panel 'Ontwikkelingen inzake verblijfsrecht', Leerstoel Migratie- en Migrantenrecht Universiteit Antwerpen, 12 October 2021
- 'Between Protection and Law: Aspirations and Perceptions of Congolese Forced Migrants in Rabat', International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe (IMISCOE) Annual Conference 'Crossing borders, connecting cultures', University of Luxembourg, online, 8 July 2021

- 'Cooperation or Externalisation? EU-Africa cooperation and the New Pact on Migration and Asylum', in collaboration with 11.11.11 (and with the support of the government (Enabel) and university (VLIR-UOS) development cooperation instances), webinar, 4 June 2021 (organiser)
- 'Morocco vs. 'African solidarity': human rights discourse and migration governance', elevator-pitch, Human Rights Centre (HRC), online, 3 June 2021
- 'Morocco vs. 'African solidarity': human rights discourse and migration governance', Scholarly Workshop Series, Law Faculty Ghent University, online, 28 May 2021
- 'The notion of jurisdiction according to the UN Human Rights Committee', Doctoral School 'The Erasure of the Global South', Ghent University, online, 27 April 2021
- 'Protection and legal consciousness in a legal borderland: Congolese survival migrants in Rabat', Refugee Law Initiative's (RLI) Working Group on Externalisation, London University, online, 14 December 2020
- 'Protection and Legal Consciousness in a Borderland: Congolese Survival Migrants in Rabat', Belgian Working Group on the External Dimension of EU Migration Policy, online, 14 December 2020
- 'Protection and legal consciousness in a legal borderland: Congolese survival migrants in Rabat', Masterclass 'Cooperation or Externalisation?', chaired by prof. Barbara Oomen, online, 6 November 2020, (organiser)
- 'Doing research with vulnerable groups and on sensitive topics', panel with Prof. Stephan Parmentier and Yordan Nugraha, Law and Development Network Virtual Research Day 'Research Ethics in practice', online, 29 May 2020
- 'Seeking protection in Morocco: refugees, legal consciousness and legal pluralism', HRC Meeting, Ghent University, online, 24 April 2020
- Poster presentation PhD research 'Safe with the Neighbours', Research Day Faculty of Law and Criminology, Ghent University, 7 February 2020
- 'Seeking protection and legal consciousness: Refugees in Morocco, a qualitative analysis', panel 'Migrants in a state of uncertainty', VSR Conference 'Law and Uncertainty', Radboud University Nijmegen, 16 January 2020
- 'EU's External Migration Policy: Shifting Responsibilities', Debates in Conflict & Development: Reconsidering migration. Unpacking politics, policies & practices, Ghent University, 14 March 2019
- 'Refugee Protection & International Cooperation', International Intercultural Week, VIVES University of Applied Sciences, Kortrijk, 15 November 2018
- 'Effective protection' for refugees under EU external migration policy', CESSMIR Conference Needs and Care Practices for Refugees and Migrants, Ghent University, 18 September 2018
- Poster presentation PhD research plan 'Safe with the Neighbours?', RLI Conference Refugee Protection in a Hostile World, London, 18 July 2018
- 'UNHCR Detention Monitoring and Global Strategy Beyond Detention', presentation of 'Etat des Lieux closed centres', Transit Group (JRS, CIRE), at Federal Parliament, 23 January 2017
- 'De Asielaanvraag van Niet-Begeleide Minderjarigen: van de Theorie naar de Praktijk - COI: hoe vindt men adequate informatie over het land/de regio van oorsprong?', Platform Kinderen op de Vlucht, 13 oktober 2016
- 'Dublin III Verordening (EU) nr. 604/2013 van het Europees Parlement en de Raad van 26 juni 2013', Foyer, Brussels, 31 maart 2015
- 'La Crédibilité dans la Directive Qualification' at Colloquium *La Seconde Génération du Droit Européen de l'Asile en Droit Belge : Le Temps des Juges*, UCL, Louvain-la-Neuve, 5 December 2014
- Panel 'The challenges of a European Response', presentation of Van Reisen M., Estefanos M., Rijken C., (2014). *The Human Trafficking Cycle: Sinai and Beyond*, at European Parliament, 4 December 2013
- 'La Jurisprudence en matière d'asile concernant les Mineurs Etrangers Non-Accompagnés', Plateforme Mineurs en Exil, 21 June 2013
- 'De Asielrechtspraak betreffende Niet-Begeleide Minderjarige Vreemdelingen', Platform Kinderen op de Vlucht, 18 June 2013
- 'La crédibilité pendant les interviews d'asile', with prof. S. Sarolea and national Commissioner general for refugees and stateless persons D. Van den Bulck, Seminar *La Convention de Genève aujourd'hui: les risques*, CIRE, Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen, CBAR-BCHV, 16 December 2011
- Basis- en voortgezette vormingen familiaal IPR voor advocaten en ambtenaren burgerlijke stand, VMC, Brussels, Ghent, 2009

## Panels, roundtables and workshop participations

- Research day, Faculteit Economie en Bedrijfskunde, 'Historiek van de Belgische asielinstanties (1952-1988)' by Eva Ecker, 22 May 2023 (*discussant*)
- The New School, 'Decolonizing Refugee Governance', online, 7 April 2022
- CESSMIR Reading group on Bhabra & Holmwood 'Colonialism and Modern Social Theory', Ghent, 15 March 2022
- Meijers Committee, Conference 'Securing refugee rights in regions of origin', online, 8 December 2021
- LIBRCIRC project, Online Workshop Series 'Reconsidering Free Movement', by Nora El Qadim, Institut Convergences Migrations: 'Regional spaces of free movement', 27 May; 'Re/claiming free movement', 2 June 2021
- The State of the Union 2021, panel 'Europe in a Changing World - Equal and effective partners? The future of EU-Africa and EU-Turkey cooperation on migration and refugee protection', European University Institute, online, 6 May 2021
- Institute for Global Law & Policy, 'Turn on the Light: Sparking Critical Energy in International Law research', with Antony Anghie and David Kennedy, Harvard Law School, 6 May 2021
- IOB, CeMIS, PhD Seminar 'Bargains of Inclusion. Why Do Some Countries Allow Refugees to Work?', with Alexander Betts, University of Antwerp, online 27 April 2021
- Ghent Rolin-Jaequemyns International Law Institute (GRILI), (Post-)doctoral Seminar with prof. Martti Koskeniemi, Ghent University, online, 2 April 2021
- ICON-S, Webinar Live Event 'Publish, not Perish: Publishing Advice for Early-Career Scholars', 15 March 2021
- Francqui Chair, Opening Lecture 'Les droits humains à la lumière de la pandémie du Covid-19', by Prof. Dr. Eva Brems, Université Saint-Louis, 22 February 2021
- Webinar 'Positivism and International Law', University of Groningen, Paris II, 25 January 2021
- ODT, CNDH, Enabel, Journée Internationale des Migrants 'Les Migrants et la Pandémie de Covid-19 : Impact et Protection', 18 December 2020
- Webinar Series in honour of Sally Engle Merry, Allegra Lab/EASA LawNet: Marie-Benedicte Dembour, 'Heeding anthropological mottos in the study of law', 11 December 2020; Keebet von Benda-Beckmann, 'An intellectual odyssey. The case of legal pluralism', 29 January 2021
- Chatham House, Panel 'Beyond the Borders: To What Extent Do States Have Extraterritorial Human Rights Obligations?', 13 January 2021
- Migration and Asylum Policies (MAPS) Conference, 'Conflicting responses to Refugees and Migrants in Covid-19 Europe – Vulnerability, Hostility and the Prospects of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum', Queen Mary University London, online, 11 December 2020
- VULNER project, Webinar 'Bridging Legal and Empirical Research Methods in Migration Research: What are the Challenges?', Population Europe, Max Planck Institute, online, 10 December 2020
- Jean Monnet NOVA-EU Workshop 'Migration and EU Borders', Maastricht University, online, 3-4 December 2020
- Ghent Centre for Global Studies, Interdisciplinary Workshop 'Mobility Justice and the Politics of Human Movement', with prof. Mimi Scheller, online, 19 November 2020
- GLOBMIG project, Seminar 'Changing trends and dynamics of EU Migration Law and Governance: a critical assessment of the evolution of migration legislation and policy in Europe', University of Louvain (UCL), online, 17 November 2020
- Refugee Studies Centre, Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture, 'Mobility and immobility in the time of coronavirus: reflections from long-term study of migration and displacement' by Prof. Laura Hammond, online, 24 June 2020
- EuroMed Rights, webinar 'COVID-19, migrants' rights and governments' responses in the Euro-Mediterranean region', 15 June 2020
- 11.11.11, webinar 'The impact of COVID-19 on the human rights situation of refugees in North Africa, the Sahel and the Middle East', 10 June 2020
- Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, doctoral seminar 'Making responsibility-sharing work: the role of international law in regulating the sharing of efforts in the displacement context' by Evelien Wauters, 2 June 2020 (*discussant*)
- Centre for Fundamental Rights at the Hertie School, webinar 'Human Rights of Migrants, COVID-19 and the ECHR', 2 June 2020
- Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility, 'EU Border Closures, Asylum, and COVID-19', with Prof. Alex Aleinikoff, Prof. Didier Bigo, and Prof. Elspeth Guild, online, 15 May 2020

- Migration Policy Group (MPG), webinar 'The effects of COVID-19 on Mobility and Citizenship', Webinar, 6 May 2020
- 11.11.11, webinar 'Covid-19 At the Borders of Europe', 30 April 2020
- WG External Dimension of EU Migration Law and Policy, 'Changing trends and dynamics of EU Migration Law and Governance: a critical assessment of the evolution of migration legislation and policy in Europe' by Eleonora Frasca, 14 May 2020 (*discussant*)
- CESSMIR, UNU-CRISI, and the Department of Conflict and Development Studies, research seminar 'Qualifying Deportation' with Prof. Barak Kalir, Ghent University, 13 March 2020
- CESSMIR, UNU-CRISI, and the Department of Conflict and Development Studies, research seminar 'Borders as Markets: how fighting migration has become big business' with Prof. Ruben Andersson, Ghent University, 28 February 2020 (*discussant*)
- Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, Workshop 'Contestation and Adaptation of the EU Externalized Migration Agenda by African States' with i.a. Prof. Thomas Spijkerboer, KU Leuven, 16 December 2019
- EPC, EMN Finland, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Odysseus Network, launch of the publication "From Tampere 20 to Tampere 2.0 - Towards a New European Consensus on Migration", Finnish Embassy, Brussels, 11 December 2019.
- UGent Research Department and Interdisciplinary Consortia, Societal Impact Event, 'Communication skills for scientists: Science narratives in post-truth times', with Joris Luyendijk, Ghent, 24 September 2019
- Dutch Association for Migration Research, and NNHRR Migration and Borders Working Group, Workshop 'Legal Implications of European Trends in the Externalisation of Migration Management', with i.a. Dr Nikolas Feith Tan, Prof. Conny Rijken, Radboud University Nijmegen, 19 September 2019
- Ghent European Law Initiative (GELI), Brown Bag Seminar, 'Why 'Autonomy' should Not be Considered a General Principle of EU Law: Insights from the Law of International Organisations', by Dr. Violeta Moreno-Lax, Ghent, 5 July 2019
- Odysseus Network, 'European Agencies (FRONTEX, EASO) as the new institutional framework', with Dr Lilian Tsourdi (Oxford University), Jamil Addou (EASO), and David Reizenzein (Frontex), ULB, Brussels, 4 July 2019
- EPC, EMN, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Odysseus Network, Roundtable 'From Tampere 20 to Tampere 2.0 – Partnership with Countries of Origin', with Prof. V. Chetail and prof. E. Guild, Brussels, 12 June 2019
- RLI Research Affiliate Workshop, 'Doing research on refuge: Challenges and Commonalities', University of London, 6 June 2019
- Intergovernmental Conference on the Global Compact for Migration, Side Events, Marrakesh, 8-9 December 2018
- Asser Institute, KNVIR, VSR, Masterclass 'Empirical & Socio-legal Methods in International Law', with Dr. V. Fikfak and Dr. S. Dezalay, The Hague, 20 November 2018
- European Law Academy (ERA), 'The Refugee Crisis – What role for EU law vs. politics?', Brussels, 18 November 2015
- CGVS, Workshop 'Hoger belang van het kind in de asielprocedure', 20 November 2014
- ICJ, Roundtable 'Asylum claims based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression', 27 June 2014

### **Expert consultancy and advice**

- Vluchtelingenwerk, 11.11.11, Caritas International, research report on alternative solidarity mechanisms in asylum policy, April-June 2023 (unpublished)
- OneWorld, 'Een jaar na 'Melilla': ['Grenswachten sloegen mijn vrienden dood'](#), Brecht De Vleeschauwer, 23 juni 2023 (quotes)
- Apache, 'In de Marokkaanse wachtkamer van Europa', Brecht De Vleeschauwer, maart 2023 (quotes)
- De Standaard, ['Waar zijn 'onze' 150 asielzoekers uit Moria gebleven?'](#), Annelies Bontjes & Tessa Kraan, 12 November 2022 (quotes)
- De Morgen, ['Dit is stemmingmakerij': 'IKEA-plan' van Vlaams Belang over migratie botst op kritiek, IKEA onthutst'](#), An Boersma, 15 november 2022 (quotes)
- VRT News (public broadcaster), on push-backs and international refugee law, 6 May 2021
- Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on Morocco's migration policy, 31 March 2021



- SP.a (social-democratic party), on Government migration and asylum programme, 18 November 2020
- Academic network 'Wellbeing, Vulnerability and Resilience' of Fedasil (Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers), 24 April 2019, 17 September 2019
- Knack, ['Er zijn tientallen oorlogs misdadigers in België \(maar we weten niet waar ze zijn\)'](#), Marie Borremans & Evi Declercq, 13 June 2018 (quotes)
- Ministry of Justice, on the proposed reform of the legal aid system, 24 June 2015
- Dublin reform consultation stakeholders meeting, DG Home European Commission, 11 December 2015
- Evaluation of Qualification Directive, ICF for DG Home, 2015
- NGO consultation during periodic country visit of Mr Nils Muiznieks, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe, on deficiencies in the asylum system and the reform of the legal aid system, 14 September 2015
- Kinderrechtencommissariaat, Luistergroep Heen & Retour, 14 October 2013
- State Secretary on Migration and Asylum, protection and return policy Afghans, 2 October 2013
- European Parliament, LIBE preparatory meeting delegation to Greece, 10 October 2012
- ECRE, Asylum System Core Group, 2012-2014
- CGVS, Overleg beschermingsbeleid Afghansen cfr. UNHCR Richtlijnen, 6 November 2013
- Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen, Report 'Holebi's op de vlucht – een analyse van beslissingen door de asielinstanties', mei 2013
- Expert consultative panel UNHCR 'Mapping Statelessness in Belgium', 2011-2012, Report presented in Federal Parliament on 6 February 2013
- European External Policy Advisors (EEPA), Prof. Van Reisen (Tilburg University) on the application of the Dublin Regulation for refugees from the Horn of Africa (for the book *The Human Trafficking Cycle: Sinai and Beyond*), 2014
- Written note to Aliens Office (DVZ-OE) on ECtHR Tarakhel judgement impact on Dublin procedure, 14 November 2014
- NGO Consultation by DG Home on Belgian transposition of EU Asylum Acquis, September 2013
- Written note to Parliamentary Commission Internal Affairs on proposed changes of the Aliens Act related to multiple asylum applications, 5 February 2013
- Asylum Information Database (AIDA) national expert, 2013-2015
- Bi-annual meeting with Federal Ombudsman on asylum related affairs, 2013-2015
- Platform Justice pour Tous/Recht voor Iedereen, 2014-2015
- Coordination Contact meeting (monthly exchange platform asylum authorities and NGOs), 2010-2015
- Coordination Protection meeting UNHCR-National NGOs, 2013-2015
- Input for UNHCR policy notes, 2010-2015
- Journalist Dalton M. 'Europe Deports more Iraqis' in Wall Street Journal, 2010
- Justice Ministry, overleg Aanpak schijnhuwelijken, 23 November 2008 (VMC)
- Ministry of the Flemish Community, Department of Wellbeing, Public Health and Families, overleg Eergerelateerd geweld, 9 February 2009 (VMC)

## Teaching

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### Courses

#### 2022-2023

- Assistant in Law & Society (by prof. dr. Desmet, 30h), Ghent University, Bachelor of Laws
- Assistant Legal clinic Migration Law, Ghent University, Masters of Laws

#### 2017-2019:

- 'International and national protection statuses and procedures' (6h, in Dutch), in Migration Law (by prof. dr. Desmet, 30h), Ghent University, Master of Laws in Laws and Master of Science in Criminological Sciences (teaching assistant)

### Guest lectures

- On socio-legal research findings and legal consciousness, in Legal Anthropology course (prof. Ellen Desmet), Ghent University, 12 March 2021



- On the effects of EU migration policy externalisation in Morocco and the Global South, in European and International Migration Law and Policy course (prof. Ellen Desmet), online, 3 March 2021
- On legal consciousness (with Ayse Gdk), in Legal Anthropology (prof. Ellen Desmet), Ghent University, for Bachelor of Laws in Laws, online, 23 April 2020
- 'Asylum and refugee law: basic principles', for Legal Clinic Human Rights and Migration Law (prof. dr. E. Brems, prof dr. E. Desmet), Ghent University, Master of Laws in Laws and Master of Science in Criminological Sciences, 2019
- 'Non-refoulement and international refugee law', for the Moot Court in Human Rights (prof. dr. Y. Haeck), and for the Moot Court in International Migration Law (prof. dr. E. Desmet), Ghent University, Master of Laws in Laws and Master of Science in Criminological Sciences, 2019
- 'Belgian asylum and refugee law', for Permanente Vorming Bedigd tolken (prof. dr. Bart Defrancq), Ghent University, Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication, 2019

### **Assistance**

- Legal Clinic migration law
- Research Master theses (IMARC)
- Bachelor theses (Law & Society)
- Master theses (Migration Law): commissioner for theses on the refugee in Islamic law; revocation of refugee status recognition (2018-'20); internal flight alternative Afghanistan; African asylum systems; protection for Venezuelan refugees in the USA (2019-'21); cessation of refugee status in the African Refugee Convention (2021-'22)
- Moot Court International Migration Law: moot case drafter, member of organising committee, and judge and presentation photo portraits 'Article 15' (2019-'22)
- CESSMIR 2022 Conference 'Contemporary Forms of Racism and Discrimination', preparatory team (2019-'22)

### **Academic service to society**

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#### **Internal academic service delivery**

- Council of the Department of European, Public and International Law, Faculty of Law and Criminology, Ghent University, 2020-2021
- Commission for Scientific Research, Faculty of Law and Criminology, Ghent University, 2019-2021
- Scientific Research Funding Commission, Faculty of Law and Criminology, Ghent University, 2020-2021
- Valorisation Group Scientific Research, Faculty of Law and Criminology, Ghent University, 2019-2021

#### **Membership of scientific organisations and editorial boards**

- Steering Board Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees (CESSMIR), 2022-present
- International Encyclopaedia of Law, editorial team Migration Law, 2022-present
- *Tijdschrift voor Vreemdelingenrecht* (Journal of Migration Law), editorial board, 2017-present
- Working Group on Decolonising Asylum Law, Refugee Law Initiative (RLI), 2022-present
- Working Group of junior researchers at Belgian universities on the External Dimension of EU Migration Law and Policy, founding member, 2020-present
- Working Group on Externalisation of EU Migration Policy, Refugee Law Initiative (RLI), 2020-present
- Human Rights Centre (HRC), Ghent University, 2017-present
- Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees (CESSMIR), Ghent University, 2017-present
- Ghent Rolin-Jaequemyns International Law Institute (GRILI), Ghent University, 2018-present
- Inter-University Network on Law and Development (LAW&DEV), 2019-present
- ULB Refugee Law Clinic, member of the steering committee, 2017-present

- Refugee Law Initiative (RLI), University of London, research affiliate, 2018-present
- International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe (IMISCOE) research network, 2021
- Comité de pilotage Refugee Law Clinic, Université Libre de Bruxelles, 2017-present

### Peer review

- Journals: NQHR, Tijdschrift voor Vreemdelingenrecht, GoJIL
- Monographs: on Eritrean refugees, family reunification, rights of the child, valorising migration law experiences
- NGO reports: on first country of asylum, detention, exclusion, ...
- Official reports: on long-term irregular staying migrants

### Science communication to a wider public

#### Presentations

- Panel 'We are Belgium too', Kortrijk, 7 May 2022
- 'Vluchtelingenbescherming: verantwoordelijkheid van staten', CESSMIR Research Day: Migratieonderzoek in de praktijk, BELMONDO festival, Ghent University, 21 March 2019
- 'Vluchtelingen crisis: hoezo? Over asiel en migratie, in België en de EU', Vormingplus Kortrijk, 2017

#### Blogposts, opinions, websites

- Interview in '[Het viel te verwachten dat er opnieuw doden zouden vallen aan de Spaanse enclaves in Marokko](#)' by Yassin Akouh, *MO\**, 25 juli 2022.
- '[Wil jij in een land leven waar de regering beslissingen van rechters negeert?](#)' (co-author), opinie, *VRT NWS*, 19 June 2022.
- '[Postcoloniale paniek](#)', column, *Asiel- & Migratierecht*, Sept. 2021.
- Interview in 'Un instrument universel puissant' by Tine Danckaers, *Septentrion*, 2021 (50), 40-45.
- Guest scientist in *UGent'ers*, magazine for Ghent University personnel, Nov. 2020 (2).
- '[Push backs of "badly behaving" migrants at Spanish border are not collective expulsions \(but might still be illegal refoulements\)](#)', *Strasbourg Observers*, 25 February 2020.
- '[Francken pimpt terugkeercijfers met asielzoekers](#)', *Knack*, 4 August 2018.
- '[Systematic detention of asylum seekers at the border : on the need for an individualised necessity test](#)', *Strasbourg Observers*, 9 June 2017.
- '[Turkije, het derde "veilige" land](#)', *MO\** blog, 21 March 2016.
- '[Juridisch koorddans met Turkije humanitaire schande voor EU](#)', *MO\** opinie, 25 March 2016.
- '[Statelessness having been mapped, it's time to act now for Belgian authorities, before momentum passes](#)', ENS guest blog, 13 February 2013.
- 'Ouderlijke Verantwoordelijkheid', VMC/Agentschap Integratie & Inburgering, vreemdelingenrecht.be, 2009, (<http://www.agii.be/thema/vreemdelingenrecht-internationaal-privaatrecht/familiaal-ipr/ouderlijke-verantwoordelijkheid>).

#### Miscellaneous:

- 'Article 15', photo portrait project of Congolese migrants in Rabat, with photographer Inès Bouallou, 2021-2022

### Skills

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#### Language skills

- Dutch: mother tongue
- English: fluent
- French: fluent
- Spanish: good
- German: basic

#### Computer skills

Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook, Adobe Acrobat Professional, NVivo, Twitter @BelgianRefugee @HRC\_UGent

## Training & conferences (selection)

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- PROTECT, The Right to International Protection. A Pendulum between Globalisation and Nationization?, Final Conference, Brussels, 6-8 March 2023
- NANSEN Colloquium 'International Protection and Vulnerabilities', Royal Belgian Library, Brussels, 30 September 2022
- The Africa Centre for Transregional Research (ACT), Conference 'Africa-Europe: Reciprocal Perspectives', University of Freiburg, 7-10 June 2022
- EDEM Conference "The Time of Territories", Université catholique Louvain-la-Neuve, 9-10 May 2022
- IMISCOE, Annual Conference 'Crossing borders, connecting cultures', University of Luxembourg, online, 7-9 July 2021
- Refugee Law Initiative (RLI), 5th Annual Conference, 'Ageing Gracefully? The 1951 Refugee Convention at 70', University of London, online, 9-11 June 2021
- The European Union in International Affairs (EUIA), Conference 'Assessing the EU's Capacity to Act', online, 26-28 May 2021
- European Society of International Law (ESIL), Research Forum 'Solidarity: the Quest for Founding Utopias of International Law', online, 15-16 April 2021
- ASILE, Annual Conference 'Global Asylum Governance and the EU's Role: Implementing the UN Global Compact on Refugees and the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum', CEPS, online, 22-23 March 2021
- Doctoral School, 'The Erasure of the Global South', by Prof. Spijkerboer, Francqui International Chair, Ghent University, online, 9 sessions, January-June 2021
- Verfassungsblog.de, Conference 'Multiple Legalities. Conflict and Entanglement in the Global Legal Order', online, 13-15 January 2021
- VSR (Association for the Social-Scientific Study of Law), Conference 'Law and Uncertainty', Radboud University Nijmegen, 16-17 January 2020
- Consortium Belgian NGOs (Vluchtelingenwerk, NANSEN, 11.11.11), Conference 'Voorbij Terugkeer/Au-delà du Retour', Belgian Parliament, 9 December 2019
- Doctoral School, 'Ethnography in challenging contexts: observing and responding to deviance and conflict', by Prof. Tom Decorte, Ghent University, 5 September 2019
- Refugee Law Initiative (RLI), University of London, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 'Rethinking the 'Regional' in Refugee Law and Policy', London, 3-6 June 2019
- Doctoral School, 'Presentation Skills in English', 22, 29 May, 5, 12 June 2019
- CESSMIR, 'Research Seminars in the Social Study of Migration and Refugees', 20-24 May 2019
- Ghent University, Die Keure, 'Het Migratiepact: kroniek van een crisis. Actuele vragen uit internationaal recht, grondwettelijk recht en migratierecht', Ghent University, 8 May 2019
- Doctoral School, 'Fostering Responsible Conduct of Research', Ghent University, 6 May 2019
- Doctoral School, 'Creative Thinking', by Dr. Jamie McDonald, Ghent University, 26-27 March 2019
- UNU-CRIS, Workshop 'Qualitative Research Skills', by Dr. Vanessa Newby, Bruges, 19 March 2019
- Doctoral School, Seminar 'Doing research in Africa: funding, ethics and integrity', Ghent University, 26 February 2018
- Doctoral School, 'Communication skills: writing for non-peers and the press', by Ann De Ron, Ghent University, 15 & 22 January 2019
- AIRE Centre, ECRE, Training 'Strategic Litigation', 1-2 October 2018
- CESSMIR, 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference 'Needs and Care Practices for Refugees and Migrants', Ghent University, 17-19 September 2018
- Refugee Law Initiative (RLI), University of London, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference 'Refugee Protection in a Hostile World', London, 18-19 July 2018
- Doctoral School, 'Qualitative data analysis with NVIVO 11', by Prof. D. Mortelmans, Ghent University, 19-20 June 2018
- UCL, Université Saint-Louis, International Francqui Professor François Crépeau Colloquium 'Contrôles et Hospitalités. Vers des politiques migratoires qui renforcent la démocratie contemporaine', Brussels, 4 May 2018
- Doctoral School, 'Developing interview questions and basic interview skills', by Prof. P. Stevens, Hasselt University, 26 April 2018

- Doctoral School, 'Narrative Analysis', by Prof C. Gilligan and Prof. G. Loos, VUB Brussels, 19-20 April 2018
- Class of Excellence, 'Human Rights Law taking up the Migration Challenge?' with prof. Crépeau, Ghent University, 29 March 2018
- Doctoral Seminar, Empirical Methods in Social-Legal Research, with Dr. L. Israel, ULB, Centre d'histoire du droit et d'anthropologie juridique, 27 March 2018
- European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), Annual General Conferences, Dublin 2012; Prague, 2013; Brussels, 2014; The Hague, 2015
- UNHCR, Tilburg University, Global Forum on Statelessness, The Hague, 15-17 September 2014
- European Database of Asylum Law (EDAL), 'Reflections on the current application of the EU Asylum Acquis', Dublin, 17-18 January 2014
- UNU-MERIT, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 'Complexities and Challenges in Afghan Migration Research and Policy', Brussels, 8-9 April 2013
- European Network on Statelessness (ENS), 'Addressing Statelessness in Europe', Budapest, 19-21 November 2012
- Refugee Studies Centre (RSC), University of Oxford, 'Palestinian refugees and International Law', 10-11 March 2012
- Chaire W.J. Ganshof Van Der Meersch, Institut d'Etudes Européennes, ULB, 'Principles of International Refugee Law' by Prof. Goodwin-Gill, February-March 2011
- European Legal Network on Asylum (ELENA), 'The Common European Asylum System: Ten Years On – Developments to Date and Future Challenges', Vienna, 13-15 November 2009
- KUL, UA, ULB, Colloquium 'De nieuwe Vreemdelingenwet: België in lijn met de Europese regelgeving', Brussels, 6-7 February 2008
- Rode Kruis België, International Humanitarian Law, Bilzen, 18-20 October 2006
- Leerstoel Migratie, 'Actuele tendensen in het vreemdelingenrecht', UA, February-May 2005
- Balie van Advocaten, Stageschool, 'Stagelessen tot het bekomen van een bekwaamheidsattest voor de uitoefening van het beroep van advocaat' Antwerpen, 2004-'05

#### **Societal engagement (selection)**

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- NANSEN (the Belgian Refugee Council), co-founder and member of the board, 2017-present
- Globe Aroma, member of the board, 2016-present, chair 2020-2021
- Chair of parents council, member of school council, Sint-Joris Brussels, 2018-present
- Brutopia (co-housing project), member of the board, 2008-2016; council of co-owners, 2022-present
- *Liga voor de Mensenrechten* (League for Human Rights), council member, 2018-2022
- *Commissie voor Advies in Vreemdelingenzaken* (Advisory Commission in Aliens Affairs), member, 2012-2016
- *Commissie van Toezicht op het Gevangeniswezen* (Monitoring Commission of the Prison System), Sint-Gillis prison, member, 2010-2013
- *Uit de Marge*, member of the board, 2008-2013