

**/ACADEMIC AND R&I MISSION OF
FRENCH-SPEAKING BELGIUM IN JAPAN/**

25 MAY – 30 MAY 2025



**PRESENTATION OF THE BELGIAN
ACADEMIC DELEGATION**

ACADEMIC DELEGATION

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HE Elisabeth DEGRYSE

Minister-President of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation

Elisabeth Degryse was born in Uccle on September 22, 1980. With a master's in political science, she was elected to the House of Representatives in the June 2024 federal elections as a member of civil society, before being appointed by her party as Minister-President of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation/French speaking community Government in July 2024.

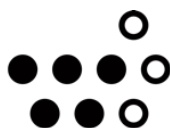
For 12 years, she worked for the Mutualité Chrétienne in various positions. She was the first woman to become Vice-President. Prior to this, she worked in a Parliament (Brussels regional) and a ministerial cabinet (Employment and Equal Opportunities).

Experience

- Since July 2024: Minister-President of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation/French speaking community Government and Minister responsible for the Budget, Higher Education, School Buildings, Culture, Lifelong Learning, International Relations and the Francophonie
- June - July 2024: Member of the Belgian House of Representatives
- October 2023 - June 2024: Political Secretary of the « Les Engagés » movement
- July 2011 - October 2023: Alliance Nationale des Mutualités Chrétiennes (Vice-President, National Secretary, Director...)
- December 2008 - June 2011: Deputy Chief of Staff - Office of the Federal Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Employment and Equal Opportunities
- May 2006 - November 2008: Parliamentary assistant - Brussels regional Parliament
- December 2004 - April 2006: Advisor to an Alderman - City of Brussels

Education

- Master's in political science, majoring in International Relations (Université Catholique de Louvain)
- University of Bergen, Norway (Erasmus)
- Bachelor in History (Université Catholique de Louvain)



**Wallonie - Bruxelles
International.be**

WALLONIE-BRUXELLES INTERNATIONAL

Wallonia-Brussels International (WBI) is the public agency responsible for international relations of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and Wallonia. WBI promotes entities with an international capacity for action (such as universities, clusters or companies) in Wallonia-Brussels and defends the values and interests of each of the parties, in a spirit of cooperation and mutual aid.

In the framework of agreements with 70 countries and regions, WBI supports all stakeholders in Wallonia-Brussels. Actions are carried out in areas such as culture, scientific research and higher education.

Wallonia-Brussels International works among others through a network of scientific liaison offices. The general objective of the network is to promote scientific and technological relations between research and innovation operators in Wallonia-Brussels and partner countries.



WALLONIE-BRUXELLES CAMPUS

Wallonie-Bruxelles Campus (WB Campus) is the agency for promoting higher education of French-speaking Belgium on the international stage. It represents well-renowned higher education institutions, including 5 universities, 19 university colleges and 16 schools of arts.

WB Campus works under the auspices of Wallonia-Brussels International (i.e., the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), in close collaboration with the Academy for research and higher education (ARES) to support the internationalisation of our higher education institutions.

To reach its goal WB Campus uses different tools: www.studyinbelgium.be, multilingual publications, participation in promotional events abroad, organisation of promotional campaigns on specific themes.



Mrs Pascale DELCOMMINETTE

General Administrator
Wallonie-Bruxelles International

From 1986 to 1990, Pascale studied translation (English and Spanish) at the International Interpreters' School (EII) in Mons. She completed these studies first with a European Studies certificate (1989-1990), then with a second certificate in Hispanic American Studies (1990-1991). A 'licence' degree (now the equivalent of an MA) in Social and Economic Sciences (1990 - 1992), a teaching diploma (1993-1994) and a post-graduate degree in International Commerce (1995-1996) were to follow.

Before joining Awex, the Wallonia Export-Investment Agency, in 1995, she worked as a project coordinator for the European Communities Commission, and then in a research position at the Political and Social Economy department at the University of Liège.

In April 1997, Pascale joined the office of the Minister-President of the Walloon Government as an advisor. There, she was in charge of the "Foreign Relations" Cell.

In 1999, it was time for a change. Pascale became an advisor to the office of the Vice-President of the Walloon Government, in the "General Policy" cell. She left the ministries in 2002 to become Manager for the General Secretariat of the Wallonia Regional Investment Society (SRIW). From 2004 to 2013, she worked in a series of managerial positions at the ministerial offices of the Region of Wallonia and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation: Deputy Private Secretary to the Minister-President of the Government of Wallonia (2004-2007); Private Secretary to the minister of Social Action, Health and Equal Opportunities (2007-2009); Private Secretary to the Minister-President for the Government of Wallonia and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (2009-2013).

In parallel to these ministerial posts, Pascale joined the Ducroire Belgian Export Credit Agency in 2006 - she still holds this position - and became the government commissioner for the Economic Stimulation Agency (2007-2009), where she became a board member in 2012, and at the Wallonia Export-Investment Agency, Awex (2009-2014).

In January 2014, Pascale became Deputy General Administrator for Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI). In July of the same year, she was named General Administrator for Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI) and the Wallonia Export-Investment Agency (AWEX), replacing Philippe Suinen. In July 2015, she took up her new role.

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Dr Olivier DOUHERET

Counsellor for Science and Education
Wallonie-Bruxelles International

Since January 2025, Olivier Douhéret has been appointed Counsellor for Science and Education for the representation of the French speaking community of Belgium in Japan (Wallonie-Bruxelles International, [WBI](#)), with the mission to promote higher education, research and innovation in Belgium. He is pursuing a mission initially started in 2022 as local project manager. Before joining WBI, he worked 17 years as an R&D scientist at the Innovation center [Materia Nova](#), after a 3 years postdoctoral position at [imo-imomec](#) the joint research between [Imec](#) and the university of Hasselt. His scientific expertise encompassed the study of nanoscale material properties applied to electronics, in both fundamental and applied research settings, notably for energy production and management, and achieved throughout international collaborative projects. His education included a master degree from the [Phelma](#) physics school of the Graduate schools of Engineering and Management [Grenoble INP - UGA](#) in France in 2000, followed by a PhD degree in semiconductor materials studies at [KTH](#), the Royal Institute of Technology of Stockholm, Sweden, in 2004.

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Mrs Aline FRANCHIMONT

Project Manager

Wallonie-Bruxelles Campus

Project Manager at Wallonie-Bruxelles Campus agency, the Wallonia-Brussels International higher education department.

Holding of a master's degree in journalism and communication from IHECS (IHECS Brussels school – Journalism and communication), Aline started her career in 2009 as Communication Officer at Research in Brussels NPO, a public organisation in charge of promoting scientific research and raising the awareness level of youngsters for scientific studies. Since 2016, she has been working for Wallonie-Bruxelles International. Her job consists mainly in developing communication tools, strengthening the opportunities of actions of the agency and managing activities and projects of attractiveness to promote higher education in French-speaking Belgium.

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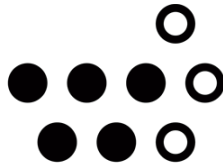
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Wallonie - Bruxelles International.be

WALLONIE-BRUXELLES INTERNATIONAL – RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The Research and Innovation (R&I) Department of Wallonia-Brussels International (WBI) supports the internationalization of R&I stakeholders in French-Speaking Belgium: our competitiveness clusters, universities, research centres, companies, etc.

We strive to:

- Facilitate contact and cooperation with foreign research and innovation organizations
- Coordinate and prepare the scientific and technological components of official Belgian missions (State Visits, economic missions);
- Strengthen the presence and visibility of our ecosystem in international research programs and networks;
- Develop bilateral research agreements to promote international mobility between foreign researchers and those of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.

Through its network of 10 Scientific and Academic Advisors (CSA) that are based in leading innovation ecosystems, Wallonia-Brussels International places research and innovation at the heart of its priorities and acts as a bridge between various partners, supporting projects with international scope. Their primary mission is to promote and facilitate collaborations between research and innovation stakeholders in Wallonia-Brussels and those in partner countries. The CSA are assigned to specific geographical areas and work closely with the local host institutions.



Mr Sebastian SALCEDO

Project Manager
Research & Innovation

As a Project Manager in the Research & Innovation department of Wallonia-Brussels International (WBI), my role is to be a true bridge builder between scientific and academic stakeholders in Wallonia-Brussels and their international partners. At the intersection of scientific diplomacy and the development of strategic collaborations, I support and facilitate the networking of researchers, the structuring of bilateral and European projects, and the promotion of Walloon expertise in innovation.

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**ACADÉMIE
DE RECHERCHE ET
D'ENSEIGNEMENT
SUPÉRIEUR**

ACADÉMIE DE RECHERCHE ET D'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR

The Academy for Research and Higher Education (Académie de recherche et d'enseignement supérieur – ARES) is the federation of the French-speaking HEIs of Belgium. As a public interest body, it is responsible for supporting these institutions in their teaching, research and community service missions. It brings together 6 universities, 19 university colleges, 16 colleges of arts and numerous adult higher education colleges. As a unique platform, ARES carries out the general coordination for the HE sector in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.



Mrs Alexia VERCRUYSSÉ

Project Manager - international Relations
Academy for Research and Higher Education

The Academy for Research and Higher Education (Académie de recherche et d'enseignement supérieur – ARES) is the federation of the French-speaking HEIs of Belgium. As a public interest body, it is responsible for supporting these institutions in their teaching, research and community service missions. It brings together 5 universities, 19 university colleges, 16 colleges of arts and numerous adult higher education colleges. As a unique platform, ARES carries out the general coordination for the HE sector in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.

Before joining ARES as international relations project manager, Alexia Vercruysse worked for 4 years in the federal parliament as adviser on foreign affairs, European and institutional affairs.

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Académie royale des Beaux-Arts Bruxelles – École supérieure des Arts

ACADÉMIE ROYALE DES BEAUX-ARTS BRUXELLES

Founded over 300 years ago, the Académie royale des Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles – École supérieure des Arts (ArBA-EsA) is one of Europe's oldest art schools. Located in the heart of the Belgian capital, it is subsidized by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and supported by the City of Brussels.

ArBA-EsA welcomes over 500 students, guided by 100+ professionals. Its programs include a bachelor's degree (180 ECTS), a master's degree (120 ECTS) with teaching, research-based or specialized tracks, a Doctorate in collaboration with the university, and Executive Masters.

Courses offered (BA & MA): Interior Architecture, Art in Public Space, Visual Communication, Textile Design, Drawing, Urban Space, Engraving, Illustration, Lithography, Painting, Photography, Screen Printing, Sculpture, Tapestry – Textile Arts.

Specialized Masters: Urban Design – SITU, Editorial Practices – MULTI, Exhibition Practices – CARE.

Executive Masters: Food Design, Knitting Design, Interior Design Management.

ArBA-EsA fosters experimentation, research, and professionalization through studios, theory classes, exhibitions, internships, and international exchanges.



Prof. Laetitia SEDZIEJEWSKI

Lead professor
Textile Design & Knitting Design programs
Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts Bruxelles

Laetitia is a textile designer specializing in textile printing and finishing. She graduated in fashion design from the Institut Saint-Luc and in Textile Design from ENSAV La Cambre.

A full-time professor in Textile Design at ArBA-EsA for nearly 20 years, she founded a screen-printing studio focused on textile research and production, led for over a decade. She also launched the Executive Master in Knitting Design and co-founded ACT – Ateliers de Céramique et Textile.

Her practice blends teaching, creation, consulting, and knowledge-sharing, with a strong foundation in textile craftsmanship.

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Mr Cyril BIHAIN

Professor of lithography
Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts Bruxelles

Cyril Bihain is a multidisciplinary visual artist. Trained as a printmaker and illustrator, he later explored ceramics, artist books, photography, glass, stained glass, textiles, and collage. For ten years, he has focused on textile works and pâte de verre sculptures. He studied at ENSAV La Cambre in Brussels and earned a Master's from Osaka University of Arts. He trained in glass art with Chantal Delporte. He teaches lithography at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels and at the Academie Beeldende Kunsten in Anderlecht. He held a Monbusho scholarship from 1999 to 2003.

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ÉCOLE DE RECHERCHE GRAPHIQUE

The ERG is a place for artistic, plastic and graphic practices that enter theoretical and formal risk zones. A place and pedagogies to be defined and redefined collectively. It's a place where we can learn from what doesn't work. A place for research.

Since its creation in 1972, ERG has defined itself as a research school where the activation of modes and spaces of production enables students to learn while developing a practice. The articulation of the classes aims at forming a zone of convergence favoring the emergence of unexpected occurrences, of modes of exchange and collectiveness, and of hybridized forms, thus contributing to the training of citizen-artists in relation to the world, extending far beyond the curriculum. Here, what matters is not to offer certitudes, but to gather the conditions for a maximal degree of experimentation that pushes the students to position themselves in relation to their medium while de-constructing it for a better appropriation.

The specificity of the ERG's teaching method lies in its inter- or trans-disciplinary approach, guaranteed by the way students and teachers interact across various [disciplines](#): video, painting, photography, sculpture, drawing, installation-performance, digital arts, typography, graphic design, visual and graphic communication, illustration, comics, animation, but also theoretical practices, such as humanities, philosophy, sociology.

These educational priorities are elaborated with the erg's team of teachers, together with a program inviting actors from the fields of art, science, and humanities in the form of workshops, seminars, and public interventions. Erg is a place dedicated to artistic, plastic and graphic practices that venture in theoretically and formally critical zones. It offers spaces and pedagogies to be defined and re-defined collectively. It is a place where one may learn from what does not work – that is, a place dedicated to research.



Prof. Nicolas PRIGNOT

Teacher

École de Recherche Graphique

Nicolas Prignot teaches theoretical courses at ERG, a graphic design research school, and at the ESA Saint-Luc in Brussels. He trained in physics, defended a thesis in philosophy entitled 'L'onde, la preuve et le militant' under the supervision of Isabelle Stengers, and also holds a master's degree in Expérimentations en Arts et Politiques from SciencesPo Paris. He teaches philosophy, as well as Semiotics, Narrative and Research Methodology. He enjoys working on complex subjects, but also on demanding authors, and has a keen interest in alternative forms of narrative and experimentation, whether in research, teaching or associative and political action.

His professional career focuses on interdisciplinary research and environmental issues. He has worked as a researcher at the Institut de Gestion de l'Environnement et d'Aménagement du Territoire (IGEAT) at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), as well as in environmental associations such as Inter-Environnement Bruxelles. He is a member of the ULB's Constructivist Studies Group, which works on contemporary philosophy. He continues doing research into environmental philosophy, focusing in particular on Félix Guattari and Isabelle Stengers.

Nicolas Prignot is the author of a number of publications, including 'Terres des villes: Enquêtes potagères de Bruxelles aux premières saisons du 21e siècle'. He strives to link philosophy, science and civic engagement, questioning the place of minority knowledge and controversy in contemporary society. He works on complex environmental issues, such as electromagnetic wave illnesses, soil pollution and disasters. He has recently been published in English in the Japanese journal *Tetsugaku*, and in Japanese in 境界を越えて: 比較文明学の現在: 立教比較文明学会紀要 = Beyond boundaries: Comparative civilizations now. He has also published a work of speculative fiction 'Dans leurs pas' (édition Cambourakis), based on a research project about young people's imaginations, as part of the *Æ* collective. It is interested in developing working relationship with Japan.

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ESA SAINT-LUC BRUXELLES

Based in Brussels, a multicultural city and headquarters of the European institutions, and established in the international scene of comics, contemporary narrative, interior design, new forms of visual communication and innovative policies, ESA Saint-Luc is an art school aiming to shape creative talents in a way both coherent and challenging, overseen by academics, researchers and professors from relevant academic disciplines.

Combining genuine education and training to creation, ESA Saint-Luc offers programs which stimulate not only artistic practice, but also reflection and research, in view of providing students with general culture, critical sense and commitment to rigor.

In order to build connections between academic institutions and cultural operators, the school has signed agreements with other establishments and universities, both in Belgium and abroad. These collaborations bring in more diversity, and trigger stimulating dynamics. In addition, ESA Saint-Luc organizes lectures by outside guests, workshops, trips, exhibitions, conferences as well as site visits.



Mrs Septembre TIBERGHIE

Director
ESA Saint-Luc Bruxelles

Septembre Tiberghien has been Director of ESA St-Luc Brussels since 2023.

After studying art history (BA, University of Montreal, MA Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), she worked as a project manager in the contemporary art sector in France and Belgium.

Since 2015, she has developed a practice as an independent art critic and curator and teaches at several art colleges in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (ARTS² Mons, la Cambre, le 75, Arba-Esa). Alongside her activities, she is actively involved in the International Association of Art Critics (ABCA/BVKC) and the Commission des arts plastiques de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, for which she held the presidency until 2024.

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Mrs Cécile THUILLIER

International relations
ESA Saint-Luc Bruxelles

Cécile Thuillier is in charge of the international development of ESA Saint-Luc Brussels since 2017.

She is one of the representatives of the art schools of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation on the International Relations Commission and the International Cooperation Commission of the Academy for Research and Higher Education (Académie de recherche et d'enseignement supérieur –ARES).

Cécile holds a Master degree in French Literature, and has worked as a project manager in several countries: France, Canada, United Kingdom, Sweden and Belgium.

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Mr Sacha GOERG

Professor
ESA Saint-Luc Bruxelles

Sacha Goerg was born in Switzerland and lives in Brussels. He is active as a comic book artist and illustrator. He has published comic books with several major publishers. His latest book, l'Archipel, was published in 2024 by Gallimard. He is also one of the founders and publisher of the Brussels-based publishing house L'employé du moi. He also teaches comics at the ESA Saint-Luc in Brussels and is a director of Abdil, a professional federation representing illustration and comics authors in French-speaking Belgium.

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ESA SAINT-LUC LIÈGE

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ESA SAINT-LUC LIÈGE

Proud of its rich history spanning 130 years, ESA Saint-Luc Liège School of Art and Design is dedicated to excellence in art education. Home to over a thousand students, our school focuses on preparing them for careers in the fine arts, spatial and visual arts, design and conservation. Our school is active internationally, promoting travel and intercultural exchanges through seminars, workshops, master classes, cultural visits, internships, and study exchanges.

As one of the largest French speaking public art schools in Europe, ESA Saint-Luc Liège embraces diversity and inclusivity. Our pedagogical approach revolves around the "atelier," a hands-on, project-based workshop where students engage with tutors and practicing artists. Here, students are at the centre of the learning experience. Furthermore, our school values interdisciplinarity offering elective modules in multiple disciplines to stimulate a holistic pedagogical approach.

ESA Saint-Luc Liège also nourishes a sense of community thanks to a collaborative learning environment. The student council, run by students for students, contributes to the vibrant atmosphere on campus. Together with the architecture faculty of the University of Liège with whom we share the campus, we continuously strive to improve the student experience. Beyond the school gates, we also maintain strong ties with the cultural sector in and around Liège.

Establishing partnerships across Europe and beyond, ESA Saint-Luc Liège aims to create enduring relationships that benefit students, teachers, and staff. In other words, our school provides an inspirational and welcoming environment for aspiring artists to grow, collaborate, and achieve recognition on a local, regional, national, and international stage.



Mr Roland DECAUDIN

Head, Director
ESA Saint-Luc Liège

Born in 1968 in Northern France, Roland Decaudin studied arts, communication and digital technologies and pedagogies at University of Valenciennes and Paris 8. While graduating at Université Paris 8 Hypermedia department, he started teaching digital arts and pedagogy at Université de Valenciennes and ESA Cambrai School of Arts in northern France. In 1999, Roland Decaudin cofounded a digital agency called “Les imaginaires” where, from 1993 to 2010, he designed interactive solutions for diverse clients from the institutional, cultural and industrial sectors. In 2007, the honour befell Roland Decaudin to take over the management of ESA Cambrai. Appointments to ESA Tourcoing in 2011, ESADHaR Rouen-Le Havre in 2014 and EESAB-Lorient in 2015 followed. Rich of all this experience, in 2023, Roland Decaudin decided to embark on a new journey at ESA Saint-Luc Liège School of Art and Design – one of the largest French speaking art schools in Europe - where he was appointed head (director). His motto: “My key value is quality of student’s experience. This is built on empowerment of all stakeholders in higher education institutions, support of diversity, caring pedagogy, ambitious research and environmental sustainability”.

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Mr Stefan ASKEW

Head of international relations
ESA Saint-Luc Liège

Stefan Askew read European Studies at Maastricht University before graduating from International Development Studies at the University of Amsterdam and from a joint degree in Sustainable Development at the universities of Graz and Leipzig. After a spell working in the private sector, he joined ESA Saint-Luc Liège School of Art and Design as head of International Relations. Since then, he has managed various international projects such as ESA Saint-Luc Liège's participation in the Belgian economic mission to Japan in 2022. He works tirelessly to spread his enthusiasm for international exchanges and is always on the lookout for new collaboration opportunities. Since 2023, Stefan has also taken on the role of coordinating ESA Saint-Luc Liège's efforts to transition towards sustainable development

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Mrs Valérie ROUSSEAU

Teacher, Professor
Conservation Restoration of Artistic Heritage Ceramics
ESA Saint-Luc Liège

After graduating from Art History of the Modern and Contemporary Period at the University of Liège in 1998, Valérie Rousseau continued her training with a course in conservation/restoration of artistic heritage at ESA Saint-Luc Liège. During this period, she acquired specialist knowledge in field of ceramics. Today, Prof. Rousseau heads the ceramics track of the conservation-restoration course at ESA Saint-Luc Liège. Next to teaching, Valérie Rousseau works as Freelance conservator for Atelier SiO2. Her continued interest for ceramics has driven her to work on various individual and collaborative projects: “Since 2020, I have been invited to collaborate with various educational centers in Morocco to study, among other things, the technology and restoration of Zellij/Zellige - i.e. traditional mosaic tilework. In addition, I am interested in the Japanese restoration method Kintsugi, which I had the opportunity to learn more about in 2024 during an exchange at Tokyo University of the Arts.” Valérie Rousseau’s passion for ceramics is not limited to restoration. She is also very interested in the production and creation of ceramics and ceramic technology. She has thus developed the necessary skills in the shaping and decorating of ceramics, which she teaches at ESA Saint-Luc Liège and in private workshops. Currently, Valérie is engaging in artistic activities around ceramic creation focused on transfer techniques on porcelain.

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Mr Nico BROERS

Teacher, Professor

Conservation restoration of Artistic Heritage Painting

ESA Saint-Luc Liège

Nico Broers holds a Master's degree in Conservation of Fine Art from Northumbria University Newcastle, UK. He is a professor in the department of Conservation-Restoration of Artistic Heritage at the ESA Saint-Luc Liège School of Art and Design and a member of the AAP (Art, Archéologie et Patrimoine) research unit of the University of Liège. In addition, he has been active working as conservator in the public and private sector since 2003. Thanks to his professional experience in the fields of painting conservation and the conservation of modern and contemporary art, Prof Broers keeps abreast of the changing conditions of the conservation sector, albeit his primary interest lies in the role of education and research for conservation-restoration. In 2014, Prof. Broers joined the board of ENCoRE – the European Network for Conservation-Restoration Education - and is currently serving as deputy chair. He is also an active member of the board of the Belgian Professional Association of Conservators and Restorers (APROA/BRK), and of the editorial board of CeROArt - an online platform dedicated to publishing pluridisciplinary approaches in conservation, exhibitions and the restoration of art.

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HAUTE ÉCOLE ALBERT JACQUARD

Haute École Albert Jacquard (HEAJ) is a Belgian college located in Namur. A pioneer in its field in Wallonia, the HEAJ launched its Bachelor's degree in Graphics Techniques 25 years ago. Its expertise and reputation in this domain have earned it international recognition. The school trains professionals in areas such as 2D and 3D animation, 3D VFX, graphic communication, interface design and development, real-image production, as well as packaging design.

In recent years, the HEAJ has also introduced Master's programs in Video Games and Transmedia Architecture. The Master's in Video Games covers the entire design process—from concept to management and entrepreneurship—and offers four areas of specialization: game art, game design, programming and technical art. The Transmedia Architecture program focuses on the creation of interactive media (videos, games, visuals, sounds, events, etc.) to build cohesive, interconnected storytelling universes.

HEAJ places strong emphasis on human-centered values and student support. Our commitment to remaining a school on a human scale stems from our belief in the importance of providing personalized guidance to support students in their professional journeys. As such, our programs prioritize hands-on experience and internships to prepare graduates to enter the workforce with confidence.



Mrs Carole DEMASY

Deputy Director
Digital and Creative Media Department
Haute École Albert Jacquard

Carole Demasy is Deputy Director of the Creative and Digital Media Department at Haute École Albert Jacquard (HEAJ) in Namur, Belgium. With over 20 years of experience in 3D technology and educational innovation, she plays a key role in the design and development of the department's academic programs.

She notably led the creation of several new courses, including the 3D Visual Effects track, developed a photogrammetry certification in partnership with ULB, and introduced the department's first hybrid 3D courses on the Moodle platform. Carole is also actively involved in numerous interdisciplinary and international projects, collaborating with universities, research institutions, and cultural organizations such as UNamur, ULB, ARTE (a European public service TV channel dedicated to culture), and the City of Namur.

Alongside her management responsibilities, she continues to teach modeling, lighting, and 3D rendering for both film and real-time applications, while supervising graduation projects and internships. Her dedication to innovation, collaboration, and excellence in higher education in the arts and technology makes her a valuable contact for developing international collaborations and creative exchange initiatives.

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Mrs Gretchen BRANDT

International Officer
Digital and Creative Media Department
Haute École Albert Jacquard

Gretchen Brandt is the International Officer for the Digital and Creative Media Department at Haute École Albert Jacquard in Namur, Belgium. With over 15 years of experience, she has played an active role in developing HEAJ's international network, primarily within the Erasmus framework.

In addition to teaching English, Gretchen is responsible for coordinating international mobility for both students—whether for study periods or internships—and staff, through training opportunities, job shadowing, and teaching exchanges. She also oversees a range of international projects and is deeply committed to fostering global connections in higher education.

Given Japan's leadership in digital innovation and creative industries, this visit offers a valuable opportunity to explore potential avenues for student exchanges and internship opportunities within the local industry.

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HAUTE ÉCOLE PROVINCIALE DE HAINAUT CONDORCET

The Haute École Provinciale de Hainaut - Condorcet is a major public higher education institution in Belgium's Hainaut province, offering nearly 50 short-cycle and master's programs across seven academic fields including education, health, social sciences, science & technology, agronomy, and economics. Rooted in democratic values and guided by its Pedagogical, Social, and Cultural Charter, Condorcet fosters inclusivity, neutrality, critical thinking, and public service.

With multiple campuses strategically located across the province, the school ensures accessible, high-quality education, integrating academic excellence with real-world experience through internships, industry partnerships, and active engagement with civil society. Its programs, aligned with the Décret Paysage, combine theory and practice to enhance students' professional readiness and social mobility.

For over 15 years, Condorcet has promoted North-South cooperation, running long-term partnerships and projects in Benin, DR Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Morocco, and Cuba, thereby supporting research, training, and sustainability programs with support from WBI, ARES, and the Province of Hainaut. Over 40 Global South professionals have received specialized training at Condorcet.

In 2024, it launched the Mock COP "Equitrade," a six-week simulation on fair trade, and has also developed "CocoaLab," a blended program on sustainable cocoa with Enabel and AWEX. The economics department is certified as a Fair-Trade University.



Mr Alexandre MABILLES

Language lecturer, International Office, Ambassador for European
Climate Pact
Economics/Sciences & Technologies
Haute Ecole Provinciale de Hainaut - Condorcet

Alexandre Mabilles, foreign language lecturer, International Relations Office member, EU Climate Pact Ambassador. Focus: STEAM education, project-based learning, climate change mitigation/adaptation, cleantech innovation, and ecosystem building through global-local collaboration.

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Haute Ecole de la Province de Liège
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE PROVINCE OF LIEGE

HAUTE ÉCOLE DE LA PROVINCE DE LIÈGE

The University college of the Province of Liège awards a wide range of master's and bachelor's Degrees in many subjects.

Whatever the field of study, our institution offers training combining theoretical and practical aspects as it allows students to carry out field placements and meet the professionals. It offers more than 60 courses in 12 areas: more than 30 Bachelors (short type), 7 Masters (long type) and 14 Specializations.

Our teaching staff is fully committed to offering students highquality education. The University college of the Province of Liège is today recognized as a competent partner, and as such is involved in the economic development of Liège, and more widely, of the whole Walloon region.

The HEPL has the desire to turn towards Europe and the world and it's now part of UNIGreen Alliance. The Green European University is an Alliance of 8 European Higher Education Institutions (University of Almería, Spain; Agricultural University of Iceland, Iceland; Agricultural University of Plovdiv, Bulgarie ; Instituto Politécnico de Coimbra, Portugal ; Paris Sup'Biotech, France ; Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italie ; Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Pologne) that share the common vision of promoting excellence in Teaching, Learning, Research and Innovation in field of Sustainable Agriculture, Green Biotechnology and Environmental and Life Sciences.

UNIGreen valorises and builds on a long-lasting collaboration to create an integrated European University supporting the green economy.



Mr Valéry BROUN

Head of the Science and Technology department
Haute École De La Province De Liège

Valéry Broun is a Belgian engineer and researcher, specializing in electronics, with a dense and varied career that spans more than two decades.

During his academic career in HEPL, he collaborated also as a researcher with the Walloon Region, ULiège's S3L and Intelsig, working on pioneering projects such as the OUFTI-1 satellite.

His commitment to research is evidenced by his participation in more than nine major research projects, including Demeter, Deamon and Antilope, and by his contributions to more than 40 publications between 2004 and 2020. Valéry has been honored for his achievements and impact in his field, receiving distinctions such as Knight of the Walloon Order of Merit and being elected Liégeois of the year in the Manager category.

Beyond his academic and professional achievements, Valéry has also played a key role in the development of innovative technologies and in the promotion of research and education in the field of electronic and space engineering. His biography reflects a career dedicated to the advancement of science and technology, marked by a deep commitment to teaching, research and innovation.

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Dr. Stéphane MONFILS

Professor and researcher
Department of Sciences and Techniques
Haute École de la Province de Liège

I am an architectural engineer and PhD in Environmental Sciences, with a professional path shaped by over 15 years of experience across research, higher education, and applied consultancy. My areas of expertise include energy performance in buildings, sustainable renovation strategies, and the integration of environmental and social factors in construction-related decision-making. I work full-time as a teacher and researcher at the Haute École de la Province de Liège, where I coordinate the bachelor's program in renewable energies and teach in the master's program in industrial engineering in construction.

My activities have spanned public and private collaborations, ranging from large-scale renovation projects and performance simulations to field audits and policy-oriented studies. I apply technical rigor and interdisciplinary thinking to topics such as building envelope design, thermal comfort, life cycle assessment, and collective energy systems.

I have gained an international perspective through postdoctoral research at Maastricht University and an academic stay at the Welsh School of Architecture. Active participation in cross-border academic networks—including COST Actions, IEA Annexes, and the UNGreen Alliance—reflects a strong commitment to collaborative research and open knowledge exchange.

My current research focuses on the intersection of technical expertise and societal transition, with particular attention to the behavioral and systemic dimensions of energy use in the built environment.

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HAUTE ÉCOLE EN HAINAUT

The Haute Ecole en Hainaut (HEH) is a Belgian French-speaking university college located in the province of Hainaut, 50 kilometres south of Brussels, the capital of Europe. HEH is organized by Wallonie-Bruxelles-Enseignement (WBE).

Created in 1996 as a result of the reunification of all higher education institutions located in the province of Hainaut and all belonging to WBE, it gathers four former independent institutions in the fields of education, social sciences, economics (law, tourism and administration) and technical engineering (with orientations in informatics, construction, land surveyors and life data technology).

HEH has now 3,600 students and 390 staff members (teaching, administrative and research). It grants 22 bachelor's degrees and 6 Master's degrees and has been awarded multiple research grants.

Through its active policy of encouraging international partnerships, HEH enhances learning opportunities by stimulating mobility for students and teachers in all programmes. Moreover, bioinformatics and data sciences are in full evolution, promoting opportunities, developing employment as well as sustaining the emergence of a biotechnology ecosystem in Belgium. HEH is thus targeting to develop collaboration in Norway in various fields in research, more specifically in modern technical engineering and in life data sciences. In this regard, the recent advances in the field of biomedical and pharmaceuticals development in Belgium highlight HEH expertise in bioinformatics and willingness to collaborate internationally.



Mrs Laurence BARAS

International Relations Coordinator
Haute École en Hainaut

With a Master's degree in Translation (English-Spanish) and a Master's degree in Economics from UMONS, with a focus on Business Management, Mrs Laurence BARAS began her career as an Account Manager in charge of managing and coordinating the operational and commercial activities of credit insurance within the consultancy company TCIC (the advisory arm of the Atradius parent company) and then within Atradius' head office. She was the interface for the sales representatives of the joint-ventures and local partners in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Latin America markets. Position based in Brussels (subsidiary), then in Namur (capital of the Wallonia region, head office of the company). Position held for 11 years.

She then had the opportunity to join the Haute Ecole en Hainaut University College, mainly based in Mons, where she held three positions simultaneously: Institutional Coordinator of the Student Educational Support Unit for (10 years), Institutional Coordinator of the International Relations Commission (major position) and Teacher in Management at the Engineering School of the HEH.be; the two last positions still held today (for almost 20 years).

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Dr. Ir. Matthieu MICHIELS

Associate professor - Senior R&D Scientist
Science and Technologies
HEH University college

Senior R&D scientist specializing in plasma-assisted thin film deposition, with a strong focus on High Power Impulse Magnetron Sputtering (HiPIMS). I hold a Master's degree in Electronics (2006) and obtained a PhD in Engineering Sciences in 2021. My doctoral research centered on bipolar high-power pulsed magnetron sputtering discharges, aiming to enhance the efficiency and quality of thin film deposition processes.

Currently, my work explores technological innovations in advanced plasma discharges, with the goal of improving process stability and scaling up for industrial applications. As an Associate Professor and Head of the Power Electronics Laboratory at Haute École en Hainaut (HEH.be), I lead applied research projects at the intersection of plasma physics and engineering, with a strong emphasis on innovation and technology transfer.

HEH.be is a French-speaking higher education institution located in Mons, approximately 50 kilometers south of Brussels and near Tournai. The school offers a wide range of academic and professional programs that blend theoretical knowledge with hands-on training, preparing students for dynamic careers across multiple sectors.

Applied research in the field of cold plasma was launched in 2021 at the Power Electronics Laboratory through the PlasmaGen project. This initiative combines multidisciplinary expertise in engineering and applied research, reflecting HEH's commitment to societal impact and innovation. PlasmaGen also serves as an engaging learning platform, actively involving students in experimental work and scientific outreach.

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HAUTE ÉCOLE LÉONARD DE VINCI

The University College, Léonard de Vinci (HE Vinci) is a higher education institution recognised for the quality of its 40 profession-oriented Bachelor's, academic-oriented (long) Master's and Advanced Degree Programmes.

We have three campuses (two in Brussels and one in Louvain-la-Neuve), located in beautiful surroundings. We welcome more than 9000 students of many different nationalities. Our missions include teaching, research and continuing education. We also actively provide a range of services to society. Our core mission is to train tomorrow's professionals in the state-of-the-art of their field.

Our programme-based approach and project-based teaching methods allow our students to personalise their educational pathways and undertake work experience as part of their programmes. We have also established numerous international partnerships, which benefit our students and our academic and administrative staff. We employ more than 1000 people. Since September 2019, our university college has been structured around three Sectors: Health, Human and Social Sciences, and Science and Technology.

Our Vision

Our vision is to build a community of actors for change whose expertise is recognized in industry and higher education; in which everyone's talents are cultivated and expressed; in which students are actors in their own education.

Here at de Vinci we are charting an optimistic response to the challenges of the 21st century by equipping our community with skills that are fit for the future, to hone critical thinking skills and develop creativity – all grounded in an ethical approach. We are committed to encouraging our community to be responsible citizens and contribute to a sustainable future.



Mrs Maïté ABRAM

Senior Manager in international relations
Project Manager
Haute École Léonard De Vinci

Maïté Abram is a Senior Manager based in Brussels, specializing in international relations and project management. Since 2013, she has led the International Relations Office at Haute École Léonard de Vinci, managing a team of 20 and overseeing global partnerships, complex budgets, and significant academic events.

With a career focused on strategy, leadership, and innovation, she also served as the Director of the European Movement Belgium for over a decade.

A multilingual professional passionate about contemporary art and certified in change management, she values respectful stakeholder engagement and harmonious collaboration—principles she considers essential in international contexts, especially in professional settings like Japan.

Maïté combines rigor, creativity, and dedication to advancing higher education and international cooperation.

She also contributes actively to the Committee on International Relations of the Academy for Research and Higher Education.

Holding degrees in Roman philology and Orientalism, her vast professional network lies in Higher Education, EU affairs and Women's rights.

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Mrs Isabelle CAMBRON

Lecturer
International Relations Coordinator
Haute École Léonard De Vinci

Isabelle Cambron is a lecturer in computer science, currently teaching at Haute École Léonard de Vinci in Brussels, Belgium. She has been involved in higher education since 2018.

She holds a master's degree in computer science and a master's in industrial management. Her academic background combines technical knowledge with applied business understanding, which she brings into her teaching practice. Isabelle teaches courses related to programming, data management, IT project management, business analysis and business-IT alignment.

Since 2022, Isabelle has also served as the International Relations Coordinator for the Computer Science Department at Haute École Léonard de Vinci. In this role, she supports academic mobility initiatives, develops partnerships with international institutions, and promotes cross-cultural collaboration within the department.

Prior to her teaching activities, Isabelle has gained professional experience in both consultancy and the IT sector. These experiences have helped her stay connected with current industry practices, which she integrates into her pedagogical approach.

Her academic interests also focus on the importance of collaboration between technical and non-technical teams. She is particularly attentive to how students develop analytical and business skills alongside technical ones.

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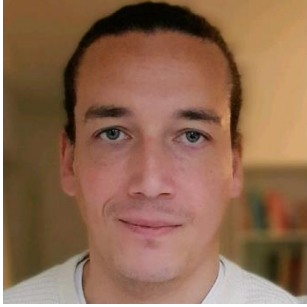


HAUTE ÉCOLE LIBRE MOSANE

HELMo University College is a School of Higher Education which offers training courses in the education's, nursing's, social work's, technical's, which includes IT, and business' department. Through our bachelor's and master's curricula, we prepare our students for professional careers in both local as international companies.

The technology and IT department offers various programs, including Bachelor's degrees in Automation, Industrial Robotics, Mechatronics and Robotics, Computer Science, as well as Master's degrees in Industrial Engineering, Industrial and Business Engineering, Sustainable Energy Engineering and Computer Systems Architecture.

Our facilities are mainly located in Liege, a city sitting at the doors of Europe. It is located 30 minutes from Maastricht (in the Netherlands), Aix-la-Chapelle (in Germany) is about 50 minutes. It is one hour away from Brussels, 2h30 from Amsterdam (in the Netherlands) by car or train and 4 hours from Paris (France) by car or 2h30 by train (TGV). These are very fascinating places to explore.



Mr Nicolas HENDRIKX

Assistant-Master, software engineer
Technics and IT
Haute École Libre Mosane

As a representative of the technology and IT department, my purpose is to connect with Japanese Colleges and companies to collaborate on student's exchange and research projects. With nearly twenty years of experience in software engineering, I am enthusiastic about exploring virtual and extended realities applications for industrial companies.

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INSTITUT ROYAL SUPÉRIEUR DE MUSIQUE ET DE PÉDAGOGIE

Founded in 1970, the IMEP (Institut Royal Supérieur de Musique et de Pédagogie) offers comprehensive and diverse training for musicians, artists, and educators, preparing them for the realities of today's musical world. The Institute remains true to its motto: "Practice at the heart of learning", and provides programmes that combine artistic excellence, professional experience, and open-mindedness. In addition to its strong foundation in pedagogy and classical music (orchestral instruments, voice, opera, early music), the IMEP has expanded—and continues to expand—its offer of programmes into contemporary fields such as pop music, string instrument manufacturing ("lutherie"), computer music, and more recently, music from oral traditions. Each year, students engage in a varied season of concerts, workshops, masterclasses, and internships, often organised in collaboration with renowned institutions (CAV&MA, Royal Opera of Wallonia, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Liège, etc.). These experiences provide valuable professional training from the very first year of study. The IMEP also offers a program for "young talents", allowing promising young musicians to access certain courses from adolescence. With over 50 years of expertise under its belt, the IMEP stands out thanks to its faculty of acclaimed artists and educators, as well as its commitment to research and pedagogical innovation, through projects such as Solfegiciel, Tempéraments, and Melchior. Today, the Institute welcomes 704 students, nearly 37% of whom come from abroad. The IMEP aims to further strengthen its international partnerships and to train the musicians of tomorrow in a spirit of excellence, diversity, and creativity.



Mr Guido JARDON

General Headmaster

Institut Royal Supérieur de Musique et de Pédagogie

Born in Verviers in 1958, Guido Jardon is a pianist, trumpeter, conductor, and pedagogue. He gave his first concerts at the age of 13 and soon after won first prizes in music theory, trumpet, piano, and chamber music at the Royal Conservatory of Liège. In 1984, he received a diploma in piano with the highest distinction and was awarded the médaille de vermeil. He also earned the Belgian Government's Prize of Virtuosity—the highest national recognition in classical music—along with the jury's special congratulations.

He furthered his training at the Hochschule in Munich, obtaining the Meisterklasse diploma. Winner of the “Young Virtuosos” Competition in Antwerp, the International Competition of the European Musical Institute in Besançon, and the “Young Talents” Prize of the Liège Province, he has performed extensively across Europe and South America as a soloist, chamber musician, arranger, and conductor.

Guido Jardon taught piano from 1983 to 2002, first at the Royal Conservatory of Liège and then at the IMEP (Institut Royal Supérieur de Musique et de Pédagogie). In 2002, he was appointed General Headmaster of the IMEP. Under his leadership, the institute has evolved into a unique and recognized institution both within the the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and internationally, known for its pedagogical innovation and its strong focus on professional integration.

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Mrs Blanche MARCHAL

International Relations Coordinator
Institut Royal Supérieur de Musique et de Pédagogie

Born and raised in Namur in a family of musicians, Blanche Marchal was immersed in the world of music from an early age. A variety of instruments helped shape her musical ear and feed her passion. Alongside this, her interest turned toward languages and linguistics. Fascinated by multilingualism and the cultural richness it conveys, she focused her studies on language revitalisation. Today, her doctoral research explores the role music can play in this process: how can it support, transmit, and revive endangered languages?

International experiences have played a central role in her journey. Extensive travels — across Europe, but also to Benin, Gabon, Taiwan, South Korea, and beyond — have developed her intercultural fluency, adaptability, and passion for human connection.

Since 2024, she has worked as the International Relations and Erasmus Coordinator at the IMEP (Institut Royal Supérieur de Musique et de Pédagogie). This position allows her to combine her core passions: music, languages, and international collaboration. Drawing on her experience, she aims to actively contribute to the IMEP's global development and help enhance its reach through meaningful and ambitious partnerships.

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UNIVERSITÉ CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN

Founded in 1425, the University of Louvain (UCLouvain) is one of Europe's oldest universities. It has 40,000 students, 20% of whom are international, spread over 7 campuses, the main one located in a unique environment a few kilometres south of Brussels and 3 others in the heart of the capital. UCLouvain is the country's leading French-speaking university and is ranked as Belgium's top university for sustainable development in the Times Higher Education (THE) rankings.

UCLouvain offers high-quality teaching in all disciplines, thanks to its 20 faculties and research activities focused on current societal issues such as climate change, democracy, global health, sustainable development and innovation. With 60 ERC (European Research Council) grants and numerous other international awards, teaching at UCLouvain is based on solid research and innovation, with many practical applications for society, as illustrated by the 72 spin-offs and over 270 companies in the university's two science parks. UCLouvain also has two university hospitals, one located in Brussels (Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc) and the other at the heart of Wallonia (CHU UCL Namur).

UCLouvain is part of the Circle U. European University alliance together with Aarhus University, King's College London, Humboldt University in Berlin, Université Paris-Cité, University of Belgrade, University of Pisa, University of Oslo and University of Vienna.

Since September 2023, the Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles has merged with UCLouvain to become one of its campuses. Saint-Louis - Brussels is a campus on a human scale, with a strong emphasis on welcoming students and providing them with personalised support and guidance. It is also recognised for the quality of its bilingual and trilingual programmes, which it has been organising for over thirty years, and for its innovative facilities for intensive foreign language learning.



Dr. Sébastien LUGAN

Senior Researcher & Guest Lecturer
ICTEAM – Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium
Université Catholique de Louvain

Sébastien Lugan received his Ph.D. degree in Engineering Sciences from the École Polytechnique de Louvain, Université Catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain), Belgium, in 2016. He is currently a senior researcher at the Pixels and Interactions Lab (PiLAB), Institute of Information and Communication Technologies, Electronics, and Applied Mathematics (ICTEAM), UCLouvain. His main research activities and expertise are in signal and image processing, including medical imaging, image compression and mega-image navigation, LIDAR detection of aircraft wake turbulence, secure communication for embedded devices and sensors such as IoT for smart cities and machine learning techniques for feature detection and classification in various types of images.

He is currently working on a joint federal research project between the Université catholique de Louvain and the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, funded by Belspo (Belgian Science Policy), “Siamese” (FED-tWIN project). The aim of this project is to provide new, innovative image processing techniques for the preservation of cultural heritage. In a digital society that relies heavily on images, advanced processing techniques will offer both the consumer and the digital curator improved experiences and tools for easy and seamless access to art collections. This research is part of the momentum instilled by the Victoria & Albert Museum (London) through its ReACH (Reproduction of Art and Cultural Heritage) initiative, launched in 2017, which lists points to consider and best practices for the preservation and sharing of art and cultural heritage. This project addresses the three main axes highlighted in this declaration: reproduction (acquisition process, image compression and quality assessment), storage and preservation (tracking, image compression and feature extraction) and sharing of digital reproductions of works of art.

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Prof. Dr. Ir. Gian-Marco RIGNANESE

Head of the Modelling Division of the Institute of Condensed Matter
and Nanosciences
& Chief Innovation Officer
Matgenix
Université Catholique de Louvain

G.-M. Rignanese is Professor at the Ecole Polytechnique de Louvain (EPL) and Research Director at the F.R.S.-FNRS. He received his Engineering degree from the Université catholique de Louvain in 1994 and Ph.D. in Applied Sciences from the Université catholique de Louvain in 1998.

During his Ph.D., he also worked as a Software Development Consultant for the PATP (Parallel Application Technology Project), collaboration between CRAY RESEARCH and Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in the group of Prof. Roberto Car. He carried his postdoctoral research at the University of California at Berkeley in the group of Prof. Steven Louie. In 2003, he obtained a permanent position at the Université catholique de Louvain. In 2022, he was appointed as Adjunct Professor at the Northwestern Polytechnical in Xi'an (China). In 2019, he was named APS Fellow for original efforts developing free license software in the field of electronic structure calculations, and high-throughput calculations in a broad range of materials types.

G.-M. Rignanese is also the Chief Innovation Officer and co-founder of Matgenix, a start-up that provides products and services to help companies active in chemistry and materials science accelerate their research and development of new materials, compounds and processes. Matgenix uses in silico approaches, i.e., high-throughput simulations and data mining, to virtually test thousands of materials or compounds before they are even synthesized.

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Dr. Nicolas DOCQUIER

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General manager, Quandyga Engineering
Université Catholique de Louvain

Mechanical engineer (2005) and PhD (2010) from UCLouvain, Nicolas is specialized in modelling of mechanical systems, especially for railways but also many other moving systems such as robots, human body, prosthesis, etc. His research has focused on coupling multibody models with other disciplines such as pneumatics and hydraulics. After a postdoctoral stay in Montpellier (France) where he developed a unified modelling approach to couple dynamics of multibody and granular media, he came back to Belgium as a senior researcher. Since that time, he has worked on various research projects, involving both numerical modelling and experimental testing. Its work has covered various applications involving pure computer simulations but also the real time coupling between model and real device.

Nicolas is also invited lecturer at UCLouvain, teaching robotics and multibody modelling. His courses often rely on a project based approach and often starts from practical cases motivated by industrial applications. This gives the opportunity to discuss with students how to adopt the relevant assumptions while maintaining the rigor needed to build models adapted to the practical questions posed by the addressed application.

In parallel, Nicolas is co-founder and manager of Quandyga Engineering, an UCLouvain spin-off company that offers services related to multibody dynamics.

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Mr Luka RUKONIĆ

Research assistant
Media Innovation and Intelligibility Lab
Université Catholique de Louvain

Luka Rukonic is a UX researcher and a PhD candidate at the Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain), affiliated with the Institute for Language and Communication (ILC). His academic work explores the integration of user experience (UX) practices into software development, with a focus on communication flows, organizational UX maturity, and the strategic planning of UX activities. In the industry, he contributed to UX research in the automotive sector, particularly related to cockpit design and navigation systems for electric vehicles. He explored virtual, augmented, and extended reality applications for the design and evaluation of automotive systems. He has worked as a researcher on Wallonia-funded research projects such as VIADUCT and City Labs, addressing challenges in automotive and eHealth domains. His work combines academic expertise with industrial applications to foster innovation through user-centred design and collaboration with cross-functional teams.

The Media Innovation and Intelligibility Lab (MiiL) is the media innovation platform of UCLouvain. It brings together researchers from communication, linguistics, computer science, law, and economics to address real-world challenges in media and digital communication. MiiL conducts applied and interdisciplinary research in collaboration with public and private partners, focusing on UX, strategic communication, data visualization, digital law, and economic models for information. The lab supports experimentation in real conditions and provides access to advanced tools such as eye-trackers and biometric sensors to assess media intelligibility. MiiL also plays an active role in education, producing pedagogical content and integrating students into innovation projects with external stakeholders. Through national and international collaborations, MiiL fosters a strong dialogue between academia and industry, aiming to support societal transformation through media and communication research.

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UNIVERSITÉ DE LIÈGE

University of Liège is one of Belgium's leading universities, founded in 1817. ULiège welcomes 28,000 students, 23% of whom are of international origin (123 nationalities). ULiège is the public university of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. It includes 11 Faculties representing the Humanities, Health Sciences, Sciences and Technology. With 39 bachelor's degrees and 194 master's degrees, its range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses is among the most diversified in Belgium. ULiège is located in 3 cities in Wallonia: Liège, Gembloux and Arlon. Its courses have several international quality labels (EQUIS, AACSB, AEEEV, Conférence des Grandes Ecoles). ULiège collaborates with more than 1,000 teaching and research institutions throughout the world. It boosts its research centres in fields such as biotechnologies, life and medical sciences (human and veterinary), agronomy, space and engineering sciences, environment, etc., by developing partnerships with public authorities and companies. More than 100 spin-off companies created by ULiège are in activity. ULiège is a major employer in Wallonia: more than 5,700 employees, including 640 academic staff and 2,900 people involved in teaching and research activities. Together with the University Hospital (CHU) of Liège, this represents 12,000 direct jobs spread over the provinces of Liège, Namur and Luxembourg.

Thanks to its location close to the German border, ULiège has strong, long-standing relationships with German academic and industrial partners and offers joint degrees with German HEIs. The University of Liège is member of the University of the Greater Region network with German partners. The UniGR celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2023.

In research, the University of Liège is an active partner of the Einstein Telescope project with German research partners, sharing its expertise in aerospace and space sciences.

Last but not least, in our European alliance UNIC, ULiège collaborate closely with Ruhr Universität Bochum, sharing a post-industrial city context and the challenges associated with it.



Prof. Pierre DUYSINX

Vice-Rector for Mobility and International Affairs
Université de Liège

Pierre Duysinx is Professor of Automotive Engineering at University of Liege. He has a master's in aerospace engineering and a PhD in Structural Optimization from University of Liege. Pierre Duysinx has been assistant professor at Danish Technical University (1996-1997) before joining Uliege as Associate Professor (2003) and then full Professor (2009). He is the head of Automotive Engineering division of the Aerospace and Engineering Department. His research topics focus on Advanced Computer Aided Design for the computer simulation and numerical optimization of complex mechanical design systems, including lightweight design of aerospace and automotive structures, electric and hybrid powertrains, hydrogen and fuel cell applications in transportation. Pierre Duysinx has developed strong academic and industrial relationships in his field of expertise for 30 years.

Pierre Duysinx has been member and Vice-President of the Executive Committee of the International Society of Structural and Multidisciplinary Optimization (ISSMO) from 2016 to 2023. He always worked closely with Japanese partners throughout his career and has longlasting collaborations with the Toyota Research and Development laboratories in Nagoya among others.

Since October 2022, he has been the Vice Rector in charge of International Affairs and Mobility at University of Liege.

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Prof. Eric HAUBRUGE

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Université de Liège

Eric Haubruge has been Advisor to the Rector in charge of Innovation and Regional Development (ULiege) and Chairman of the International Cooperation Committee (Academy for Research and Higher Education).

Doctor of Agricultural Sciences and Biological Engineering, Eric Haubruge is a Full Professor at the Faculty Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (ULiege). Co-founder of one of the first living labs dedicated to Culinary Science in Europe, the Smart Gastronomy Lab, (<http://www.smartgastronomy.be>), he created the new Laboratory of Gastronomic Sciences in 2017 at the University of Liège.

Between 2009 and 2018, as Vice-Rector of the University of Liege, Eric Haubruge was in charge of education and regional development. In the field of education and training, Eric Haubruge attaches great importance to the development of training courses enabling skills to be acquired throughout life. He is the initiator and the current president of the new jobs and skills incubator within the Liège-Luxembourg academic cluster (<https://www.jobsatskills.be>). Eric Haubruge develops new learning methods but also new information and communication technologies to build a University of the future.

In terms of innovation and research, as convinced that creativity coupled with innovation is an engine for the development of new economic models, Eric Haubruge is a one of the founders of the IDCampus creativity platform (<https://www.idcampus.be>) and of several startups in the “FoodTech” field like LaMiamFactory (<https://www.miamfactory.com>), BeerFac (<https://www.gembloux.beer>) and So Wood Kombucha (<https://sowoodkombucha.com>).

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Prof. Andreas THELE

Director – Centre for Japanese Studies
Sciences of Antiquity
Oriental languages and literature
Faculty of Philosophy and Arts
Université de Liège

In 1993 Andreas Thele obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Düsseldorf after research at Tsukuba University and the “Eastern Institute”, Tokyo (1989-1991). Professor at the University of Liège since 1995, he is the Director of the Centre for Japanese Studies (CEJ) since 2010. In charge of the Master program on “China/Japan” studies at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters he is also the academic coordinator for the exchange programs with Japanese universities. His research covers Japanese culture, philosophy and comparative thinking, especially Confucianism, Daoism and Zen-Buddhism. He also taught Japanese language and civilization at the University of Mons from 1994 to 2022.

Numerous academic missions to Japan between 1996 and 2023.

In 2020 he was distinguished by the Japanese Government with “The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon”.

As Director of the Centre for Japanese Studies (CEJ), he is responsible for the organization of the different academic Minor and Master programmes, evening courses, and other related research activities.

Andreas Thele is member of the Research Unit “Mondes Anciens” at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Liège. For 30 years he is also a member of the “Cultural Committee” of the Belgium-Japan Organization & Chamber of Commerce (BJA).

He is also a member of the “Société Internationale des Amies et Amis de Montaigne”.

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Prof. Thomas DESAIVE

Professor
Université de Liège

Prof. Thomas Desaiive has a MSc in engineering physics and a PhD in engineering from the University of Liège. He is leading interdisciplinary research involving mathematical modelling, physiological data collection, and clinical medicine to create novel, next-generation improvements in care and outcomes for intensive care unit (ICU) patients, focusing on the cardiovascular, pulmonary, and metabolic systems. He has a significant experience in implementing model-based clinical solutions, in all areas, with 300+ publications in biomedical engineering and critical care.

Thomas Desaiive's research focuses on developing innovative, model-based methodologies to address critical challenges in biomedical systems. Leveraging the potential of digital twins and in silico medicine, his work aims to create virtual replicas of physiological systems, which serve as powerful tools for personalized diagnostics and treatment planning in critical care medicine. He has developed advanced but simple cardiovascular models paired with parameter identification techniques to assist clinicians in precise diagnosis and decision-making. These digital twins facilitate accurate hemodynamic monitoring and bring a deeper understanding of disease mechanisms into clinical applications. His research achievements also include the development of model-based therapeutic approaches for managing hyperglycemia in patients with critical conditions leading to reliable and safe glucose-control algorithms that have shown promise in optimizing patient outcomes. He has also contributed to the development of digital twins of the respiratory system to provide optimal mechanical ventilation strategies for ICU patients. Together, these contributions illustrate his commitment to combine biomedical data and digital twins into actionable, model-driven insights, paving the way for next-generation healthcare solutions that are both precise and personalized.

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UNIVERISTÉ DE MONS

The University of Mons (UMONS) is located near the Belgian-French border, in the cities of Mons, European Capital of Culture in 2015, and Charleroi. UMONS includes 7 Faculties, 3 Schools and 10 Research Institutes among which the Engineering Faculty, founded in 1837, is the oldest Engineering Faculty in Belgium. UMONS offers bachelors, masters, and PhD degrees, some of them taught in English. UMONS has around 150 different degree programs on offer to its 11.000 students at Bachelor, Master and PhD level in fields as diverse as Law, Psychology, Social Sciences, Biomedical Science, Economics, Electrical Engineering, Management, Material Science, Mechanical Engineering, Urban Planning, Information Technology, Architecture, Interpretation, Speech Therapy, Mathematics, Chemistry, Pharmacy, Translation Education, Biology, Geology, Medicine. All faculties offer PhD theses supervised in English. Double degrees can also be awarded, for example within the TIME network.

With 1000 researchers (550 PhD students), the research objectives of UMONS are settled both at the regional and international levels. Through its quality research and excellence, UMONS is a nationally and internationally recognized institution. The growing number of publications in referenced scientific journals and of citations in international scientific publications, has led to the university being ranked among the best universities in international rankings, such as EU U-Multirank (Top 100 for the internationalization of its publications) and QS (top 400 mondial for citations), for the productivity of its scientific research.

UMONS is one of the ten European Universities integrated in the European University Alliance EUNICE. Its Rector was the first President of EUNICE University from 2022 to 2024.



Prof. Dr. Laurence RIS

Vice-Rector for Mobility and International Relations
Université de Mons

With a degree in biological sciences from the former UMH in 1994 and a PhD in biology obtained in 1997, Laurence RIS specializes in the neurosciences, with a particular focus on the mechanisms of memory and learning. After working as an aspirant and then as a research fellow at the FNRS, she spent her first research period at the Collège de France in Paris (CNRS), where her work on cerebral plasticity earned her an agrégation thesis in 2002. She then spent time at University College London (WIBR), before being appointed FNRS qualified researcher in 2003 in the Neuroscience Department of the former UMH. There, she developed an expertise in the electrophysiology and plasticity of neuronal connections recognized through her national and international collaborations.

A lecturer since 2012 and full professor since 2018, she was vice-dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy between 2014 and 2022, and is in charge of the biomedical section, where she has set up a specialized Master's degree in Neuroscience in 2019, accessible entirely in English. She is co-founder of the Centre Interdisciplinaire de Psychophysiologie et d'Electrophysiologie de la cognition (CiPsE) at the University of Mons.

She was president of the Belgian Neuroscience Society from 2015 to 2017 and has been president of the Belgian Brain Council since 2021. She was a member of the scientific committee of the Belgian Alzheimer Research Foundation from 2015 to 2023 and an active member of the international ALBA network promoting equity and diversity in brain sciences. A keen supporter of development cooperation, she is also coordinator of a research and development project in partnership with the University of Lubumbashi in the DR Congo.

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Prof. Dr. Ir. Pierre DEHOMBREUX

Full Professor
Machine Design and Production Engineering
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Pierre Dehombreux is a Full Professor and Head of the Laboratory for Machine Design and Production Engineering at the University of Mons. He is the President of the UMONS Research Institute for the Science and Management of Risks.

He graduated in Mechanical Engineering from the Faculté Polytechnique de Mons (Polytech Mons or FPMs) in 1989, where he got his PhD in Applied Sciences in 1995. Assistant in the Department of Theoretical Mechanics, Dynamics and Vibration, his research at that time embraced the numerical simulation of multibody systems and the experimental identification of dynamic solicitations as well.

He supervises courses in machine design (including power transmission systems), reliability and maintenance of industrial equipment. His teaching is centered around mechanical design projects for engineering students.

His main research activities are devoted to the estimation of residual lifetime of industrial equipment, from physics-of-failure models, statistical analysis or degradation measurements, in the perspective of an optimal predictive maintenance policy. He conducted research programs in this field for different industrial contexts. He is currently involved in research on concurrent engineering applied to natural fiber composite products, as part of an international collaboration project in Cameroon.

He served previously as Vice-rector for international relations of the University of Mons from 2010 till 2014 and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering from 2014 to 2018. He has contributed to many international projects including Morocco, China, Canada, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile and Japan. As current international advisor of the Faculty of Engineering, he is the delegate for the T.I.M.E. (Top Industrial Managers in Engineering)

He is the vice-president of MecaTech, the Walloon competitiveness cluster active in the engineering sciences.

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Dr. Ir. Lucas EQUETER

Junior Lecturer

Machine Design and Production Engineering Lab

Université de Mons

Lucas Equeter is a junior lecturer at the University of Mons, where he has been contributing significantly to research, teaching, and community service. He earned his PhD in 2020 with a dissertation focused on the statistics of replacement of cutting tools in turning. His research interests are centered around Industry 5.0, asset management, and reliability-based maintenance.

Dr. Equeter supervises a diverse range of theses, covering topics such as mechanical design, optimal cutting tools replacement through artificial intelligence, assessment of the environmental impact of maintenance, hospital asset management, and production quality prediction through artificial intelligence. His current research explores human factors in maintenance, including learning effects and work ergonomics.

In addition to his research, Dr. Equeter is responsible for creating and teaching the Asset Management & 5.0 course, which is mandatory for all mechanical engineering students at the University of Mons. He also delivers lectures in statistical reliability, mechanical drawing, manufacturing technologies, and machine design. His teaching responsibilities extend to supervising students' projects in manufacturing technologies, machine design, and master's theses.

Dr. Equeter has also contributed to interdisciplinary, multicultural, collaborative design projects for engineering students in an international context, including MUPIC and Time2Go4.0. He currently serves as the president of the University of Mons Scientific Staff (2022-2026) and represents the scientific staff on the University of Mons Board of Administrators.

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Prof. Dr. Philippe LECLÈRE

Director of the Laboratory for Physics of Nanomaterials and Energy
Department of Physics
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Philippe Leclère received a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Liège (Belgium) in 1994. He joined the University of Mons in 1995 as a research fellow. From 2001 to 2004, he worked as a research associate and served as a research coordinator at the Materia Nova Research Center. During this period, he spent one year (2003) in the group of E.W. (Bert) Meijer at the Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e) in the Netherlands. In Oct 2004, he became Research Associate and in Oct 2014 Senior Research Associate of the Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research (F.R.S. - FNRS) in the group of Roberto Lazzaroni at the University of Mons (UMONS). In October 2020, he became Research Director of F.R.S.-FNRS.

In Oct 2021, he became Professor at UMONS creating and heading the Laboratory for Physics of Nanomaterials and Energy (LPNE) at the Physics Department. In Oct 2022, he became Full Professor.

Currently, he also serves as the coordinator of the UMONS mixed technological platform MATERIA LINKS dealing with multifunctional materials elaboration and characterization at multiple scales using cutting-edge simulation and experimental tools. He is (co)author of over 210 papers and many chapter books in international peer-reviewed journals (Hirsch factor: 45).

He is currently President of the Royal Belgian Society for Microscopy (RBSM), President of PromOptica, President of NanoWal (the Wallonia Network for Nanotechnology), and Treasurer of the European Microscopy Society (EMS). His research interests mostly deal with the

- Characterization by means of scanning probe microscopy (SPM) techniques of the morphology and the nanoscale functional properties of organic and hybrid systems including polymer blends, nanocomposites, block copolymers, liquid crystals, hydrogels, nanofibers, nanocomposites and supramolecular (nano)structures. These systems are mainly studied for their use in organic electronics and energy harvesting devices, (bio)sensors, automotive applications, cosmetics, bacterias, cells, and biological-based materials such as bioglue.
- Development of Machine Learning algorithms for SPM data acquisition validation, data clustering, model optimization, and deep learning processes.

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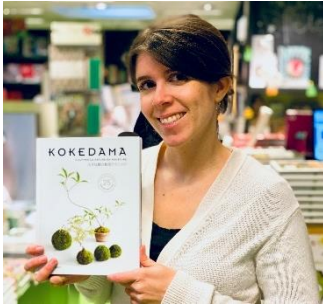
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Prof. Soizic SCHOONBROODT

Japanese language and culture professor
Chinese and East Asian Languages, Translation and Cultures Unit
Université de Mons

Soizic Schoonbroodt is a professor of Japanese language and culture at the Faculty of Translating and Interpreting (FTI-EII) of the University of Mons. With a strong academic foundation in Japanese studies and extensive experience in translating and interpreting, she offers a dynamic and culturally immersive approach to Japanese learning.

Her areas of expertise include Japanese linguistics, traditional and contemporary Japanese culture, and intercultural communication. She is particularly dedicated to helping students not only get first-hand experience of the Japanese language but also gain a deeper understanding of Japan's rich historical and social contexts.

Known for her engaging teaching style and commitment to student success, Professor Schoonbroodt plays an active role in fostering academic exchange between Belgium and Japan. She also contributes to initiatives that promote Japanese culture through her work as a translator – subtitling for the anime and theater scene as well as translating mangas for many years.

The Faculty of Translation and Interpreting – School of International Interpreters (FTI-EII) is one of the leading institutions in Belgium for the study of languages, translation, and interpreting. Founded in 1962, the FTI-EII is renowned for its rigorous multilingual education and its commitment to professional standards. Students can choose from a wide range of language combinations and benefit from state-of-the-art facilities, including interpreting booths, translation labs, and digital resources.

The FTI-EII also values international collaboration and exchange, offering students many exchange opportunities within and beyond Europe. Available since 1984 as an elective subject in the third year, Japanese is taught from beginner to intermediate level, using material specifically designed by Professor Schoonbroodt for the students of this institution. For the past ten years, Professor Schoonbroodt has dedicated her part-time position at the Faculty to improve Japanese student's exchange experience.

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UNIVERSITÉ DE NAMUR

Founded in 1831, the University of Namur (UNamur) carries on the values of the Jesuit traditions of openness, excellence, freedom, and sustainability in its mission of teaching, research, and service to society. UNamur's priority is to educate students and young researchers to become responsible and active members of the society and encourage them not only to acquire solid knowledge in their chosen fields of study, but also to engage in extra-curricular activities and in social, cultural, and humanitarian projects.

The University is situated in Namur, the capital city of Wallonia. It is home to some 7500 students studying in more than 50 academic programs offered by seven different Faculties. The programs are embedded in strong research capabilities. Researchers collaborate in the framework of eleven transdisciplinary research institutes and nine research platforms. Research activities are clustered around five main transversal topics: Life and Health Sciences, Information and Communication Technologies and Society; Heritages, Cultures and Societies, Economic and Social Vulnerabilities and Materials, Energy and Environment.

UNamur is a member of the European Alliance UNIVERSEH and of several other international networks, and it collaborates with many international partners. It plays an important role at local, regional, and national level by encouraging a dialogue with economic and political actors. It contributes to the creation and the transmission of knowledge and to high quality education for all students, regardless of their origin. It promotes excellence in research and attaches great importance to the wellbeing of the entire academic community.



Prof. Jeroen DARQUENNES

Vice-rector for International and External Relations
Université de Namur

Jeroen Darquennes is full professor of German and general linguistics at the University of Namur. He specializes in research on language contact and language conflict in European language minority settings and has published widely on aspects of language policy and planning in Europe.

He is regularly invited as keynote speaker at international conferences, is one of the general editors of De Gruyter's flagship HSK-series (Handbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft), co-editor of Sociolinguistica. European journal of Sociolinguistics (De Gruyter), and editorial board member of other international journals including Language, Culture and Curriculum (Routledge) and the Journal of Historical Sociolinguistics (De Gruyter).

He served as head of the department of Germanic languages at the University of Namur (2012-2015), founded the Namur Institute of Language, Text and Transmediality in 2016, acted as its president until 2021, took up a four-year term as academic coordinator of international relations in 2017, and was appointed Vice-rector for international and external relations in September 2021.

He was recently awarded a Belgian Francqui-Chair at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (2021-2022) dedicated to the topic of multilingualism and language contact.

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Dr. Gilles PERROUIN

FNRS Research Associate
Faculty of Computer Science, PReCISE/NaDI
Université de Namur

I am a FNRS Research associate (“chercheur qualifié”) at the [Namur Digital Institute \(NADI\)](#) and the [Faculty of Computer Science](#) of the University of Namur in Belgium. After I received my PhD jointly from the Universities of Luxembourg and Namur in 2007, I held several postdoctoral positions at the universities of Rennes, Luxembourg and Namur. My research interests involve quality assurance of variability-intensive, intelligent, complex systems and software testing techniques to achieve more ethical and sustainable machine learning.

In particular, I developed combinatorial interaction testing, mutation-driven, and sampling techniques for variability-intensive systems (e.g., software product lines, configurable software) for which I received two 10-year Most Influential Paper awards in 2024 from the SPLC and VAMOS conferences. This expertise led me to recently investigate their role in various categories of software systems, including Real-time and AI-based software. In total, I co-authored more than 100 publications in peer-reviewed venues.

I am a member of [IEEE](#) and [ACM](#). Since 2020, I am an associate editor at the [ACM Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology](#) journal and the Wiley [Software Testing Verification and Reliability](#) journal. I also serve in the program committee of major testing and software engineering conferences such as ICST or ICSE.

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Mrs Fanny BARNABÉ

Associate professor in information and communication
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Fanny Barnabé is an associate professor and the coordinator of the bachelor's degree in information and communication at the University of Namur (Belgium). She is a member of the CRIDS (Research Centre in Information, Law and Society), the NADI (Namur Digital Institute) and she is a founding member of the Liège Game Lab. Her research focuses on video game narration (to which she devoted the book *Narration and Video Game: For an Exploration of Fictional Universes*), on the different forms of détournement (or remix) of video games (topic of her PhD dissertation), on video game tutorials (that she studied during her mandate as an FNRS Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Liège, Belgium) and on humor and irony in video game streaming on Twitch.tv. She also studied video game paratext during a one-year research stay at the Ritsumeikan Center for Game Studies in Kyoto (Japan), under the supervision of Professor Hiroshi Yoshida. In 2021-2022, she was a lecturer-researcher at the MNSHS lab (“Digital Methods for Humanities and Social Sciences”) of the computer school Epitech in France.

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UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES

With one-third of its students and researchers coming from abroad, the Université libre de Bruxelles is one of the most multicultural Belgian universities. It has a long-held tradition of excellence, thanks to its more than 220 research units, 8 interdisciplinary institutes, over 2,000 PhD candidates and more than 3.600 researchers and members of academic staff in all fields. It received 4 scientific Nobel Prizes out of the 6 awarded to Belgians, among them the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics. Actively involved in the European Research Area, ULB has obtained to this day 41 ERC grants and received European funding (COFUND) to host international post-doctoral researchers. With its 12 faculties, Schools and Institutes, it trains students in all disciplines, closely combining cutting-edge research and education. ULB also recently spearheaded the creation of a large-scale university hospitals network and a scientific biopark dedicated to technological innovation. Open to the world, ULB has set up many partnerships with some of the world's top universities and is a proud member of the CIVIS European Alliance. Since its creation, ULB has been cultivating the flame of freedom. It has constantly demonstrated its independence and its commitment to the great struggles for democracy, individual liberties and human rights.



Prof. Marius GILBERT
Research Director, FNRS
Vice-Rector for Research
Université libre de Bruxelles

Professor Marius Gilbert is Vice-Rector for Research and Valorization at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He started his research career as a visiting researcher at the University of Oxford, obtained a PhD on the spatial epidemiology of a forest insect pest at ULB, where he was awarded in 2006 a permanent FNRS-FRS academic position. In 2016, he founded the Spatial Epidemiology Lab (SpELL) and lead it until 2023. During the COVID pandemic, he joined the expert group assembled by Prime Minister Sophie Wilmes to advise the government and was at the forefront of the expert communication in the media. In September 2020, he published a book titled “Juste un passage au JT”, which aimed to popularize the science behind the pandemic and to share the experience of a scientist's journey at the nexus of political decision and communication. His research interests include emerging infectious diseases and global changes.

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Marcelle Rabinowicz is the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture La Cambre Horta- ULB since October 2022. She is a graduate architect of the Victor Horta Institute, which integrated the ULB into the Faculty of Architecture in 2010. She has been a drawing professor since 1990 and President of the Culture Commission of the Faculty. She began her career at the Hergé Foundation as head of the coordination of exhibitions and their scenographic adaptations. From 1998 to 2015 she was in charge of programation and exhibitions at the CIVA (International Centre for the City, Architecture and Landscape in Brussels) where she supported and developed many activities around architecture, art and landscape. Her atypical profile as a generalist architect allows her to represent the practical dimensions of the profession as well as those related to research. Within the Faculty and with the ULB, she is fully involved in the cultural policy of the Faculty and of the University.

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Prof. Pierre LAMBERT

Professor
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Prof. Pierre LAMBERT obtained his MSc in mechanical engineering in 1998 (ULB), his PhD in engineering sciences in 2004 (ULB) and his habilitation in 2010 (U. Franche-Comté). After a postdoc at EPFL (2005) and at U Pierre et Marie Curie (2006), he was appointed as assistant professor at ULB in 2007 (in micro-engineering). In 2010 he got a CNRS position at FEMTO-ST (France) and then moved to the LIMMS French-Japanese lab in Tokyo (2010-2011).

He is currently Professor at ULB, with research activities in the field of soft micro robotics: capillary micromanipulation, microfabrication, mechanical design with soft smart materials, optomechanical compliant mechanisms, nose-to-brain drug delivery.

He is one of the Professors in charge of the MicroMilli platform at ULB (<http://micromilli.ulb.be/>), equipped with simulation, manufacturing and characterization tools for engineering at small scales (<1mm).

He is one of the founding members of the Instinose platform for nose-to-brain drug delivery, investigating the interplay between patient's anatomy, drug formulation and spraying device. He is currently the Vice Dean for International Relations of the ULB engineering school (Ecole Polytechnique de Bruxelles) and Rector's advisor for research in the European Alliance CIVIS.

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Mr Frederik PONJAERT

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Researcher in European Affairs at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), and associated lecturer in Comparative Regionalism at SciencesPo (IEP-Paris). His research is on comparative regionalism, with an emphasis on Europe and Asia. His research also includes EU external action and inter-regional partnerships, again with a specific focus on Euro-Asian dynamics. More recently, both research strands have focussed on the EU-Japan Relationship and its institutionalized Economic and Strategic Partnership Agreements. His teachings incl. a.o. “comparative regionalism”, “EU external action” and “EU-East Asian Relations” as well as “Japanese Foreign Policy” and are given alternatively in English, French, or Dutch.

At the ULB, he is a member of both the Institut d'études européennes (IEE) and the East Asian Studies Center (EASt). He is the co-editor of 2 Routledge book series: the GEM series on ‘[Globalisation, Europe and Multilateralism](#)’, and the CES series on “[Contemporary Asian Societies](#)”. He is also the scientific coordinator of the GEM Ph.D. Doctoral School on “Globalisation, the European Union and Multilateralism”, the most recent iteration of which is called GEM-DIAMOND and focusses on the impact of mounting dissensus on the prospects for Rule of Law and Liberal Democracy.

Publications include among other: ‘The Political and Institutional Significance of an EU–Japan Trade and Partnership Agreement’ in *The European Union and Japan: A New Chapter in Civilian Power Cooperation?* (Routledge, 2015); ‘The EU, China and the WTO: Squaring the Irresistible Force Paradox of the MES Issue’ in ‘Deepening the EU-China Partnership Bridging Institutional and Ideational Differences in an Unstable World, 1st Edition’ (Routledge, 2017); *Developing EU–Japan Relations in a Changing Regional Context A Focus on Security, Law and Policies* (Routledge, 2017); Bacon, P., Chiba, M., & Ponjaert, F. (Eds.). ‘The Sustainable Development Goals: Diffusion and Contestation in Asia and Europe. Taylor & Francis’ (Routledge, 2022); and Frangville, V., Kellner, T., & Ponjaert, F. ‘National Identity and Millennials in Northeast Asia’ (Routledge, 2023).

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Jean-Louis Moortgat is the Director for Europe for Waseda University Brussels Office since April 2017 and Senior Officer for Asia at the ULB International Office from 2008. As such, he was Project Management Director from 2013 to 2015 under the EuropeAid program for the project "Promoting appropriate technology for smallholders to increase food security" which took place in Cambodia and Laos.

Prior to that, Jean-Louis Moortgat was Administrative and Financial Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art of the French Community of Belgium from 2003 to 2008.

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