

# ANISSA BOUGREA

Postdoctoral Fellow, European University Institute



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Research interests: International development, global governance, sustainability, financialisation, security

## Academic Positions

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

**Doctoral fellow**, *Ghent University, GIES* - Belgium Nov 2021 - Sep 2025  
• Doctor of Political Science - Thesis: "The Financialisation of European Union Development Aid to Africa"

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

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

## Education

**Ghent University**, Belgium - Ghent Institute for International and European Studies, PhD Nov 2021 - Sep 2025  
• Doctor of Political Science - Thesis: "The Financialisation of European Union Development Aid to Africa: Promises, Practices, and Colonial Continuities"

**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** navigate the evolving multilateral context through multilateral cooperation. Through case studies on International organisations such as the **Green Climate Fund** and **World Bank**, I show how financialised development, especially in the Global South and within green transition narratives, reproduces logics of **global competition**, **extractivism**, and the coloniality of money.

## 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*. [SSCI]
- 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](#). [SSCI]

## Publications

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

### 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:

- Bougrea, A. (2026). Book Review. *The World Bank: A Critical History*: By Eric Toussaint London: Pluto Books, 2023, 432 pp., £45 (hardback), ISBN: 9780745348285 (hardback). [The Journal of Development Studies](#), <https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2026.2660440>. [SSCI]
- 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. [SCOPUS]

## Working Papers

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### Under review

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

### Work in progress:

- Bougrea, Anissa & Xiaoye She. (2026) EU-ASEAN Cooperation Amid US-China Tensions: Toward Strategic Autonomy? In: L. Danner & B. Chand (Eds.) *Europe-Asia Relations Amid U.S. Global Reorientation: Cooperation, Competition, and Strategic Realignment in a Multipolar World*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Bougrea, Anissa. *The EU Global Gateway and the Rearticulation of Geopolitics in EU-Global South Investment Partnerships*.
- Bougrea, Anissa & Kasse B'Nicco, Tina. *Between Washington, Brussels, and Beijing: African agency in development finance*.

## Policy & Newspaper writing

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- 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.

## Awards

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- *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).

## Grants

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- *ESR EUI* - Early Stage Researchers Grant EUI - Field work at Green Climate Fund 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, €600 (2025)
- *Flanders Research Foundation (FWO)*, Flemish Government - Travel Grant IPSA, Seoul, South-Korea, €1500 (2025)
- *IPPA - ICPP7* - Travel grant: Accommodation and conference fee (2025)
- *European University Institute* - Max Weber (Post-doc) Fellowship, €60.000 (September 2025-2027)

# Grants

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- *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)*
- *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).*

## Teaching experience

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(UG) Undergraduate / Bachelor - (G) Graduate / Master

### Free University Berlin

- Guest Lecture: Moral Economy of Aid: A Comparative Mapping of U.S. & German Aid Cancellations 2026 UG/G level

### Yonsei University - Institute for East & West Studies (South Korea)

- Guest Lecture: Private Finance, Geopolitics and International Development Finance 2026, G level

### Free University Brussels (VUB)

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

### King's College London (UK)

- Guest Lecture: EU-Africa Relations: Africa Agency in the Samoa Agreement 2023, G level

### Ghent University (Belgium)

#### Principal instructor (lecturer)

- Current Affairs in International Politics: Global Gateway vs Belt & Road Initiative 2022-2025 G 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 G level
  - Full year course: 2 intro lectures followed by weekly seminars, Brussels excursion and two essays
- Community Service Learning: Decolonising the university 2021-2022 G 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 G level
  - 3-hour lecture, followed by a 3-hour seminar

#### Teaching Assistant

- EU Global Justice 2020, 2021, 2023 G level
  - Co-design course, grade weekly discussion notes, guide book reading groups,...
- EU Trade Policy 2021 G 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 UG level
  - Grade 2 essays and provide feedback, administer oral exams (large group >40), general student follow-up

## Talks & Events

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- Panel: [The EU Global Gateway Beyond the Slogans](#) - Future Fest, Brussels Mar 16, 2026
- Panel: [United States and Chinese foreign assistance and diplomacy: Aid for dominance](#) - EUI Mar 5, 2026
- 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 EU \(FR\)](#) - Sciences Po Lille June 28, 2024
- 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

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

- EU-VALUES - *The EU at a Crossroads Conference* - Jakarta, Indonesia 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, Morocco Oct 2025 (P, D)
- IPSA - *The financialization and geopoliticization of EU aid to Africa under Global Gateway* - Seoul, SKorea. July 2025 (P, C)
- IPPA - *EU-Africa Relations and the Coloniality of Money: funding and financing* - Chiang Mai, Thailand July 2025 (P)
- EUIA - *MDBs and the trilemma of private capital mobilization* - Brussels, Belgium 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, Italy August 2024 (P, D, C, O)
- ECPR SGEU - *EU-Africa Relations and the Coloniality of Money* - Lisbon, Portugal June 2024 (P)
- Politicogenetmaal - *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 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* September 2021 (P)

## Service

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- 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 Representative - *Faculty of Political Science' Sustainability Working Group*, Ghent University 2021

## Skills

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- Languages: Dutch (native), English (C2), French (C1), T'mzight (B2), Korean (A2), German (B1), Arabic (B1)
- IT: NVIVO, R, Wordpress, Adobe Premiere Pro, Final Cut Pro X, Adobe Photoshop, Lightroom

## References

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### **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](mailto:Jan.Orbie@ugent.be)

### **Professor Mattias Vermeiren**

Department of Political and Social Sciences at Ghent university, Belgium

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### **Professor Toni Hastrup**

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

[Toni.Haastrup@manchester.ac.uk](mailto: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

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