

Bios of the Speakers

European University Alliances: Drivers of Change and Innovation in Higher Education

April 29th- 30th

April 29th, Auditorium Henri La Fontaine, Building K, ULB Campus Solbosch

Opening Session



Jan Danckaert is the current Rector of VUB, Brussels and the president of the Flemish Interuniversity Council. He is Professor of Physics and Photonics at the Sciences,

Engineering and Bio-Engineering Faculty, with a PhD on nonlinear optics and expertise in semiconductor laser dynamics and nonlinear dynamics. He is co-founder and head of the interdisciplinary Applied Physics research group (APHY), which studies complex systems in different fields of science and technology. As Vice-Rector of Education and Student Policy, he successfully guided VUB through its institutional review during the pandemic, consolidating its position as a university engaged for Brussels and society, while also being committed to blended learning and the integration of face-to-face and online education.



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.



Caroline Gennez is Belgium's Federal Minister of Development Cooperation and Major Cities. She was a member of the Parliament of Flanders and President of the Flemish Socialist Party. She wrote a social manifesto for the Party of European Socialists on the political economy, social justice and the fight against inequality and published a book on social engagement, "De verschilligen". She has a Master's Degree in Social and Political Sciences and was Chairwoman of the University Association of Brussels.

April 30th, Centre Albert Borschette, European Commission

Session 1

"The Future of Education and Language Learning in our Connected World"
VUB/EUTOPIA and UCLouvain/Circle U.

Chairs



Ann Peeters is the Vice-President of the Council for International Policy at VUB (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) and member of the Bureau of VLIR-UOS. She is an Associate Professor at the Department of Linguistics and Literary Studies, with a joint PhD degree in Italian Literature awarded by VUB and the Università di Pisa (2013) on intertextual relations between Alessandro Manzoni's novel *I Promessi sposi* and the various opera adaptations and a MA in Romance Languages (French – Italian). She co-organized conferences on life writing, intermediality and the narrative potential of music. Her teaching assignment includes courses on Italian literature and culture as well as on multilingualism, multilingual literature intertextuality, intermediality. Her current research interests focus on intertextuality, intermediality, multilingualism in higher education and multilingual pedagogies. In 2023, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Lubumbashi.



Benoît Raucent is the academic director of the Circle U. Teaching and Innovations Lab (CU.til) and Professor at the Polytechnic School of Louvain (UCLouvain). In 2000, he coordinated a major reform in the engineering school to promote problem-based and project-based learning. Since 2015 he has been the head of the Louvain Learning Lab (center for teaching and learning) which supports teachers in their professional development and innovations. He also contributes to training teachers in active pedagogies in several universities. He is the coordinator of the "LLL guide" collection.

Speakers



Fanny Meunier is the current academic director of Circle U.'s Multilingualism, Interculturality and Language Lab (CU.mil) and is Professor of English Language, Linguistics and Teacher Education at UCLouvain. Her

research interests and publications cover fundamental, applied and instructed Second Language Acquisition. She has been involved in numerous international research projects. Her most recent projects focus on multi- and plurilingualism in the digital era.



Jo Angouri is Professor in Sociolinguistics and Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor for Education and Internationalization at the University of Warwick, UK, a Visiting Distinguished Professor at Aalto University, School of Business, Finland, Affiliate (Visiting Professor) at Monash University and holds the Lonnoy Chair for Multilingualism at Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium. Jo is on The EUTOPIA University Alliance Education Team and is co-leading the Learning Communities and Curriculum Development for the network. She has published extensively on Leadership, Identity, Multilingualism, Decision Making and Problem Solving as well as on Research Methodology. Her work addresses language policy and language practice (and the implications of disconnection between the two); the trajectories to and from linguistic, geographical, and spatial centers to multiple peripheries and back again as well as the opportunities/consequences for individuals to remain at the periphery, or the barriers that keep them there. Her current work looks into transnational education, education policy and multilingual pedagogies.



Laurence Mettwie is professor of Dutch Language and Linguistics at the Université de Namur (Belgium). Her research focuses on societal aspects of multilingualism, multilingual education and emotional and socio-affective factors involved in Second Language Acquisition.



An Van linden is Associate Professor of English Language and Linguistics at the University of Liège. Her research focuses on (semi-) independent subordination patterns and modal-evaluative expressions. In addition, An is documenting and describing Harakmbut, an unclassified language from the Peruvian Amazon.

Session 2

Cosmobility: Rethinking Student and Staff Mobility

UGent/ENLIGHT and ULB/CIVIS

Chair



Anne Weyembergh is the Vice-Rector for External Relations and Cooperation at ULB. She has been President of the Institute for European Studies of the ULB since October 2014. In addition, she is the coordinator of the team on European criminal law (Centre for European Law). Her main research activities relate to EU criminal law (police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters) but also criminal law in other legal orders (national and international law) and European law more broadly, with a special focus on the area of freedom, security and justice.

Speakers



Irina Ferencz is the Deputy Director at the Academic Cooperation Association (ACA) and is a specialist on internationalization of European higher education. Through her work, Irina has developed an expertise in student and staff mobility developments, mobility and/or internationalization policies at HEIs, multi-level assessment of internationality and curricular internationalization through mobility windows. She also studies quantitative development of English-medium

instruction in the European context and aspects related to widening inclusion in internationalization activities. All in all, Irina is interested in comparative analyses on various aspects of international higher education, her research work having resulted in multiple publications.



Joanne Pagèze is an Associate Professor of English and the Vice-Rector for Internationalization at the University of Bordeaux. Professor Pagèze teaches scientific English and specializes in innovative practices in language learning, multimedia tools and scientific communication. She explored different teaching and learning methods in multilingual and multicultural classes and set up a pedagogical and linguistic support system for teaching English as an accompaniment in international Master programs. Awarded the "Passion Enseignement et Pédagogie dans le Supérieur" prize in 2017, she supported the development of inclusive and accessible internationalization, also embracing new opportunities for hybrid or distance collaborations.



Mustapha Lkhider is Professor of Biology and

Vice-Rector of the University of Hassan II in Casablanca (CIVIS) in charge of Research, Cooperation and Partnership. He obtained a PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology. He is the former Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology Mohammedia H2UC and responsible of the accelerating plan of the transformation of higher education and innovation for H2UC.



Adnan El Kharbotly is the president of the ENLIGHT Student Board and the Student Ambassador at the Centre for Information Technology at the University of Groningen. He's a master's student in Industrial Engineering and Management with a track record in representation having been an advisory member of the Executive Board of the University of Groningen in 2021-2022, as well as a member of the Provincial Youth Council from 2015 to 2021.

Session 3

Understanding and Applying Superdiversity in Academia, Higher Education and Beyond

UHasselt/EURECA-PRO and ULiège/UNIC Chair



Dounia Bourabain is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Hasselt with a specialization in (in)equality, organizations and education. Her most recent research focuses on gender and racial inequality in Belgian academia. She received the Emma Goldman Snowball Award in 2023 for her innovative research on inequality issues in Europe.



Hassan Bousetta is an Associate Professor in Sociology at the University of Liège with an expertise in migration processes, consequences and governance. His work focuses on the citizenship and political participation of immigrant populations, public policies for integration and the fight against discrimination, and the relationship between migration and development.



Ahmet İçduygu is Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities at Koç University, Istanbul Turkey. He currently holds a dual appointment as a Full Professor at Koç, one is in the Department of International Relations and the other is in the Department of Sociology. He is also the Director of the Migration Research Center at Koç University (MiReKoc). Prof. İçduygu holds a PhD in Demography from the Australian National University. He held visiting fellow positions at Stockholm University, the University of Warwick, the University of Manchester, and the European University Institute in Florence.



Session 4

Alliances as Drivers of Pedagogical Innovation

UAntwerpen/YUFE and UNamur/UNIVERSEH

Chairs

Katrien Struyven is Professor at the School for Educational Sciences at Hasselt University and chair of U-RISE - UHasselt Research on Innovative and Society-engaged Education with expertise in students' and teachers' perceptions, student learning and teachers' experiences related to innovative instructional methods and new modes of assessment in mainstream, in higher and in teacher education. She focusses on inclusive education, differentiated instruction and blended learning.



Susanne Feiel is Director International Relations and European University at the Montanuniversität Leoben in Austria and head of the Resources Innovation Center, part of the EIT RawMaterials, EIT Climate-KIC, SDG and sustainability actions. She is a Doctor of Engineering.



Jeroen Darquennes is Vice-Rector in charge of International and External affairs at the University of Namur and full professor of German linguistics. His research focuses on language contact and conflict in European language minority settings. In 2021-2022 he was awarded a Francqui Chair in language contact and multilingualism at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel.



Ann De Schepper is Vice-Rector at the University of Antwerp and president of the Antwerp School of Education. She is Full Professor at the Faculty of Business and Economics, teaching Mathematics and Insurance. Her research focuses on stochastic models and dependence in financial and actuarial quantities, and on educational policy and quality assurance. She is the coordinator of the work package Quality Plan at YUFE.

Speakers panel 1



Aleksandar Šušnjar is a YUFE Institutional Coordinator and Head of Unit at the Center for Quality Assurance and Enhancement at the University of Rijeka.



Herbert De Vriese is a Professor at the Center for European Philosophy at the University of Antwerp. He specialized in the history of modern metaphysics and the connection between the history of philosophy and cultural history.



Paulien Decorte is a postdoctoral researcher at the department of Communication Sciences at the University of Antwerp, investigating boredom and digital media selection from a

media psychological and psychophysiological perspective. She contributed to the creation of the YUFE Alliance proposal and she represented the University of Antwerp and its PhD researchers as a student forum member in the YUFE Alliance.



Andrea Brose is the Educational Lead at the ECIU University and Head of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Hamburg University of Technology. Professor Brose has expertise in challenged-based education in pedagogics, research and innovation, integrating relevant challenges from real life into the learning processes.

Speakers panel 2



Eric Tschirhart is a Professor in Physiology and Study Director at the University of Luxemburg. He also is special advisor to the rector at UNIVERSEH European University. Professor Tschirhart occupied different executive and operational managerial positions, mostly as a growth-crisis manager, building and optimizing organizational processes and maximizing results in the science, education and business fields.



Christophe Bénaroya is Head of the MSc Aerospace Management Toulouse Business School and a Professor of Marketing at Toulouse Business School and Honorary Consul of Latvia to the French authorities in Occitanie.



Annick Castiaux is Rector of the University of Namur and was previously appointed Vice-Rector in charge of Teaching, Quality and Communication. As a Professor of Innovation and Technology Management, with a PhD in Physics, she co-founded the Creativity and Innovation Research Center, researching the digital transitions of organizations and territories, with a focus on sustainability and inclusion challenges.



Maria Vittoria D'Inzeo is Policy Officer at DG DEFIS, European Commission, with expertise in international economic relations, the European Monetary Union system, EU – BRIC countries trade relations and the internationalization process of SMEs towards China.



Dainora Maumevičienė is an Associate Professor at the Research Group of Languages and Technologies of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities at Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania, with expertise in innovative solutions in educational processes.

Session 5

The European Degree as an Important Milestone Towards a Strong Future for the European Higher Education Area

KU Leuven/Una Europa and UMONS/EUNICE

Chairs



Peter Lievens is Vice-Rector of International Affairs at KU Leuven, Belgium and a Professor in Experimental Physics. After a PhD in nuclear physics and a fellowship at CERN, Geneva, his research focused on nanoscience and experimental quantum physics at KU Leuven, where he became Dean of the Faculty of Science in 2009.



Laurence Ris is Vice-Rector of International Affairs at the University of Mons, Belgium and Head of the Department of Neuroscience. Professor Ris founded the Centre for Psychophysiology and Electrophysiology of Cognition at UMONS (CiPSE).

Speakers



Yann-Maël Bideau is policy officer on Erasmus + and Higher Education at the Directorate-General for Education and Culture at the European Commission.



Bernard Harmegnies is Head of institutional and academic strategy at UMONS and has been Vice-Rector in the years before. He has a PhD in Psychology on the analysis of voice quality and is the head of the Phonetics Laboratory, studying the cognitive processing

in human language. He is also president, and founding member of the UMONS Research Institute for Language Science and Technology. He teaches both experimental research and quantitative approaches in social sciences (statistics and metrology) and language sciences. He was Dean of the UMONS Faculty of Psychology and Education (FPSE) for six years.



Margot Vanduynslager is a student of the UNA EUROPA joint bachelor in European Studies. She is team coordinator of its local task force. She was a French tutor for migrant students, developing pedagogical approaches to adapt to diverse cultural backgrounds. Margot is an international trainee in the AFS program, facilitating workshops on intercultural learning with a focus on gender equality and on local perspectives on European integration

Session 6

EU and Global Partnerships / Cooperation with the Global South VLIRUOS and CRef

Chair



Ann Peeters is the Vice-President of the Council for International Policy at VUB (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) and member of the Bureau of VLIR-UOS. She is an Associate Professor at the Department of Linguistics and Literary Studies, with a joint PhD degree in Italian Literature awarded by VUB and the Università di Pisa (2013) on intertextual relations between Alessandro Manzoni's novel *I Promessi sposi* and the various opera adaptations and a MA in Romance Languages (French – Italian). She co-organized

conferences on life writing, intermediality and the narrative potential of music. Her teaching assignment includes courses on Italian literature and culture as well as on multilingualism, multilingual literature intertextuality, intermediality. Her current research interests focus on intertextuality, intermediality, multilingualism in higher education and multilingual pedagogies. In 2023, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Lubumbashi.



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Elena Monserrath Jerves is Vice-Rector of Research and Innovation at the University of Cuenca, Ecuador. She was Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Educational

Sciences and Coordinator of the Center of Research of Sexuality and Sex Education, where she conducted research about sexual development and behavior of adolescents as well as Sex Education provided to adolescents in the formal and informal contexts.



Jean-Marie Ntumba Kayembe is Rector of the University of Kinshasa, DR Congo. He is a Professor of Pneumology at the Faculty of Medicine and Editor of *Annales Africaines de Médecine* and obtained his PhD at the University of Liège, Belgium.



Larry Pokpas is Institutional Planner and Executive Assistant to the Rector and Vice-Chancellor at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa, building strategic partnerships with Nordic and Southern African universities as a forerunner to the establishment of the Southern African Nordic Centre (SANORD). He coordinates cross-functional teams as part of the inter-university cooperation with several Flemish universities. Pokpas is the co-editor of the book “From Hope to Action through Knowledge: The Renaissance of the University of the Western Cape – 2001-2014”.



Yanela Rodriguez Alvarez is in charge of International Relations at the University of Camagüey, Cuba and Professor in Computer Science.



Erica Gerretsen is Director of Human Development, Migration, Governance and Peace at the Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) at the European Commission. At the Directorate General for international development

cooperation (DG DEVCO), Erica Gerretsen has been head of different units, with a predominant focus on Africa.



Melanie Schellens serves since January 2023 as the Director Governmental Cooperation in the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brussels. She entered the diplomatic career in 2003 with postings in Pretoria, Washington DC and Cotonou, as head of Development Cooperation. In 2012-2014 and 1999-2002, Melanie was advisor to the Belgian Minister for Development Cooperation. She holds a Master in Educational Sciences and started her career in teacher education in 1984 before switching to development cooperation in 1990, as a staff member of the research & advocacy section of 11.11.11, the umbrella organization of Belgian non-governmental organizations.

Closing Session



Mieke Van Herreweghe is Vice-Rector of Ghent University since 1 October 2017 and a Professor of English Linguistics. Her fields of expertise encompass diachronic English linguistics, second language acquisition and

Flemish Sign Language. She was a member of the Ghent University Research Council, a chairperson of the Linguistics and Literature study program and research director of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy. She was also a laureate of the UGent Minerva award for education.



Jeroen Darquennes is Vice-Rector in charge of International and External affairs at the University of Namur and full professor of German linguistics. His research focuses on language contact and conflict in European language minority settings. In 2021-2022 he was awarded a Francqui Chair in language contact and multilingualism at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel.



Philippe Dubois is Rector-President of University of Mons. He is Full Professor at Faculty of Sciences where he launched the Center of Innovation and Research in Materials & Polymers. He is co-founder of the GATE2 S.A., a spin-off company of UMONS and Materia Nova public research center. In 2022, he became the 1st President of the EUNICE European University, which brings together 10 universities from 10 European countries (and nearly 170,000 student-researchers). He is member of the Belgian Academy of Sciences and of the European Academy of Sciences.