



## UNICA RECTORS' SEMINAR Stockholm University, 28 June 2024

### “Strengthening the Africa – Europe cooperation: the Role of University Networking”

#### BIOGRAPHIES OF THE SPEAKERS & CHAIRS

##### Sorin COSTREIE | President of UNICA



Prof. Sorin Costreie was elected to the position of President in June 2023. He was previously Vice-Rector for Public Relations and University Networks (2019-2024) and Vice-Rector for International Relations of the University of Bucharest (2017-2019), as well as former Vice-Dean of the UB Faculty of Philosophy (2016-2017). He is a member of the University Senate since 2011. In between, in 2016, he was Adviser to the Minister and State Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research. He was also in the period 2020-2023 State Advisor to the Prime-Minister for Education and Research.

He is Associate Professor at the Department of Theoretical Philosophy, University of Bucharest. He holds a PhD in Philosophy (University of Bucharest, 2007), with a thesis in philosophy of mathematics, and pursued further doctoral studies in philosophy of language at the University of Western Ontario, Canada between 2000 and 2008. He has published articles, books and edited volumes with Routledge, Springer, Oxford University Press, Taylor & Francis, Elsevier, Humanitas, University of Bucharest Press, etc.

He was awarded several scholarships and fellowships to study for extended periods in Canada, United States, Germany, Spain, and Italy. His area of interest has lately focused on mathematical cognition and critical thinking. He is member of various professional associations, and since 2014 he is member of the Steering Committee of the European Society of Analytic Philosophy.

##### Astrid SÖDERBERGH WIDDING | Rector, Stockholm University



Astrid Söderbergh Widding has a background in Cinema Studies at Stockholm University, where she obtained her PhD in 1992 with a dissertation on off-screen space in Andrei Tarkovsky's films. She was appointed Professor in Cinema Studies in 2000 and has held positions as Head of Department, Deputy Dean and Deputy President. In 2009 she initiated the Journal of Aesthetics and Culture, for which she was Editor-in-Chief from 2009 to 2012. Astrid Söderbergh Widding is a fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Royal

Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities. She is Chair of the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions, member of the EUA Council and Board Member at the Stockholm Environment Institute. Previous external appointments include roles as Chair of the Principals Council of the Wallenberg foundation, at the Board of the Fulbright Commission and the Board of the Swedish Film Institute. She has also been Chair of the Ingmar Bergman Foundation and film critic and media columnist in national daily Svenska Dagbladet.

### **Pia AHRENKILDE HANSEN | Director-General for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, EC**



Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen is the Director- General of the Directorate-General for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport at the European Commission. She took up this position on 16 September 2023, after holding the same position for four and a half years in the Commission' Directorate-General for Communication. From March 2018, she served as Deputy Secretary General and Chief Operating Officer. Prior to that, she was also Director in the Directorate-General for Communication, in charge of the Commission's Representations in the Member States. Between 2009 and 2014 she was

Chief Spokeswoman of the European Commission; and Deputy Spokeswoman of the European Commission from 2004 until 2009 under former Commission President Barroso, also in charge of Planning and Coordination of the Spokespersons' Service (SPP). She began her career in political communication as Environment Spokeswoman in 1999 (Commissioner Margot Wallström), having previously held positions in the Commission's departments for Industry (1995-97) and Information, Communication and Culture (1997-99). Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen was a Schuman Scholar at the European Parliament (1989-90). She studied Business Administration and Modern Languages at the Copenhagen Business School and Political Science at the Institut d'études Politiques de Paris, specialising in intercultural communication and European identity.

### **Domenico ROSA | Head of the Unit for Strategic Partnerships with Africa and the Organisation African, Caribbean and Pacific States, Directorate General for International Partnerships (INTPA), European Commission**



Domenico is currently the Head of the Unit INTPA/A/1 on the Strategic partnerships with Africa and the Organisation African, Caribbean and Pacific States at the Directorate General for International Partnerships (INTPA) of the European Commission. The unit is in charge of the institutional relations with the Africa Union and of monitoring the implementation of the Africa Strategy and the political commitments undertaken by the Heads of State and Government at the African Union – European Union Summits. Domenico has also led the EU Post-Cotonou Task Force and steered the negotiations for the

new agreement between the EU and the 79 members of the Organisation African, Caribbean and Pacific States, signed in November 2023 in Samoa, receiving the name "Samoa Agreement". Domenico has extensive experience in external relations of the EU and served as Senior Adviser for Africa in the Cabinet of Commissioner Piebalgs (2012-14) and was previously Member of the Cabinet for Development and Humanitarian Aid of Commissioners Louis Michel and Karel De Gucht (2006-10). He has a Master degree in Economics and Political Economy (Bocconi University, Milan), in International Politics (ULB, Brussels), and a degree in Psychology (University of Padua, Italy).

## **Andrew DEEKS | President, International Association of Universities (IAU)**



Andrew Deeks was appointed to Murdoch University from University College Dublin (UCD), where he was the first Australian to lead an Irish university. Since joining Murdoch University, he has overseen an academic restructure, a refresh of the senior leadership team, and the development of a new strategy, Ngala Kwop Biddi: Building a Brighter Future, Together, which has been warmly embraced by the university community.

Andrew was President of UCD from January 2014 to March 2022, and developed a strategy which led to significant improvements across a range of areas, including student satisfaction; quality, quantity, and impact of research; and local, national, and international engagement. Prior to his role at UCD, he was a Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Durham University, where he led the Science, Engineering and Technology division and contributed to the development of extensive international and industry partnerships. Before joining Durham, he was the Winthrop Professor in Civil and Resources Engineering at The University of Western Australia and was Head of School from 2004 to 2009.

Professor Deeks' research has focused on structural dynamics, mechanics and dynamic soil structure and he has published more than 150 research papers in this area. Professor Deeks is President of the International Association of Universities. He is a Fellow of the Irish Academy of Engineering, the Institution of Engineers Ireland, and the Institution of Engineers Australia.

## **Michael GAEBEL | Director of the Higher Education Policy Unit, European University Association**



Michael Gaebel is the director of the Higher Education Policy Unit, which focuses on issues related to higher education learning and teaching, including the Bologna Process, lifelong learning, e-learning and MOOCs, internationalisation and global dialogue. When he first joined the organisation in 2006, he was in charge of developing EUA's international strategy and global exchange and cooperation. Before joining EUA, Michael worked for more than a decade in higher education cooperation and development in the Middle East, the former Soviet Union and Asia. From 2002 to 2006, he was the European Co-Director of the ASEAN-EU University Network Programme (AUNP) in Bangkok. Michael graduated with a Masters in Middle Eastern Studies and German Literature and Linguistics from the Freie University Berlin, Germany.

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## **Rudolf K ALLEMANN | Pro Vice-Chancellor International, Cardiff University**



Professor Rudolf K. Allemann is a Distinguished Research Professor, Pro Vice-Chancellor International and Head of the College of Physical Sciences and Engineering at Cardiff University. Professor Allemann is responsible for the University's international activities, partnerships, and global reputation. He leads on the development and implementation of the University's internationalisation strategy and has oversight of all international policy and activity intended to enhance the University's global reach and impact. Professor Allemann is a member of the University Executive Board. He

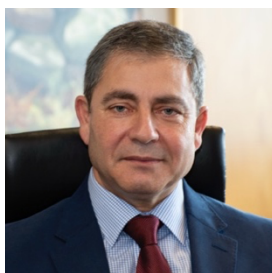
received his first degree from ETH Zurich, followed by PhD work at Harvard University and ETH Zurich, and began his career as a postdoctoral researcher and Staff Scientist at the Medical Research Council's National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill, London. He later became Research Group Leader and Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry at ETH Zurich. In 1998 Professor Allemann moved to the University of Birmingham to become a Senior Lecturer in Chemistry, before taking up the role of Professor of Chemical Biology in 2001. He joined Cardiff University in 2005 as a Distinguished Research Professor and became Head of the School of Chemistry in 2013. In 2017 he was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Physical Sciences and Engineering. In 2019 he became Chair of the Recruitment and Admissions Strategy Group and in 2020 assumed overall responsibility for the University's global engagement activities. In May 2024, he will take on the role of Pro Vice-Chancellor International. He is a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales and the Royal Society of Chemistry, and currently holds a Visiting Professorship at the University of Manchester. Professor Allemann's pioneering research is at the interface of chemistry and biology and he has a long-standing interest in understanding the fundamental mechanisms that control enzyme function. His research group at Cardiff University apply a wide range of chemical and physical techniques to answer questions relating to the extraordinary catalytic power of enzymes, developing and applying chemical tools to probe and control biological processes in the laboratory and in live cells. Their work relies on an interdisciplinary approach at the interface of chemistry and fields such as biology, chemical ecology, material science, medicine and physics.

### **João AMARO DE MATOS | Vice Rector, NOVA University Lisbon**



João Amaro de Matos is Vice Rector of Nova University, Lisbon, having joined Nova School of Business and Economics in 1995, where he has been Associate Dean for International Development (2005-2017) and Director of the PhD Programs. He worked for the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) as an expert for the internationalization of Cuban Universities, was a member of the International Board of the Strasbourg Business School, and was a member of the Executive Board (2007-2017) of the Community of European Management Schools (CEMS), chairing its Research and Doctoral Education Committee (2008-2012) and its Quality Assessment Committee (2015-2017). He holds a Ph.D. in Management (1995) from INSEAD and a PhD in Physics (1988) from Sao Paulo University. He was a visiting scholar at Heidelberg University (1988-89), at the London School of Economics (2002), and at the MIT (2012). He teaches Corporate Finance, Investments, Derivatives, Risk Management and Continuous-Time Finance at all levels. Additionally, João Amaro de Matos has taught in various European and Brazilian schools such as INSEAD, HEC Geneva, INSPER and Getúlio Vargas Foundation. He is the author of the textbook "Theoretical Foundations of Corporate Finance", (Princeton University Press, 2001), and also of "Sustainability and Organizational Change Management", (Routledge, 2015). He wrote more than 50 scientific works among books, chapters, papers, and conference proceedings. His research has been published in journals such as the Journal of Econometrics, European Journal of Finance, Mathematical Finance, Journal of Statistical Physics and Physica A, among others. João Amaro de Matos has participated in numerous conferences and seminars and has supervised many MSc and PhD thesis in the area of Finance and Economics. He has founded and organized since 2007 the annual Luso-Brazilian Finance Meetings.

## **Tasos C. CHRISTOFIDES | Rector, University of Cyprus**



Undergraduate studies in Mathematics at the University of Athens (Greece), graduate studies (M.S.E. and Ph.D) in Mathematical Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University (USA). He has served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences of the State University of New York at Binghamton. In 1991 he joined the newly founded University of Cyprus and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, becoming its first Chairperson, serving as an Associate Professor and later as Professor. His areas of expertise include indirect questioning techniques, stochastic orders, dependent random variables and probability inequalities. He is the co-author (with Arijit Chaudhuri) of a research book on Indirect Questioning Techniques in Sample Surveys (Springer, Heidelberg 2013), co-editor (with Arijit Chaudhuri and C.R. Rao) of the Handbook of Statistics Vol 34 and author of a number of papers on probability inequalities, randomized response and indirect questioning techniques in general. He is on the editorial board of four international journals of probability and statistics. He has participated in a number of research projects and has provided consulting services for various organizations including the Statistical Service of Cyprus. He has served on various national and international scientific and expert committees, among them, the European Statistical Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee of the Greek Statistical System. He is the Rector of the University of Cyprus, the first public University of Cyprus and the President of the Cyprus Statistical Society.

## **Marie-Hélène JOBIN | Vice-Rector Partnerships and International Relations, University of Luxembourg**



As Vice-Rector for Partnerships and International Relations of the University of Luxembourg, I support the development and consolidation of the University's third mission which consists in contributing to social, cultural, and economic development of the society. I oversee the development of our agreements with the public and private sectors, the research transfer in collaboration with industry partners and the develop our industrial chairs.

The third mission also includes incubation and acceleration programmes. We are striving to develop an entrepreneurial mindset within the University of Luxembourg community. With the support of my teams, I also oversee the development of the University's intellectual property, the support of researchers in their invention process and the spin-off of companies resulting from the creativity and know-how of our researchers.

Internationally, my team and I manage relations with other institutions and inter-university alliances. International mobility is compulsory at the University of Luxembourg, and international students represent over 60% of the student body, coming from more than 130 countries. The University of Luxembourg is ranked among the best universities in the world for its international character. The University of Luxembourg is also proud to play a role in capacity building in university networks in developing countries.

Finally, the Vice-Rectorate for which I am responsible also supports the University's commitment to society through public engagement, outreach initiatives and a citizen science approach. Before joining the University of Luxembourg in 2023, I had a rich academic career in Canada, notably at HEC Montréal. I am a full professor of operations and logistics management and an experienced

higher education officer. I define myself as a pedagogue at heart, with a particular commitment to continuing education. I taught mainly at MBA and EMBA level in my carrier, focusing on topics such as innovation, process improvement and strategy.

Over the course of my career, I've been responsible for managing of a teaching department, pedagogical development (including the management of the HEC Montréal Case Centre and the editorial management of the RICG), programme management and in charge of the complete M.Sc. portfolio at HEC Montréal. In recent years, I have focused my career on international relations with other institutions and on building partnerships. During my career, I have also built and developed a research transfer hub, Pôle santé, dedicated to training, research and coaching in healthcare management. I'm still an active researcher in this field.

### **Peter Kwasi KODJIE | Secretary General, All-Africa Students Union (AASU)**



Currently serving as the Secretary-General of the All-Africa Students Union (AASU), Peter Kwasi Kodjie represents African students on education policy issues on intergovernmental bodies and programmes. Peter has been an influential voice in the Tuning Africa Project Advisory Group (TAPAG) Phase II, actively advocating for the restructuring of higher education ecosystems to enhance the mobility of students and academics in Africa and around the world. Peter's commitment to fighting for access, equity and quality education extends to his advisory roles in the Harmonization of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA3) Initiative and the Africa Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF2) - spearheaded by the African Union and European Union to harmonise Africa's higher education systems. Peter is a founding Trustee of the 100 Million Campaign (founded by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Kailash Satyarthi). Peter is also a founding member of the Global Student Forum (GSF) and serves on the Governing Council of the Magna Charta Observatory (MCO) as the global student representative. As a champion for climate justice, Peter chairs the board of the Students Organising for Sustainability International.

### **Ernest ERYEETAY | Secretary General, The African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA)**



Ernest Aryeetey is the foundation Secretary-General of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), a network of 23 of Africa's flagship universities. He is a Professor of Economics and former Vice Chancellor of University of Ghana (2010-2016). He was also previously Director of the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) at University of Ghana and the first Director of the Africa Growth Initiative of Brookings Institution, Washington D.C. Professor Ernest Aryeetey is a recipient of four Honorary degrees from University of Sussex, U.K. (2017), Lund University, Sweden (2020), Stellenbosch University, South Africa (2022), University of Ghana, Legon-Accra (2023), University of Health and Applied Sciences, Ho, Ghana (2023) and University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK (2024).

Ernest Aryeetey has held academic appointments at the School of Oriental and African Studies (London), Yale University and Swarthmore College in the U.S. at various points in time. He was a member of the Governing Council of the United Nations University, Tokyo (May 2016 – May 2019) and was previously Chair of the Governing Board of UNU-World Institute for Development

Economics Research (Helsinki). He was also a member of the Governing Board of the Centre for Development Research at University of Bonn, Germany until September 2020. He is currently Board Chair of the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Nairobi. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex, and of the SCOR Board of the UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR). Ernest Aryeetey is a Foundation Fellow of the International Science Council (ISC), Paris and a fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (GAAS). Until December 2021, he was Board Chair of Stanbic Bank Ghana Limited.

Ernest Aryeetey's research focuses on the economics of development with an interest in institutions and their role in development, regional integration, economic reforms, financial systems in support of development and small enterprise development. He is very well known for his work on informal finance and microfinance in Africa. Among his many publications are *Financial Integration and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Routledge 1998) and *Economic Reforms in Ghana: The Miracle and The Mirage* (James Currey 2000). His publication with Ravi Kanbur on *The Economy of Ghana Sixty Years after Independence* (Oxford University Press 2017) is one of his best-known works.

One of Ernest Aryeetey's strategic priorities as Vice Chancellor at University of Ghana was to develop the University into a research-intensive institution that supports structural transformation in Ghana and in Africa. He led his colleagues to engage in building many new research and graduate programmes that aim to both advance knowledge and to promote scientific and national development.

### **Ole PETTER OTTERSEN | Acting Secretary-General, Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities**



Ole Petter Ottersen served as President of Karolinska Institutet 2017 – 2023, after eight years (2009-2017) as President of the University of Oslo (UiO). From 2002 to 2009 Ottersen was Director of Centre for Molecular Biology and Neuroscience - one of Norway's Centres of Excellence. He served as Chief Editor of *Neuroscience* (2006-2009) - the official journal of the International brain research organization (IBRO) - and as panel leader in the European research Council (ERC Advanced Grants) from the start to 2012. Ottersen was Founding Chair (2016-2017) of The Guild of European Research Intensive

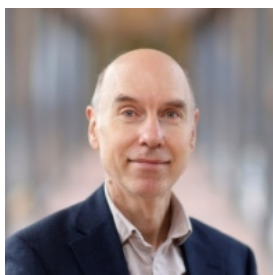
Universities and chaired the Lancet Commission that studied the political determinants of global health inequalities (The Lancet-University of Oslo Commission on Global Governance for Health). Ottersen has had a strong research interest in the field of neuroscience, with a particular focus on synaptic structure and function and on the molecular mechanisms underlying edema formation and water transport in brain. Ottersen is currently chairing a new Lancet commission on global health inequities. He is Acting Secretary General of The Guild of European Research Intensive Universities, board member of the African Population and Research Center, and member of the organizing committee for the seminar series on *Vaccine Uptake in Africa: Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin* ([charite.de](http://charite.de)). He is visiting professor at Charité (Berlin) and vice president of the Virchow Foundation.

**Emma BÄCKE, Programme Manager | International Cooperation, Country Manager for France and the United Kingdom, Regional Manager for Africa, Vinnova - Sweden's innovation agency**



Emma Bäcké has been at Vinnova, Sweden's innovation agency, for 10 years working on international cooperation. She is heading Team Sweden for Research and innovation's working group on Africa. She has a background in Economics and Finance and has previously been working at Bank for International Settlements.

**Stefan HELGESSON | Deputy Vice President for Human Science, Stockholm University**



Stefan Helgesson is deputy vice president of Human Science at Stockholm University and dean of the Faculty of Humanities. He is an elected member of Academia Europaea and of the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters. He has served on evaluation panels at the Swedish Research Council and Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, and was on the Executive Committee of the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA) from 2019 to 2022. He is professor of English at SU and a senior research associate in English at Rhodes University. His research interests include African literature, Brazilian literature, translation theory, temporality and world literature methodologies. He is, most recently, the author of *Decolonisations of Literature: Critical Practice in Africa and Brazil after 1945* (2022) and co-author (with Mads Rosendahl Thomsen) of *Literature and the World* (2020). He has co-edited (with Birgit Neumann and Gabriele Rippl) the *De Gruyter Handbook of Anglophone World Literatures* (2020). Earlier works include *Transnationalism in Southern African Literature: Modernists, Realists, and the Inequality of Print Culture* (2009) and the edited volume (with Pieter Vermeulen) *Institutions of World Literature* (2016).

**Mahomed MOOLLA | Head of the Strategic Partnerships Office, University of the Witwatersrand**



Mahomed Moolla has a BSc in Physics and Mathematics and a PhD in Science Education from the University of the Witwatersrand for his investigation on Pedagogical Content Knowledge needed to teach Mechanics at high school level. He is also a qualified teacher and served as principal of a school. He has been elected as a full member of the International Global Research Academy based in Moscow. He also has extensive knowledge on issues like Service Learning, University Rankings and Higher Education in Africa. At present he is the Head of the Internationalization and Strategic Partnerships Office at Wits university.



### **Awel UWIHANGANYE | Head Advancement & Partnerships, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Makerere University**



Awel Uwihanganye serves as the Chief Executive of Makerere University's Centennial Celebrations (Makerere At 100) and is the Founder & Senior Director at the LÉO Africa Institute, as well as serving on several Governance Boards as a Director. As a founder of several change initiatives, he is keenly interested in entrepreneurship, in the power of ideas, to change lives, shape society, and advance development. Awel Uwihanganye envisions Africa as a frontier for opportunity and growth with a confident, self-aware generation of rising African leaders at the center of this renaissance. He is a proud alumnus of Concordia University, a privileged fellow of the African Leadership Initiative—East Africa, and a Member of the Aspen Institute's Global Leadership Network.

### **Alice KOLLMITZ | Stockholm University's Student representative to The South Africa-Sweden University Forum (SASUF)**



Alice is a German-Namibian currently pursuing her master studies at Stockholm University. Her dual cultural background allows for an already existing liaison between the two continents and shares a common cornerstone of wanting to enrich the bonds between Europe and Africa. Also, she was delighted to be the student representative for SASUF 2024, specifically, the Student Network thereof. The importance of incorporating the youth into future prospects was highlighted by enriching student involvement alongside cultural exchange in order to grow intellectually on an individual scale but also collectively as separate nations, united by higher education.

### **Michael TALBOT | Director, Global Engagement Strategy, UCD Office of Global Engagement**



Michael Talbot is Director, Global Engagement Strategy at University College Dublin responsible for the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of UCD's Global Engagement Strategy. In this capacity, he works with key stakeholders across campus and UCD's global network of partners to ensure a global experience for all UCD faculty, staff, and students and to enhance UCD's global impact.

Michael's research and teaching interests focus on international human rights law and transitional justice. He is currently an external PhD candidate at Utrecht University School of Law, where his research examines the process of norm development and diffusion across the three regional human rights systems. His scholarship has appeared in the Georgetown Journal of International Law, Harvard Human Rights Journal, and elsewhere.

Prior to joining UCD, Michael served as Director of the University of Notre Dame's Mexico Global Centre and supported the establishment of the Keough School of Global Affairs. He has been a visiting chair in transitional justice at Universidad Panamericana, a summer fellow with the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, and served with the United States Peace Corps in The Gambia. He holds an LLM

from the University of Notre Dame, JD from the University of South Carolina, MA from KU Leuven, and BA from the Catholic University of America.

### **Kerstin THAM, Rector, Malmö University, in representation of the South Africa-Sweden University Forum (SASUF)**



Kerstin Tham, vice-chancellor and professor in occupational therapy at Malmö university since 2015. She has been deputy-vice-chancellor of Karolinska Institutet and has a strong global engagement. Professor Tham is engaged in the SASUF network between universities in South Africa and Sweden but also the network of Sanord. Malmö university is a member of the EU-university alliance UNIC focusing on post-industrial cities in transition and is also a member of ENIHEI, the European network of innovative higher institutions. Professor Tham is since November 2023 president of EWORA, European women rectors association, and has several responsibilities in national and regional boards and committees. She has extensive experience from different academic leadership positions as well as from research and research education in the interdisciplinary field of rehabilitation among people with neurological disorders.

### **Anne WEYEMBERGH | Vice-Rector for External Relations and Development Cooperation, Université libre de Bruxelles**



Anne Weyembergh (Belgium) graduated in Law (ULB, 1993 - 1st Class Honours) ; she holds a Master Degree in Public and Administrative Law (ULB, 1994 - 1st Class Honours) and a Master Degree in International Law (ULB, 1995 - 1st Class Honours). She has completed a PhD in Law at the ULB (2003 – Alice Seghers Price). She is Full Professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and Vice- Rector for External Relations and Cooperation at ULB (since 2020). She is former President of the Institute for European Studies of the ULB (Sept. 2014 - 2019). She is Member of the Académie Royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique (since 2017 – Classe des Lettres et des Sciences morales et politiques).

Her main field of research concerns EU Criminal Law (police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters between the EU Member States as well as between the EU and the rest of the world). She founded and co-coordinates the European Criminal Law Academic Network (ECLAN : <http://www.eclan.eu/>) since November 2004. She has coordinated numerous research projects (for example Lead scientist of the Jean Monnet Network Polycivis (2023-2026); Lead scientist of the Jean Monnet Center of excellence project obtained by the IEE-ULB focused on the notion of solidarity in the EU (Sept. 2016 –Oct. 2019); Lead scientist of the GEM-STONES project (Globalisation, Europe and Multilateralism - Sophistication of the Transnational Order, Networks & European Strategies), Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (2016-2020) etc.).

She has collaborated narrowly with various EU institutions in the field of EU criminal law. She was especially Special Adviser to Commissioner Didier Reynders (April 2022-March 2024); she acted as an academic expert for the European Commission (e.g. as a member of the Expert Group on EU Criminal Policy 2018-2021) and is the author or co-author of a series of studies for the European Parliament (e.g. Study on “Counterterrorism policies, measures and tools in the EU. An assessment of the effectiveness of the EU counterterrorism policy” (co-author: Julia Burchett) for the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament, (IP/C/LIBE/IC/2021-087), March 2022.