

ANISSA BOUGREA

Postdoctoral Fellow, European University Institute



www.anissabougrea.com | anissa.bougrea@eui.eu

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

Academic Positions

Postdoctoral fellow, *European University Institute* - Italy Sept 2025 - Sept 2027
• Max Weber Fellowship, "Geopolitics, Security, and Development: Reconfiguring (EU) Aid through Financialization"

Pre-doctoral fellow, *GIES, Ghent University* - Belgium Nov 2021 - Nov 2025
• FWO PhD fellowship, Political Science, "European Financial Architecture for Development: Financializing EU Aid?"

Research assistant, *Ghent Institute for International and European Studies (GIES)* April 2021 - Oct 2021

Teaching assistant, *Ghent Institute for International and European Studies (GIES)* Nov 2020 - April 2021

Visiting positions:

• **Visiting scholar**, Institute of East-West Studies & Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, Yonsei University - South-Korea Feb 2026-May 2026

• **Visiting scholar**, Department of Political Economy, King's College London - UK Nov 2023 - Dec 2023

Education

Pre-doctoral research fellow, *GIES, Ghent University*, Belgium Nov 2021 - Nov 2025
• FWO-funded PhD, Political Science, "European Financial Architecture for Development: Financializing EU Aid?"

Ghent University, Belgium - MA International Politics (*Honours programme - Summa Cum Laude*) Sep 2018 - Jul 2020

Sichuan University School of Economics, China - Summer School Jun 2019 - Jul 2019

Chestnut Hill College, USA - Communications & Media (*Honour student - Magna Cum Laude*) Aug 2015 - Dec 2015

Howest, Belgium - BA Journalism (*Summa Cum Laude*) 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

Under review

- Bougrea, Anissa & Staeger, Ueli. EU-Africa Relations and the Coloniality of Money: Analysing funding and financing. [Journal of Common Market Studies](#) - Submission January 2026

Work in progress:

- Bougrea, Anissa. Book Review: 'The World Bank - A critical History by Eric Helleiner'. [Journal of Development Studies](#). Submission: February 2026.
- Bougrea, Anissa. *The Global Gateway and the Rearticulation of Geopolitics in EU-Africa Investment Partnerships*.
- Bougrea, Anissa & Kasse B'Nicco, Tina. *Between Washington, Brussels, and Beijing: African agency in the politics of development finance*.

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, €2800 (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)
- 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)

Grants

- *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 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: [Normative power or geopolitical actor? Global perceptions of the European Union](#) - EUI. Jan 25, 2026
- Presentation - Global Gateway: What is it? - [Oxfam](#) Jan 6, 2026
- Panel - [Model United Nations: Is Development a Force for Good in The World?](#) - Free Uni Brussels May 3, 2025
- Panel - [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* - Luxemburg, 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

Professorial Fellow at United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS)

Jan.Orbie@ugent.be

Professor Mattias Vermeiren

Department of Political and Social Sciences at Ghent university, Belgium

Mattias.Vermeiren@ugent.be

Professor Toni Hastrup

Chair in Global Politics at the Department of Politics at Manchester University, UK

Toni.Haastrup@manchester.ac.uk

Professor Stephanie Hofmann

Joint Chair in International Relations between the Department of Political and Social Science and Robert Schuman Centre of Advanced Studies at European University Institute, Italy

Stephanie.hofmann@eui.eu