

ANISSA BOUGREA

Postdoctoral Fellow, European University Institute

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Research interests: International development aid / banking, financialisation, geopoliticisation, coloniality

Academic Positions

Postdoctoral fellow , <i>European University Institute</i> , Florence, Italy	Sept 2025 - Sept 2027
• Max Weber Fellowship, "Geopolitics, Security, and Development: Reconfiguring (EU) Aid through Financialization"	
Pre-doctoral research fellow , <i>GIES, Ghent University</i>	Nov 2021 - Nov 2025
• FWO-funded PhD, Political Science, "European Financial Architecture for Development: Financializing EU Aid?"	
Research assistant , <i>Ghent institute for International and European Studies (GIES)</i>	April 2021 - Oct 2021
Teaching assistant , <i>Ghent institute for International and European Studies (GIES)</i>	Nov 2020 - April 2021
<u>Visiting positions:</u>	
• Visiting scholar , <i>Department of Political Economy</i> , King's College London, UK	Nov 2023 - Dec 2023

Education

Pre-doctoral research fellow , <i>GIES, Ghent University</i> , Belgium	Nov 2021 - Nov 2025
• FWO-funded PhD, Political Science, "European Financial Architecture for Development: Financializing EU Aid?"	
Ghent University , Belgium - MA International Politics (<i>Honours programme - Summa Cum Laude</i>)	Sep 2018 - Jul 2020
Sichuan University School of Economics , China - Summer School	Jun 2019 - Jul 2019
Chestnut Hill College , USA - Communications & Media (<i>Honour student - Magna Cum Laude</i>)	Aug 2015 - Dec 2015
Howest , Belgium - BA Journalism (<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>)	Sep 2013 - Jun 2016

Research agenda

My research examines how **development aid** is increasingly aligned with **security** and **geopolitical objectives**. I analyse the **financialization of development** and its implications for development finance institutions, focusing on how blended finance and de-risking instruments are used to mobilize private capital for geopolitical ends. I further explore how emerging and **middle powers**, notably **South Korea**, navigate the evolving multilateral context through minilateral cooperation. Through case studies on domestic capital market creation and the **Green Climate Fund**, I show how financialised development, especially in Africa and within green transition narratives, reproduces logics of **global competition**, **extractivism**, and the coloniality of money. My analysis draws on critical international political economy and decolonial thought.

Publications

Peer-reviewed journal articles:

- Bougrea, Anissa & Vermeiren, Mattias (2025). [Rolling out the Wall Street Consensus? Multilateral development banks and the trilemma of private capital mobilization](#). *Competition & Change*.
- Bougrea, Anissa (2024). [The European Investment Bank in sub-Saharan Africa: Constrained Expansion](#). *Journal of Economic Policy Reform*, 1-25. [In Special Issue: Realigning European public financial architecture for the twenty-first century](#).

Publications

- Bougrea, Anissa, Orbie, Jan, Vermeiren, Mattias (2022). [The New European Financial Architecture for Development: Change or Continuity?](#). *European Foreign Affairs Review*, 27(3)

Peer-reviewed book chapters:

- Bougrea, Anissa, Orbie, Jan. (2025) [Development finance in EU-OACPS: From Wall Street to Schuman Square?](#) In: Langan, M. and Price, S. (eds.). *Africa, the EU and the Samoa Agreement: Exploring African Agency amid the 'New Scramble'*. Routledge.
- Orbie, Jan & Bougrea, Anissa (2025, August 29th). [International development: A distinct and challenged policy domain](#). In: Wallace, H., Pollack, M. A., Roederer-Rynning, C., & Young, A. R. (Eds.) *Policy-making in the European Union*. Oxford University Press.

Other:

- Orbie, J., Alcazar III, A., Bougrea, A., Nagy, S., Oleart, A., Paz, J. C., ... & Wodzka, I. (2023). [Decolonizing Rather than Decentring 'Europe'](#). *European Foreign Affairs Review*, 28(1), 1-8.

Working Papers

Work in progress:

- Bougrea, Anissa & Staeger, Ueli. EU-Africa Relations and the Coloniality of Money: Analysing funding and financing. [Journal of Common Market Studies](#) - Submission December 2025.
- Bougrea, Anissa. Book Review: 'The World Bank - A critical History by Eric Helleiner'. [Journal of Development Studies](#). Submission: December 2025.
- Bougrea, Anissa. *The Global Gateway and the Rearticulation of Geopolitics in EU-Africa Investment Partnerships*.
- Book Manuscript: *The Mechanics of EU Development Aid: Financialisation in EU-Africa Relations*
- Bougrea, Anissa & Kasse B'Nicco, Tina. *Between Washington, Brussels, and Beijing: African agency in the politics of development finance*. - [Special Issue 2027 - Journal of Common Market Studies](#) - Draft
- Bougrea, Anissa & Kong, Mengjing. *Partners or Rivals? EU and China's Competing Models of Climate Finance in the Green Climate Fund*. Draft
- Bougrea, Anissa. *From Busan to Global Gateway: The Korea Development Bank, the Green Climate Fund, and the Geopolitics of Financialised Aid*. Draft

Policy & Newspaper writing

- Bougrea, A. & Gate, N. (2025) [MDB Reform For More And Better Climate Finance Data, Allocation, Local Ownership And Impact](#) G20 / T20.
- Bougrea, A., (2023), [Basisinkomen verkend: Van historische wortels tot publieke sentiment](#), [Review (NL) of the books "Welfare for Markets: A Global History of Basic Income", by A. Jäger and D. Zamora Vargas, and "The Popularity of Basic Income", by T. Laenen], Samenleving & Politiek, Jaargang 30, 2023, nr. 10 (December).
- Van Coppenolle et al. (2023). [The Global Energy Crisis](#) (Eds. H. Van Coppenolle, S. Taghon, A. Bougrea, & T. Haesebrouck). Ghent: Ghent University. Ghent Institute for International and European Studies (GIES).
- Bougrea, Anissa. (2020). [How the EIB can take the climate into account](#). Apache
- Bougrea, Anissa (2020) [30+ News Articles](#) at the Foreign Affairs desk of De Standaard.

Grants

- ESR EUI - Early Stage Researchers Grant EUI - Field work grant in South-Korea, €1800 (2025)
- Meet The Expert - Flemish Government - Lecture Prof. Bernhard Rheinsberg Strategic Information and Europeans' Willingness to Compensate for US Aid Suspensions (2025)
- Flanders Research Foundation (FWO), Flemish Government - Travel Grant IPSA, Seoul, South-Korea (2025)
- IPPA - ICPP7 - Travel grant: Accommodation and conference fee (2025)
- European University Institute - Max Weber (Post-doc) Fellowship (September 2025-2027)
- Doctoral Schools Ghent University - Travel grant, Summer School Domestic politics and global governance: interests, institutions, information, and identity (ECPR), Glasgow, UK, €600 (2024)

Grants

- *Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions* - Poster Travel Grant, MSCA Presidency Conference, €750 (2024)
- *Review of Political Economy* - IPE Workshop Travel Grant, San Francisco, USA, \$500 (2024)
- *International Studies Association* - Conference Travel Grant, San Francisco, USA, \$700 (2024)
- *Doctoral Schools Hasselt University* - Course organisation fees, Workshop: "Critical Social Science Methodologies for Studying Power", €4339 (2023)
- *Doctoral Schools Ghent University* - Course organisation fees, Seminar: "Challenging The Mainstream: Critical, Pos(-)colonial, and Decolonial theory, €3815 (2023)
- *Doctoral Schools Ghent University* - Travel grant, Master Class "Economic Liberation in Post-Independence Africa", BIGSAS, Bayreuth, Germany, €500 (2022)
- *Flanders Research Foundation (FWO)*, Flemish Government, Full Doctoral Scholarship, €142.147 (2021-2025).
- *Special Research Fund (BOF)*, Ghent University, Full Doctoral Scholarship, €118.560 (Oct 2021(-2025).
- *EISCAS, ERASMUS+* - Central Asia Master Class Grant, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland, €1200 (2020).
- *China federal grant* - Summerschool, Sichuan University School of Economics, China, ¥6850 + study and board (2019).
- *Generieke Beurzen Flemish Government* - Study abroad, Chestnut Hill College, USA, €2770 + study fees (2015).

Service

- Editorial Team member - [Journal of Economic Policy Reform](#) 2024 - present
- PhD Representative - *Faculty of Political Science' Research Committee*, Ghent University 2023 - 2025
- Editor - *Editorial Board Ghent Institute for European and International Studies* 2022 - 2025
- Co-founder & organiser - *Learning Network on Decolonization*, Ghent University 2021 - 2025
- PhD Representative - *Faculty of Political Science' Education Committee*, Ghent University 2021 - 2025
- PhD Representative - *Faculty of Political Science' Diversity Committee*, Ghent University 2021 - 2025
- Student Rep - *Faculty of Political Science' Sustainability Working Group*, Ghent University 2021
- Student Representative - *Faculty of Political Science' Education Committee*, Ghent University 2019-2021
- Student Representative - *Faculty of Political Science' Diversity Committee*, Ghent University 2019-2021

Awards

- *Honours Programme Think & Talk* - Ghent University - Interfaculty Honours Program (2020).
- *Dean's List* - Chestnut Hill College, USA - Academic Achievement (top 1-5% of faculty academic results) (2015).

Teaching experience

Free University Brussels (VUB)

- Guest Lecture: The Coloniality of International Political Economy 2024, MA level

King's College London (UK)

- Guest Lecture: EU-Africa Relations: Samoa Agreement from a Decolonial Perspective 2023, MA level

Ghent University (Belgium)

Principal instructor (lecturer)

- Current Affairs in International Politics: Global Gateway vs Belt & Road Initiative 2022-2025 MA level
 - Full year course consisting of 2 seminars + guided feedback on an essay and Oxford Debate as oral exam
- Thematic Specialisation in EU Politics: EU development finance 2022-2023 MA level
 - Full year course: 2 intro lectures followed by weekly seminars, Brussels excursion and two essays
- Community Service Learning: Decolonising the university 2021-2022 MA level
 - Full year course: First semester weekly seminars + essay; second semester guidance on creation podcast

Guest lectures

- International Political Economy: Decolonising IPE 2022, 2023, 2024 MA level
 - 3-hour lecture, followed by a 3-hour seminar

Teaching experience

Teaching Assistant

- EU Global Justice 2020, 2021, 2023 MA level
 - Co-design course, grade weekly discussion notes, guide book reading groups,...
- EU Trade Policy 2021 MA level
 - Teach two 3-hour lectures, bi-weekly 1,5h prep students followed by 1,5h practitioner 'lecturer', Oxford Debate
- Winners and Losers of Globalisation 2020 BA level
 - Grade 2 essays and provide feedback, administer oral exams (large group >40), general student follow-up

Talks & Events

- Panel Talk - [Model United Nations: Is Development a Force for Good in The World?](#) - Free Uni Brussels May 3, 2025
- Panel Talk - [System Shakers: Social Innovation - Academia and Resistance to Authoritarianism \(NL\)](#) Nov 4, 2024
- Roundtable: [Approches pédagogiques inclusives et décoloniales dans les études européennes \(FR\)](#) June 28, 2024
- Sciences Po Lille
- Seminar: Multilateral Development Banks & The WSC - King's College London March 18, 2024
- Moderator - [Imperialism, supremacy, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine](#) - Ghent University March 15, 2024
- Moderator - [Break Up with Israel](#) - Ghent University / VierNulVier Feb 14, 2024
- Moderator - [Orde, Wanorde en Dekoloniseren: In het spoor van Fanon](#) - Decolonize VUB May 8, 2023

Conferences & Presentations

(P) Presenter, (D) Discussant, (C) Chair, (O) Organiser

- EU-VALUES - *The EU at a Crossroads Conference* - Jakarta, Ind - Dec 2025 (P)
- Korea & Japan Foundation - *Minilateralism: challenges and opportunities for Global North Middle Powers* - Nov 2025
- NEAR-ER - *Africa-Europe Relations in an Age of Global Reshuffle* - Rabat, Mor - Oct 2025 (P, D)
- IPSA - *The financialization and geopoliticization of EU aid to Africa under Global Gateway* - Seoul, S-K - July 2025 (P)
- IPPA - *EU-Africa Relations and the Coloniality of Money: funding and financing* - Chiang Mai, Th- July 2025 (P)
- EUIA - *MDBs and the trilemma of private capital mobilization* - Brussels, B - May 2025 (P)
- ISA - *Regional development bank responses to the ongoing polycrisis* - Chicago, USA - March 2025 (P, D)
- UACES - *Euroglot Panels Co-organiser: Thinking Europe differently?* Trento, It - August 2024 (P, D, C, O)
- ECPR SGEU - *EU-Africa Relations and the Coloniality of Money: Analysing funding and financing* - Lisbon, Pt - June 2024 (P)
- Politicologenetmaal - *Scaling Blended Finance? MDBs and the Wall Street Consensus* - Maastricht, NL - June 2024 (P, D)
- Global Transformations and Governance Conference - *The Role of Multilateral Development Banks in Scaling Blended Finance: Challenges and Constraints* - Den Hague, NL, June 2024 (P)
- Coordination of Public Development Banking Conference - *Development Banks in Sub-Saharan Africa: Geopolitics, Institutional Competition, and Risk Aversion* - Luxembourg, Lux - May 2024 (P)
- Marie Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Conference - *Beyond the Ivory Tower* - Bergen, B - May 2024 (P)
- ISA Conference - *Development finance in EU-OACPS relations* - San Francisco, USA - April 2024 (P)
- RIPE Pre-ISA Workshop - *MDB Efficacy in Mobilizing Private Capital* - San Francisco, USA - April 2024 (P)
- ABSP Conference - *Le vivre-ensemble au prisme de l'économie politique* - Liège, B - January 2024 (P)
- NEAR Workshop - *Africa-EU Relationship* - London, UK - December 2023 (P)
- UACES Annual Conference - [Euroglot Track Co-organiser](#) - Belfast, Ireland - September 2023 (P, D, C, O)
- EUIA Conference - *An evolving EU Development Policy: Actorness, perspectives & contributions* - Brussels, B - May 2023 (P)
- CPERN Annual Conference - *What Next for Financialisation?* - Naples, It - June 2023 (P)
- ECPR Joint Sessions - *Resourcing International Organizations* - Toulouse, Fr - April 2023 (P & D)
- NEAR Workshop - *EU-OACPS Relations in the Post-Cotonou Era* - London, UK - November 2022 (P & D)
- BIGSAS Master Class - *Economic Liberation in Post-Independence Africa* - Bayreuth, D - May 2022, (P, D)
- EIB Conference - *European Public Banks and their Development Role* - Luxembourg, Lux - July 2022 (P)
- UACES Annual Conference - *Contested EU Approaches to Development in the Global South* - Online - September 2021 (P)

Skills

- Languages: Dutch (native), English (C2), French (C1), T'mzight (B2), Korean (B1), German (B1), Arabic (B1)
- IT: NVIVO, R, Wordpress, Adobe Premiere Pro, Final Cut Pro X, Adobe Photoshop, Lightroom

References

Professor Jan Orbie

Department of Political and Social Sciences at Ghent University, Belgium

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Professor Mattias Vermeiren

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Professor Toni Haastrup

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