

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



University of Antwerp  
IOB | Institute of  
Development Policy



# BERT INGELAERE

1979-2022

Our dear colleague, Prof. Bert Ingelaere, unexpectedly passed away on 4 February 2022.

Bert was a kind and warm person, a deep thinker, a dedicated teacher, a highly respected member of the academic community, a very appreciated colleague and a dear friend. He will be remembered – far beyond IOB – for his profound knowledge of the long-term effects of conflict in the African Great Lakes region. Bert was born on 16 February 1979 in Leuven, Belgium. His studies and work brought him to Rwanda in July 2004, where his long journey into understanding life after mass violence started, and later brought him to Burundi and other countries in the Great Lakes region.

Bert joined IOB in 2005, as a researcher on a project that analysed the link between political transitions and transitional justice. He obtained his PhD in Development Studies at the University of Antwerp in 2012. He became a tenure track lecturer at IOB in 2016, and an associate professor in 2021.

His integrity in and dedication to research resulted in many outstanding publications and thoughtful presentations. His award-winning book *Inside Rwanda's Gacaca Courts: Seeking Justice after Genocide*, based on his doctoral research and published in 2017, remains a key academic reference on Rwanda's search for transitional justice. He was an inspiring supervisor of many master students and five doctoral students.

We are grateful for Bert's professional and personal contributions to our institute.

Visit his memorial page on our website: <https://www.uantwerpen.be/bertingelaere>

In loving  
MEMORY



# annual report 2021

Master  
programmes

8

Financial  
overview

42

IOB publications

46

Research  
and outreach

20

People  
@ IOB

44

Publications for  
outreach

53



# INTRODUCTION



Danny Cassimon (right), Chair IOB, and Luc Lemmens (left), Deputy of the Province of Antwerp, during the graduation ceremony and the awarding of Prize for Global Research from the Province of Antwerp (see page 12).

## 2021 – IOB on the road towards ‘sustainable excellence’

As the incoming IOB chair, I would like to take the opportunity of this introduction to thank and honour the outgoing chair, Johan Bastiaensen, by borrowing a concept that he introduced at IOB earlier, that of ‘sustainable excellence’, and apply this more concretely to the current situation and major achievements of IOB during 2021, as well as to its remaining future challenges; as I will develop below, this concept will prove to be relevant in different ways.

IOB has always strived, and will continue to strive for (academic) excellence; according to e.g. our recent audit’s conclusions, we have been able to achieve this in many ways. The next challenge is to make this excellence sustainable. The road book towards reaching that goal has been sketched out in the new five-year policy plan, that was approved by our main funder, the Flemish Ministry of Education last year, and that we started to execute from this year on.

Essentially, while keeping and consolidating our traditional ‘DNA’, in terms of core educational, research and outreach activities, this plan underlines the need to broaden and deepen our academic collaboration, not only with peer institutes in the Global North, but mainly with partner institutes in the Global South, and with our extensive alumni network, aiming to further globalise and decolonise our education, research and outreach, while cultivating enhanced interactions between these three dimensions. More particularly, together with our Global North and South partners and alumni, we need to co-generate relevant knowledge and forge global coalitions in order to find innovative and socially just answers to address the life-threatening challenges to our shared planetary commons. In our view, IOB, also as a development studies institute situated in the Global North, cannot sustain its societal ‘license to operate’ without doing so, which is one first concrete expression of the notion of sustainable excellence.

How to implement this exactly has been the subject of an institute-wide, inclusive process (referred to as our DNA process here and there in this report) that started this year and aims to lead to concrete decision-making-in-principle in the first half of 2022, with implementation afterwards in terms of some concrete changes on how and what we teach (our so-called Going Global process, most likely including some hybrid version of some parts of our educational offer), on how we do research and outreach, the selection and modes of operation of Global South and North partnerships and, possibly, some changes in internal modes of operation. As this also aims to provide additional recurrent income, making IOB less dependent on our core funding, it clearly envisages to contribute to our sustainability, in a financial sense.

While embarking on this ambitious longer-term venture, the pandemic has continued to push daily routine during the past year ‘out of the ordinary’. Yet, looking back, I am proud to say that, once again in 2021, IOB showed not only continued resilience, with IOB staff going above and beyond to address the challenges, but also managed to turn some of these challenges and crises into opportunities, that help reach and accelerate the quest for sustainable excellence. We are also grateful to the Flemish government for the extra financial corona support that allowed us to absorb the overall budgetary impact of the pandemic crisis.

First, the pandemic has continued to shape our education in 2021 as it did in 2020, requiring us to flexibly switch between different

modes of operandi: fully on-line, on-campus with restrictions, and using different kinds of hybrid teaching. Again, we managed to bring a new, full batch of students from all continents physically to Antwerp by the end of 2021, starting with an online version in the first weeks, but switching to live, on-campus teaching from November on. On a positive note, the digital revolution also opened up more and new opportunities for e.g. guest lecturing from our partner institutes in the South, e.g. in the context of our Going Global initiative. All this would not have been possible without the commitment, skills and extreme versatility of the ICT and education support people at IOB. We were also grateful to the University of Antwerp, for continued support in 2021 to accommodate these modal shifts.

The pandemic also continued to influence research and outreach activities. Nevertheless, with the introduction of vaccines – although hardly equitable in their distribution – and the easing of lockdowns and travel restrictions, our IOB research has regained some familiar characteristics. Field work and education related travel has once again become possible – though still restricted. Seminars and conferences have however remained largely virtual, and it looks increasingly likely that this will remain a fixture of research in the future, which may lastingly improve our ecological footprint, and hence sustainability in this sense. Again in 2021, it did not negatively affect the excellence of our research output, judging by the consolidation of our strong publication record and the increase in external research funding obtained. Moreover, on outreach, we managed to define and measure excellence related to outreach activities in a better way by selecting a clear set of different impact pathways, and institutionalize these also in the (ZAP) performance criteria, aiming again at installing ‘sustainable excellence’ in outreach.

We also further enhanced (the sustainability of) our academic links with the broader University of Antwerp, for example through joint research, the opening of a vacancy for a ZAPBOF-funded research professor, our teaching at the faculties, our active participation in the university-wide process to design a UAntwerp strategy for Global Engagement, supported by the Global Minds initiative, and our long-standing engagement in the USOS foundation.

Striving for ever-greater excellence in aiming to combine all these different dimensions of academic life poses a final challenge to and expression of sustainable excellence, i.e. that of maintaining healthy work-life balances. We were most vividly reminded of that when confronted with the sudden death of our dear colleague Bert Ingelaere. As highlighted on the previous page, we want to pay tribute to what he meant for all of us at IOB and beyond. Clearly, IOB will never be the same without him, we will continue to miss him, but in some way, it also seems to have strengthened internal cohesion and should make us more aware and vigilant for over-performance and too much competition. Even this very dark cloud may have a bit of a silver lining in the end.

Definitely more to follow about our progress on this road trip in the coming years... In the meantime, I wish you a pleasant read of our annual report 2021.

Danny Cassimon, Chair IOB



# MASTER PROGRAMMES



## Facts and figures

IOB offers three Advanced Master programmes, each with a high degree of specialisation and a distinct focus:

1. Master of Globalisation and Development
2. Master of Governance and Development
3. Master of Development Evaluation and Management

Within the Master programmes, students can choose from various tracks according to their personal interests and career path.

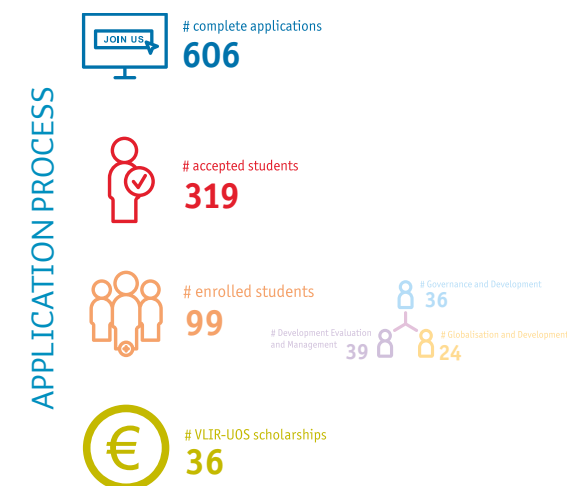
In 2018, we started the 'IOB Going Global' project, through which we aim to globalise our education, research and societal outreach activities, by forging long-term structural cooperation with Southern partners and academics.

Our strategy takes the different situations and contexts of our partners into account and is based on the following principles:

- Build on existing cooperation
- Tailor-made step-by-step approach
- Build synergies between teaching, research and service to society

Different instruments are used to cooperate: student and staff mobility, research internships (mobility window - *see page 14*), dissertation mobility, ....

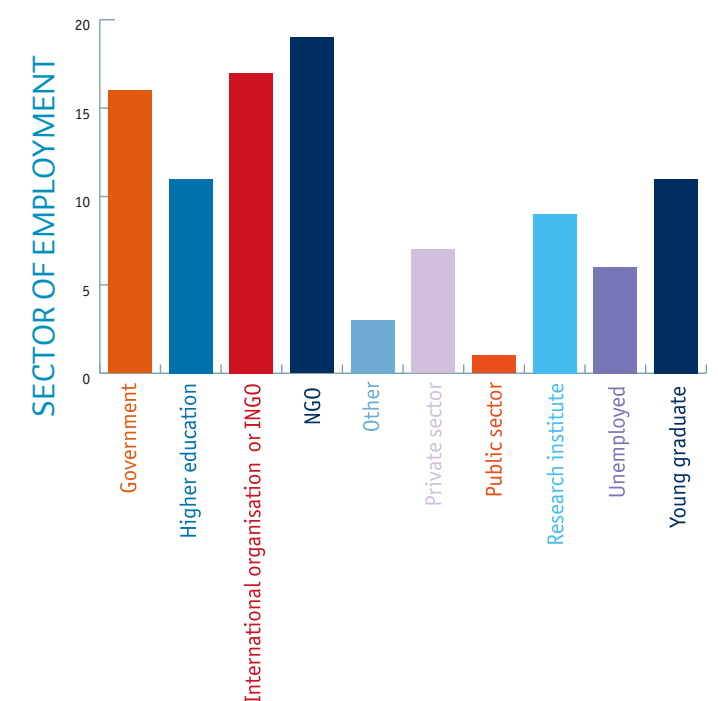
The Going Global programme enables us to 'globalise' and 'decolonise' our Master education - addressing the recurrent critique of too few (critical) 'voices from the South'.



## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND



- Political - Social sciences/Administration
- Other
- Economics/Management
- Development/Agriculture





# The Master programmes: policy-oriented, research-driven, competence-based

A few key features of the Master programmes are their modular structure, their policy-oriented and research-driven character and their focus on student-oriented learning.

Our Master programmes are all highly research-driven and policy-oriented. Education at IOB incorporates the latest social-scientific insights relevant to the development challenge. Students learn from each other's experiences and from their exposure to living and working in the North. We use various teaching methods to stimulate student-centred learning, including traditional lectures, individual and group assignments, discussions, literature reviews, case study analyses, action labs and simulation games.

IOB also offers a two-week intensive English language course prior to the start of the Master programmes to bring the students' level of English to the admission standards of IOB. This preparatory course was organised online due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Inspired by the importance of internationalisation at home, we offered a workshop 'Gender and diversity' as a continuation of our series of sessions on intercultural communication. The purpose of this workshop is to create a common framework based on discussion, interaction and brainstorming. Students learn to deal with intercultural group dynamics and are aware of diversity.

Besides teaching in our Master programmes, many of our lecturers also engage in teaching elsewhere (see below).

In 2021, we awarded 4 travel grants to students to carry out fieldwork in the framework of their dissertation.

We invest heavily in quality assurance throughout the entire Master programme cycle. Daily management is in the hands of the programme director, ensuring consistency and standardisation across the three Master programmes. Internal quality assurance is guaranteed by a set of evaluation instruments, including surveys, focus group discussions, analysis of student and grade statistics, and student workload monitoring. Overall, students are very appreciative regarding the programmes, although a traditional concern revolves around the high workload during the first semester. Additionally, to monitor and follow up on the students well being during the COVID-19 pandemic, an additional buddy system was set up. Finally, students highly appreciate the intensity of the programmes, the content of the courses and the diverse teaching methods.

In 2020-2021, the following guest lecturers were invited within the Master programmes:

- Jerry Afriyie (Stichting Nederland wordt beter)
- Nahed Samour (Centre for Intersectional Justice and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- Filip Reyniers (Director International Peace Information Service – IPIS)
- Alellie Sobreviñas (De La Salle University, Manilla, Philippines)
- Tina Lain (International Union for the Conservation of Nature)
- Tom Goodfellow (Sheffield University)
- Abdulai Abdul-Garafu (University of Ghana Business School & Honorary Research Fellow at the Global Development Institute, University of Manchester, UK)
- Iacopo Viciani (IOB alumnus & European Commission policy analyst)
- Jossa de Pano (IOB alumna)
- Aura Lopez Lopez (IOB alumna)
- Oscar Garza-Vásquez (Universidad de las Americas Puebla, Mexico)
- Yuko Otake (University of Oxford)



## OTHER IOB STAFF TEACHING ACTIVITIES DURING ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021

IOB contributes to teaching at other faculties within the University of Antwerp and with IOB's partners:

### Debating Development

A series of six interactive sessions was offered to all students of the University of Antwerp. The series, coordinated by Prof. Gert Van Hecken, was financed by the Global Minds programme of VLIR-UOS and co-organised with the University Foundation for Development Cooperation (USOS). (see page 18)

### International Economics and International Economic Organisations

This course was taught by Prof. Danny Cassimon and Prof. George Mavrotas in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

### Topics in Development Studies

Students of the Faculty of Business and Economics and the Faculty of Social Sciences were able to register for this course, which was taught by a team of IOB lecturers, coordinated by Prof. Marijke Verpoorten.

### International Finance

This course was taught by Prof. Danny Cassimon within the Faculty of Social Sciences.

### Political Economy of Development

This course was jointly taught by Prof. Marijke Verpoorten and Prof. Joachim De Weerd within the Master of Political Science, the Master of International Relations and Diplomacy, and the Master of Social and Economic Sciences.

### Sustainable Development

Prof. Kristof Titeca and Prof. Gert Van Hecken teach within the subject 'Sustainable Development' at UAntwerp, organised by the Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development (IMDO), for the Bachelor Biology and the transition programme Environmental Sciences.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

This course was taught by Dr. Dimitri Renmans as part of the interuniversity Master Global Health.

### Global Justice

This course was taught by Prof. Tomaso Ferrando for several Bachelor and Master programmes within the University of Antwerp.

### Gender and Development

Prof. Nathalie Holvoet taught this course in the interuniversity master Gender and Diversity.

### Transitional Justice

Prof. Stef Vandeginste gave a lecture on transitional justice in the Master of Laws at the Law Faculty.

### Dissertations

Several dissertations at other UAntwerp faculties were supervised by IOB staff.

### Strengthening National Evaluation Systems and Networks

This short-term training programme was organised in collaboration with the Office of the Special Evaluator, coordinated by Dr. Sara Dewachter and Prof. Nathalie Holvoet. (see page 13)

### Introduction to rural development

This course was taught by Prof. Johan Bastiaensen and Dr. Frédéric Huybrechts at Université Libre de Bruxelles within the European Master in Microfinance.

### Several staff members lectured at partner institutes in the South:

- **Governance of natural resources: core economic principles** at the Catholic University of Bukavu, by Prof. Marijke Verpoorten.
- **Governance of mineral resources: a global value chain approach** at the Catholic University of Bukavu, by Prof. Sara Geenen.
- **Governance of mineral resources: formalization and 'conflict minerals regulation'** at the Catholic University of Bukavu, by Dr. Sarah Katz-Lavigne.
- **Governance of natural resources: political ecology approach** at the Catholic University of Bukavu, by Dr. Catherine Windey.
- **Research Design Course** at Catholic University of Bukavu (DRC), by Prof. Sara Geenen and Prof. Tom De Herdt.
- **Method Course for the project: "Making Refugee Integration Sustainable: In search of durable relations with host populations in Uganda"** at Mbarara University (Uganda), by Prof. Kristof Titeca, Prof. Bert Ingelaere, Frank Ahimbisibwe and Sarah Vancluysen.
- **Qualitative research methods in the DEA and Economics** at the Catholic University of Bukavu, by Prof. Sara Geenen.
- **Digital Research Course (organised with Nitlap-an-Universidad Centroamericana in Nicaragua): "Horizontes emancipatorios: Teorías y métodos de investigación para repensar el desarrollo. Emancipating horizons. Theories and Research methods to rethink Development."** Contributions in Theories and Concepts, 'Access to Financial Services' and supervision of end-of-course paper by Prof. Johan Bastiaensen. (see page 15)



# Prizes for Global Research

In line with our emphasis on student-centred learning, we also place an emphasis on the individual research project and Master dissertation. During the graduation ceremony, three students received the Prize for Global Research from the Province of Antwerp for their excellent dissertations.

## Elias Maombi Natabaye | DR Congo “Flee or stay? Exploring the intra-household decision to flee in the face of the 2021 volcano eruption in Goma, Eastern DR Congo “

Master of Development Evaluation and Management  
Promotor: Dr. Nik Stoop

### Tell us your story!

I originally planned to write my dissertation on the impact of electrification on crime and security in Goma. However, when the Nyiragongo volcano erupted on May 22nd, 2021, I had to change my plans. It would have been strange to ask Goma residents about the impact of electricity when half of the population had fled the city, and the electricity network was down for several weeks.

### What is your research about?

I chose to write about what was on the mind of Goma’s population at the time: how will we cope with such a natural disaster?

### How did you go about this?

Based on a survey conducted among 642 respondents who were present in Goma at the time of the eruption, I evaluated the decision within the household to flee the city: Who decided to flee? Who decided to stay? And what was this decision based on?

### What were the main outcomes?

By analysing these questions, I contributed to the literature on household coping strategies in the face of natural disasters, such as reducing consumption to last longer with the food available or buying assets at a lower price in the hope that one could sell them at a higher price after the crisis. I also identified context-specific recommendations for policymakers who seek to support such coping strategies. ■



## Marjorie Pamintuan | Philippines “Ambitious goal or shifting costs? What net-zero means for fairness and justice in climate action“

Master of Globalisation and Development  
Promotor: Prof. Gert Van Hecken

When a child is born in Madagascar, it has no idea of the injustices it is to encounter in its lifetime. First, more than one in every two children under the age of five are chronically underfed. Secondly, the country is extremely prone to natural disasters such as cyclones and drought, which does not help in food provision or in alleviating people above the poverty line. This vulnerability is exacerbated by climate change, to which the child contributes very little in its lifespan.

The main emitters of greenhouse gases, Global North countries, make plans to tackle climate change by adopting net-zero commitments and solutions such as transition minerals, REDD+ and biofuels. However, in the process of producing and extracting carbon credits, biofuels and transition minerals, the same child born in Madagascar might suffer from land dispossession, displacement from its livelihood and might not be consulted at all during decision-making. The processes also have their own negative environmental impacts. The child again suffers the consequences.

Marjorie Pamintuan’s dissertation led her to conclude that:

1. Net-zero disregards the various injustices inflicted in the Global South by the proposed net-zero solutions of transition minerals, REDD+ and biofuels.
2. Net-zero shifts the burden of reducing carbon emissions from the Global North to the Global South.
3. Net-zero maintains the global capitalist system that has led to and is worsening climate change. There is a need for alternative solutions outside of the capitalist framework. ■



## Busani Marshall Nyathi | Zimbabwe “Devolution of power in Zimbabwe: a political economy analysis “

Master of Governance and Development  
Promotor: Prof. Kristof Titeca

**Research question:** How effective is the devolution of power (distribution of power to a more local level) in delivering services in the case of Zimbabwe?

**Methods:** By applying a political economy analysis, Mr. Nyathi didn’t just summarise these debates, he applied and transcended these debates, unpacking how devolution worked – and not – in delivering services in Zimbabwe.

**Results:** Mr. Nyathi wrote a rigorous work, digesting an impressive amount of literature and offering new insights into important debates in the local governance literature. ■



Watch the interview on youtube  
<https://bit.ly/globalresearch-2021>

## TRAINING PROGRAMME: STRENGTHENING NATIONAL M&E CAPACITIES

After postponing the programme in 2020, and again overcoming many COVID hurdles and uncertainties in 2021, IOB was delighted to be able to organise the third edition of the Evaluation Capacity Building Seminar. The training programme ‘Strengthening National Monitoring and Evaluation Capacities and Use: National Evaluation Societies as a Driving Force’ was organised from 8 until 26 November 2021. The training programme sets out to bring together leading members of National Evaluation Societies (NES) in developing countries to strengthen those evaluation societies in taking up the role of developing national M&E capacities and use. Therefore the selection of the (scholarship) participants was based on NES country teams. Members from the same NES – preferably working in a different sector (e.g. government, civil society, academia, parliament, international organisation, ...) were selected to form a country team. The program welcomed 20 participants representing a total of 11 countries, namely Burkina Faso, DRC, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Peru, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe. In total, 17 persons participated live in Antwerp aided by the scholarship of the Special Evaluation Office (SEO) of the Belgian Development Cooperation, while 3 participants participated online since they were not able to participate live due to COVID and/or visa limitations. Again due to COVID quarantine rules, the first five days were organised as online sessions.

However, the rest of the programme offered peer-to-peer learning and interesting interactions through live sessions, workshops, debate, group work and even speeddate sessions.

The training started from a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of the national/sectoral M&E system and a SWOT and network analysis of the Evaluation Society itself. Drawing upon a range of different didactical tools, sessions were organised strengthening the participants’ (evaluation) methodological, analytical and organisational insights and skills. Moreover, workshops on a wide range of transversal topics (culture sensitive evaluation, equity focused evaluation ...) and a selection from a portfolio of evaluation methods (e.g. RCT, sensemaking, outcome mapping, social network analysis,...) enriched the participants as individual evaluators. Throughout the program, participants worked on a poster presenting the SWOT findings as well as concrete suggestions for improving the Evaluation Society and its contribution to the national evaluation capacities and use. The conclusions formulated by the country team were recorded into a summary video to be shared with evaluation stakeholders in their country, feeding into the debate on how to further strengthen national evaluation capacity. ■





## Mobility Window in Tanzania

Through its Mobility Window programme, IOB offers students the opportunity to apply their research skills in a research internship at a partner university in the Global South. In 2021 the internship was only organised in Tanzania, at Mzumbe University.

Five IOB students, Ines, Jelinke, Josué, Marieke and Zanna spent six weeks doing field research. Even though some had done both qualitative and quantitative research before on similar topics, none of them had experience in a programme like this before.

The programme began with a short training on mobile data collection and two research teams were formed including both IOB and Mzumbe students. One team was focused on (the narratives around) COVID-19 vaccination willingness and the second team participated in the Fuatilia Maji project ([www.uantwerpen.be/fuatiliamaji](http://www.uantwerpen.be/fuatiliamaji)), a community-based water monitoring project which aims to reduce waterborne diseases.

Despite coming from different backgrounds, the IOB students got along very well with the Mzumbe students, who were very welcoming and friendly. The collaborative interaction allowed for a successful research process.

### Challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic is a very sensitive topic in Tanzania, due to the sceptic perspective of the former president, John Magufuli, and the very different approach of the current president Samia Suluhu, who took over after president Magufuli's sudden passing in 2021. Given the sensitive nature of the topic, the research team had to be creative in data collection on the topic, building on media analysis, informal conversations and a limited number of survey questions.

The data collection for the Fuatilia Maji project was also challenging due to issues such as poor internet connection and the large distance between villages. Also, even though English is recognized as an official language in Tanzania, many people in the villages don't speak the language.

*"We learn how data is collected in a development context. Before going there I didn't understand the issues. Data collection in the Global South is different, there are many obstacles that can affect your research."* - Jelinke

### Results and added value

The research showed some interesting results: On the corona vaccination study, the experience illustrated there is a great hesitance towards the COVID vaccine, due to a fear of vaccination side effects, belief in alternative medicine, distrust of western medicine, and because of the information disseminated through religious gatherings and social media.

The Fuatilia Maji project, on the other hand, evidenced the value of education for people to be more conscious about the use of water and the importance of the quality of water. The research provides key information for future actions concerning water quality and infrastructure and has increased the capabilities and confidence of community monitors and students.

### More than a research experience

Along with the academic experience, the programme gave students the opportunity to get to know a different culture.

The interaction within teams provided students from both coun-

tries with meaningful lessons. The experience of religion in daily life, perceptions on politics, the students' work ethics, the lack of opportunities and taking the time to listen to people are some of the differences that intrigued the IOB team and gave them new perspectives.

On the other hand, the Tanzanian students learned from the academic experience of the IOB team, working together on the data collection and analysis, which also provided additional insights on the local context. Finally, students got a taste of each other's culture as they organised a multicultural dinner where they discussed differences among their countries.

*"The most important thing I learned was how to do fieldwork: they really know how to go to the field, talk to people and do it efficiently. Tanzanian culture is very much about taking time to talk to people and they really know how to use it to their advantage and to practically organise the visits to make them as efficient as possible. I also learned to be flexible, for example with the student permit issue: it was inspiring to see how well they handled it, finding solutions."* - Marieke

The participants agree that the topics and the methods applied during the research are very interesting and most will consider them for their Master's dissertation and their future career. Although it was an intense programme, they encourage future students to apply to this amazing experience.



## Emancipatory Horizons: Theories and Research Methods for Rethinking Development

The Research and Development Institute of the Central American University (Nitlapan-UCA), and the Institute of Development Policy have implemented a course on the problems of "development" in the Central American region, entitled "Emancipatory Horizons: Theories and Research Methods for Rethinking Development".

The course provided students with the theoretical and methodological resources to critically analyse and propose changes, adaptations and/or alternatives to current policies, strategies and ways of doing in the field of what is commonly called development. The course was geared toward a multiplicity of actors from the Central American region, such as professionals working in the area of "development" (government, private sector, NGOs, international organisations, think-tanks, etc.), activists and members of civil society organisations, members of grassroots organisations (farmer, women, youth, etc.), members of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, academics (researchers-teachers, young researchers and graduate students).

The course, taught in English, addressed relevant issues from the region (territorial development, access to land and natural resources, access to finance, issues of race, ethnicity and gender) and involved a teaching team composed of lecturers from IOB and from the Central America region with research agendas embedded in the reality of that region. Despite the COVID-19 crisis, which forced us to transform the course from a blended design towards a 100% digital version, 17 students from Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador joined the course.

The teaching team was composed of:

- Selmira Flores (PhD in Development Studies from IOB), director of the Nitlapan-UCA research programme.
- Pierre Merlet (PhD candidate in development studies IOB), main researcher at Nitlapan-UCA.
- Fernanda Soto (PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin) associate researcher at Nitlapan-UCA, guest lecturer at IOB-UA and lecturer and researcher at the Center for Global Education at Augsburg University in the USA since 2018.
- Andrew Cummings (PhD in Planning and Development at Aalborg University, Denmark). Professor at UCA El Salvador.
- Jennifer Casolo (PhD School of Geography University of California at Berkeley), professor at the Ch'orti' Pluriversity in Guatemala and associate researcher at Nitlapan-UCA.
- Peter E. Marchetti (PhD multidisciplinary programme, Yale University International Development, 1975), professor at the Ch'orti' Pluriversity in Guatemala and associate researcher at Nitlapan-UCA.
- Johan Bastiaensen (PhD), professor at IOB
- Gert Van Hecken (PhD) professor of development studies at IOB





# IOB's alumni policy

No... not yet... Not yet back to 'normal'. If that is even what we hope to go towards. In any case, 2021 did not yet allow us to take up all the alumni activities and strategies that we hoped to organise. But we are getting there (we hope!).

At the end of the year, December 2021, when we were able to host a live event in Tanzania with IOB alumni and students, partner university staff and students from around the world. Again, we experienced how enriching these interactions are. These encounters make us all the more committed to keep on investing in our IOB community worldwide.

2021 brought a lot of reflection and strategising, including also on how to further strengthen our alumni policy. A two-track strategy of broadening and deepening alumni relations (and links to the IOB community) has materialised, where *broadening* aims to find ways (online, new chapters, ...) to reach more alumni and build a broader community, while *deepening* expresses the desire engage in 'deeper' relations, by stimulating joint learning, knowledge co-creation, collaboration networks and ties among alumni, staff, students and the wider IOB community.

Alumni policy starts before graduation. The 'Life after IOB' trajectory to prepare students during their Master for the opportunities and challenges after graduation, was mostly organised online. 'Life after IOB' consists of a general information session about opportunities for the transition (back into) the professional development sector, as well as a number of skills & application workshops (CV screening session, creating a professional LinkedIn profile, network event, how to write a policy brief, make a video about your research, how to write a PhD proposal, ...). Interested students can get support in finding a meaningful internship after graduation. Two IOB alumni, Massiel Jimenez and Iacopo Viciano, also presented their experiences on how IOB education can help jump-start a professional career and shared tips on the development sector.

Our alumni policy builds on several communication channels (alumni spaces) and a whole array of alumni activities. We have created various alumni 'spaces': an IOB Facebook alumni group (including national and graduation subgroups), LinkedIn, IOB newsletter (monthly), alumni magazine *Exchange to Change* (3/year), online alumni platform, WhatsApp groups.

A variety of different alumni activities are usually organised to reach our North and South audiences, while also differentiating in the type of activity, ranging from informal networking to (joint) knowledge sharing and creation. Even though COVID has urged us to again postpone several activities, some noteworthy events were organised.

On 8 December 2021, two events were organised in Morogoro (Tanzania), which illustrate/ exemplify the 'deepening' of alumni interaction with the wider IOB community. At the event, some 100 people - experts, alumni, staff, and students from Tanzania, Ethiopia, Philippines, Uganda, Ecuador, Belgium and Romania - participated in the launch of COMMUNITOR and the presentation of the results of the Alumni Barometer study.

Moreover, to allow for more structural alumni networks and to stimulate alumni ownership, we have started to set up formal IOB alumni chapters in some of the 'core' countries. After having established alumni chapters in Tanzania, the Philippines, Uganda, Nicaragua and Ethiopia. In 2021, as part of the broadening strategy, a first alumni seminar in DRC (November 2021) was organised. The event hosted by Prof. Sara Geenen, allowed for IOB alumni to (re)connect and to get to know each other's work. Two alumni presented their work: Francine Iragi presented her PhD research *Mutualism or predation? Analysing the linkages between artisanal mining (AM) and small-scale agriculture (SsA) in South Ki-vu/Eastern DRC* and Joel Siku presented his work at the World Food Programme. Moreover, the event marked the start up of the alumni DRC network. ■



## The Community of Practice COMMUNITOR

The Community of Practice (CoP) COMMUNITOR, is a new initiative spearheaded by Diana Tiholaz, alumni-coordinator Sara Dewachter and Prof. Nathalie Holvoet that brings together various actors from all around the world and with a mutual interest in Community based Monitoring (CBM) and Citizen Science (CS). The network connects IOB staff, students, alumni, partner universities and external experts in this CBMCS field.

The launch of the network started out with a workshop on CBM, followed by the launch which introduced the CoP and its goals while also providing a platform for several interesting projects on CBM and CS to showcase their work (#fuatiliamaji #UDN #profonanpe #BRAC Bangladesh.). A knowledge network like COMMUNITOR broadens the IOB community and deepens its interaction by sharing expertise and knowledge, forging long term relationship, stimulating peer and joint learning, and collaboration and cocreation of new content, tools, ideas and programmes. ■

<https://www.communitor.org>

## IOB Alumni Barometer

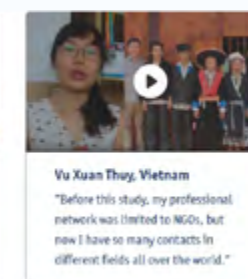
The IOB alumni barometer team, consisting of IOB staff and alumni from six country teams, presented the results of their VLIR-UOS-funded study. The project maps the impact of international study experiences on development and uses the insights to increase the quality and relevance of ICP programmes and alumni policies. ■

<https://www.uantwerpen.be/alumni-impact-barometer>



## Impact Stories

IOB alumni explain how their IOB Master advanced their careers and enabled them to contribute to development





# Debating Development 2021: Dystopic development and the temporalities of transformation

The 2021 series Debating Development shed light on plural perspectives on time and temporality as they relate to the notion of 'development'. What counts as progress of the human development endeavour in time?

A political question, fraught with value conflicts over the meaning of time and temporality itself and its importance for understanding the qualitative experiences of what 'development' means in practice.

The concept of 'development', as rooted in western humanism and Enlightenment philosophies of modern progress, is crafted upon a unique understanding of time: a linear conception that separates the past from the present and from the future. Globalised economic production cycles and financialisation depend crucially on the predictability and linearity of time to accelerate modern progress. In doing so, time is itself conceived as a measurable

commodity aligned with production schedules and expectations of an always-improving world for humanity.

In response, a range of 'slowness' movements have emerged to conceptualise time differently, to take back control over the time of both their labour and their social environments and to offer other forms of clocking strategies to coordinate plural relationships between each other and non-human kin.

The 2021 Debating Development series looked at various such slowness movements together with renowned speakers in each field. ■



More information can be found on the USOS website: <https://bit.ly/debatingdevelopment2021>.

## 1 Slowness: a trap or a promise? Understanding time and temporality as relational

- **Michelle Bastian**, senior lecturer in Environmental Humanities at the University of Edinburgh
- **Gert Van Hecken**, lecturer at the Institute of Development Policy (IOB), University of Antwerp
- **Vijay Kolinjivadi**, postdoctoral fellow at IOB



## 2 Slowness from a food sovereignty perspective

- **Geneviève Savigny**, farmer and a representative of the European Coordination Via Campesina
- **Max Ajl**, postdoctoral fellow at the Rural Sociology Group, Wageningen University
- **Danya Nadar**, PhD candidate at IOB



## 3 Slowness and knowledge production - towards a slow academia?

- **Filip Vostal**, senior researcher at the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences
- **Valerie De Craene**, researcher for Motief, postdoctoral researcher at Cosmopolis (VUB) and guest professor in Social and Economic Geography (Ghent University)



## 4 Postcolonial and decolonial dialogues from the slow movement vantage point

- **Elaine Gan**, artist-theorist at New York University, Center for Experimental Humanities and Social Engagement
- **Dr. Francine Rossone de Paula**, lecturer in International Relations at Queen's University.



## 5 Slowing medicine and the COVID-19 crisis

- **Julie Livingston**, medical historian at New York University
- **Magalie Schotte**, coordinator of the Be-cause health platform at the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp.



## 6 The possibilities of transnational activism: the slow movement in context

- **Thomas Davies**, senior lecturer in International Politics, City University of London
- **Leen Schelfhout**, Allforclimate, Citizen Spring
- **Ellen Haverhals**, Fashion Revolution





# RESEARCH AND OUTREACH



WISDOM IS LIKE A BAOBAB TREE

NO ONE INDIVIDUAL CAN EMBRACE IT

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to shape our lives and work in 2021 as it did in 2020. Nevertheless, with the introduction of vaccines – although hardly equitable in their distribution – and the easing of lockdowns and travel restrictions, our IOB research has regained some familiar characteristics. Field work has once again become possible – though still restricted. Seminars and conferences have however remained largely virtual, however. We are confident though that, in September 2022, we will be able to organise the HDCA Conference that we had to postpone due to COVID-restrictions.

We recognise and value the academic pluralism that is typical of development studies, because of the intrinsic complexity of real-world policy problems and their politically contested nature. Indeed, many development problems involve a variety of actors, drawn into decision-making processes at different levels and to a varying extent. Welcome in the real world! This is why we find it so important to have this complexity also reflected in the expertise we want to cultivate at IOB, with some of us focusing on the interplay between state and society, others rather analysing inclusive development in terms of the global governance agenda and still others engaging with the development-environment nexus.

Further, though being a ‘big small institute’, we want to insist on having a variety of disciplines and methodological expertise on board. Development debates usually involve a (difficult, though usually fertile) multi-disciplinary dialogue. But the recent deco-

lonial turn in development has also strengthened our conviction that, beyond this, we also need to be sensitive to- the variety of “mental models” traceable to varieties in research traditions, socio-economic backgrounds and/or civic positionality of researchers. We see this diversity in mental models not just as somewhat inevitable ‘noise’ disturbing the research process; they are also a reminder of the fundamentally societal character of every social science research process.

In the case of development studies, this also means we have to find ways to operate in a “global society” marked by huge power discrepancies and inequalities in knowledge claims and normative claims about development. In 2021, we started an internal reflection process to think through the ramifications of this for what we do and for the way in which we work. In 2022, this will also result in a renewed strategy for research and outreach.

Each of our research lines combines a thematic cluster (environment, global governance, and state formation) with our vision of a just and sustainable world. All three research lines also give concrete shape to the multi-level governance perspective we want to cultivate at IOB, reaching from the global to the local and vice versa. And each of the research lines also combines empirical work with an explicit focus on Central Africa with work carried out elsewhere.



# State formation and resilient societies

**W**e examine situations of state underreach (fragile or failed states), state reach (developmental states) or state overreach (such as in state crime or structural violence). All these are situated against a background of processes of state formation and the evolving roles of states in the post-colony form. We aim to understand how state attributes such as government, territory, law, nation or power are articulated or not, and how state actions such as legitimisation, economic accumulation or security and services take shape or not.

We take into account a wide spectrum of actors (formal and informal) and factors (ideational, institutional, structural) at different levels (local, national, international). This focus on the changing patterns of tightening and loosening state reach across space and time implies attention to societal resilience. This is the ability of societies to resist, adapt to or recover from (the consequences of) a lack of state presence and/or performance, sudden man-made or natural shocks or long term social exclusion and adverse incorporation. We particularly pay attention to these issues in connection with the cycle of violent conflict, peace-making and efforts to achieve state reconstruction and renegotiate the social contract.

## Demobilising Mindsets: Ideas and Ideology after War

Since 2001, several thousand Rwandan FDLR rebels active in the east of the DRC have been demobilised and repatriated to Rwanda. The FDLR rebels that emerged in the year 2000 from the Hutu refugee community in DRC are known to foster a strong 'Hutu' ideology, rooted in the ideational tradition of pre-genocide Rwanda. It revolves around ethnic antagonism and emphasises a deeply pronounced Hutu victimisation by the Tutsi. This ideology stands diametrically opposed to the one the current, Tutsi-dominated RPF government under president Paul Kagame has established and imposed in post-genocide Rwanda. By returning to Rwanda, the FDLR members thus not only cross a national border, but an ideological one as well.

Prof. Bert Ingelaere and Eliane Giezendanner are engaged in this research project, aimed at understanding how demobilised and repatriated FDLR members navigate between these 'old' and 'new' ideational frameworks at work in Rwanda's past and present. They study whether, how and why the exposure to the 'new' ideology has changed – reversed, weakened or reinforced – 'old' ideas, beliefs and mindsets. In this way, we aim to push the theoretical understanding of the role of ideology in and after violent conflict, and to develop appropriate research approaches and techniques to study the demobilisation of mindsets. ■



## Statebuilding support to fragile states

Over the past two decades, statebuilding has emerged as a central yet contested concept of international engagement with fragile states, with new questions arising under the current global rise of authoritarianism. To remain in power, what are the mechanisms authoritarian regimes rely on to legitimate themselves? And what is the nature of interplay between these legitimisation mechanisms and international engagement?

Prof. Nadia Molenaers, Prof. Stef Vandeginste and Filip De Maesschalck focus their research project on European statebuilding support to Burundi throughout the 2015 elections. While these elections sparked a legitimacy crisis, they did not prevent further consolidation of authoritarian rule. Preliminary findings point

towards distinct stages of interplay between European engagement and domestic legitimisation, following a shift from support to contestation of the incumbent regime. This shift, in turn, triggered notable changes in domestic legitimisation, revealing both clear yet unexpected regime agency and the tactical use of time and temporality.


Two provisional conclusions can be drawn from this. First, European actors have dealt inadequately with the legitimacy dimension of state fragility, and second, through the interplay with domestic legitimisation they seem to have contributed to authoritarian regime consolidation. ■

## Sharing the little there is: towards a durable refugee-host relationship in Northern Uganda

Sarah Vancluysen explores the nature of the relationship between South Sudanese refugees and their Ugandan hosts. Situated in northern Uganda, a context characterised by chronic underdevelopment and poverty, she examines if and how peaceful coexistence between nationals and refugees is maintained.

Overall, their relationship can be described as 'cordial'. However, based on extensive fieldwork, including interviews with refugees, local leaders, and settlement authorities, three critical challenges are identified. Most importantly, the management of land currently is and will remain a critical challenge. While unstable conditions in South Sudan do not yet allow a safe and voluntary repatriation,

other barriers are impeding the South Sudanese to fully integrate with their Ugandan hosts. More specifically, the rural settlement approach discourages refugees to settle independently; and legal ambiguities refrain refugees from obtaining citizenship. Nonetheless, there is a relatively high degree of de facto integration, as the refugees, supported by Ugandan nationals, come up with their own coping strategies. ■

 Download the full Discussion Paper from the IOB website: <https://www.uantwerpen.be/dp202105-vancluysen> ■


## Public health and armed conflict: immunisation in times of systemic disruptions

A key challenge facing governments around the world, and in particular those afflicted by armed conflict, is how to maintain the provision of health services to its population. Armed conflicts are a concern for human development and public health and represent a major impediment for realising Sustainable Development Goal #3: to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Vaccination programs can be highly politicised and subjected to major security constraints in war zones, reducing their effectiveness.

In an article for *Population and Development Review*, Marijke Verpoorten (IOB), Gudrun Østby, Andreas Forø Tollefsen, Henrik Urdal, and Olga Shemyakina study how armed conflict impacts immunisation rates among children. The finding that communities with minor armed conflicts are more likely to experience an improved provision of vaccination is most likely driven by responses to conflict events by governmental or NGO health providers. In minor conflict situations, emergency and enhanced health measu-

res appear to outweigh the negative impact of conflict on vaccine supply and demand factors. Major armed conflict, on the other hand, is associated with declining vaccination rates both when we assess exposure to local conflict and when measured as a national-level variable. Their finding that national-level major armed conflict is associated with declining immunization rates suggests a link through reduced national-level public health expenditures in countries experiencing conflict.

Children living in areas affected by major conflict appear to be at an elevated risk of not being fully immunised. This finding has clear policy recommendations on the importance of continuing to provide basic health services even in extreme circumstances such as armed conflict. ■

 The full article is available online: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/padr.12450>



## The cynical realpolitik of the War on Terror: Uganda 2021 edition

In late 2021, Uganda's capital Kampala was hit by several bomb attacks, which the government blamed on the Allied Democratic Forces, considered a terrorist organisation by the US and claimed as an affiliate by the Islamic State group.

In an article on *African Arguments* and in interviews with several other media outlets such as *The Economist*, IOB's Kristof Titeca analyses the geopolitical context and consequences of Uganda's role in the War on Terror. 'Counter-terrorism activities under President Yoweri Museveni have a long track record of committing abuses,' writes Titeca. He urges donor countries, particularly the UK and US, to question their financial and practical support to the Ugandan government. 'Yet typically, donors' response to abuses are minimal and mirror those of the Ugandan state. Strong statements are released on the need for accountability. At times, threats to cut aid may be issued, which sometimes results in a redirecting of aid. But eventually, the issue disappears from the agenda,' concludes Titeca.

'In the end, the international community's actions reflect a cynical realpolitik, which calculates that the Museveni government's allyship outweighs its disadvantages. To put it bluntly: human rights abuses, lack of accountability and corruption in Uganda



are all prices that donors are willing to pay to have the Museveni regime on board as a beacon of regional stability and partner in counter-terrorism exercises.' ■

## PhD: The role of the Burundi constitutional court in protecting the rule of law

The establishment of constitutional courts is a significant trend in the late 20th and early 21st century, in particular in non-consolidated democracies. Many functions are attributed to these courts regarded as guardians of the rule of law, such as a rights-protective role, an arbitration role, a deliberative role, or a regulatory role. In addition, courts in non-consolidated democracies are expected to play a role in political governance. The question is whether the political and institutional environment allows constitutional courts to satisfactorily fulfil all these tasks.

Pacifique Niyonizigiye's PhD, co-supervised by IOB's Stef Vandeginste and the Faculty of Law's Patricia Popelier, has addressed the Burundi Constitutional Court to find out to which extent it protects the rule of law. It was established that the Court can – and has, in a number of cases – protected and developed the rule of law beyond what is incorporated in the Constitution. However, statistics have shown that the role of the Court as a guardian of the rule of law remains limited. Three reasons can generally explain the limited role of the Court: the institutional framework of the Court; the lack of a constitutional culture on which the Court could build; and the political environment.

This PhD is the latest one in a successful series of doctoral dissertations prepared under the VLIR-UOS interuniversity cooperation programme with the Université du Burundi, a programme coordinated by Stef Vandeginste, who says: 'I am confident Pacifique will now become a well-respected authority in the area of constitutional law and politics in Burundi.'

The public defence turned out to be an unforgettable moment. Pacifique thanked his supervisors in his own and very original way: by singing a song in Kirundi, Burundi's national language. ■



## Global governance and inclusive development

The apparent limits of (hyper)globalisation are being revealed in growing inequalities, social exclusion and adverse incorporation. The global economy is increasingly concentrated at the top and fragmented at the bottom. That is why we focus on the poorest countries, as well as on people who are excluded from global development processes or who are adversely incorporated in them.

However, rather than treat them as victims of globalisation, our research studies small-scale producers and workers as agents navigating local-to- global dynamics. We pay special attention to women, migrants, children and people with disabilities. They are the human faces of the globalisation paradox of simultaneous inclusion and exclusion.

Global governance (both public and private) should – in theory – be able to solve part of that paradox. Not only should it facilitate market transactions, but it should also regulate negative externalities and compensate for unequal outcomes. Failures to do so warrant a more critical study of the political processes and the normativity underlying the current global governance and aid architecture.

Our research focuses on how policies and programmes aimed at reducing poverty and inequalities, at promoting gender equality, equity and decent work, first of all reflect political struggles in the policy arenas they emanate from, and second, interact with socio- political dynamics at the local level.

## Governance of global tax avoidance

Cassandra Vet presented her paper on anti-profit shifting governance in East Africa during the Tax Justice Network launch conference of the Human Rights and the 4 'Rs' of Tax Justice report. The yearly conference brings together research on tax avoidance and evasion from different disciplines.

In their efforts to ring-fence their corporate tax revenue against multinationals' profits-shifting behavior, East African countries such as Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda codified transfer pricing regulations in national hard law. They made use of the dominant OECD transfer pricing guidelines that served as a template for reform. However, the compliance of developing countries to the OECD-led international transfer pricing regime is contested. Western states still largely dominate rule-setting procedures, and the regulatory regime fails to offer a way out of the corporate tax paradigm that underlies the persistent nature of tax avoidance. Additionally, transfer pricing governance is cost- and resource intensive and thereby potentially drains the scarce resources of revenue authorities.

Rather than assuming international domination, Cassandra Vet's study sets out to untangle why Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda adopted the complex OECD-transfer pricing regime. The project emphasises the role of domestic political economy in theory on norm diffusion in international soft law regimes. Similar to other successful soft law regimes, market-based expectations, in the form of the primacy of investor attractiveness, played an essential role in making alternative policy-options less viable. However, this multiple-case-study analysis reveals that actual compliance or the concrete implementation of the OECD-transfer pricing rules can only be clarified by the supportive domestic political economy and legitimacy of these measures. Especially as an in-depth investigation of the different anti-profit shifting regimes highlights how countries did abandon the global norm when domestic stakeholders such as civil society, special interest groups or the revenue authority did not support further implementation. ■



The full session with Cassandra Vet is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/gIEDThLabRI>.





## Low trust in authorities affects vaccine uptake: evidence from 22 African countries

Nik Stoop (IOB), Jean-François Maystadt (UCL) and Kalle Hirvonen (IFPRI) wrote a blog post for *The Conversation*: ‘Low trust in authorities affects vaccine uptake: evidence from 22 African countries’, based on their paper ‘Institutional mistrust and child vaccination coverage in Africa’ in the journal *BMJ Global Health*. The paper provided the first comprehensive attempt to quantify the role of institutional mistrust on child vaccination uptake in low- and middle-income countries. Their findings show that institutional mistrust is an important barrier in reaching universal child immunisation in Africa.

The link between vaccine hesitancy and mistrust in authorities has been shown in high- and upper-middle-income countries such as Russia, the US, France and Croatia, but there is less research quantifying vaccine hesitancy in lower-income countries. Stoop’s, Maystadt’s and Hirvonen’s research establishes that ‘child vacci-

nation rates in African countries are lower in areas where the local population displays high levels of mistrust in local authorities.’

While they call on authorities to increase awareness and communicate better the benefits of vaccines and address myths and misunderstandings, they argue that merely doing so will not be sufficient. People need to trust authorities in order to trust the information they receive from them. ‘It takes considerable effort to build trust. Building trust usually starts by recognising people’s concerns and then providing reliable information. To guide policy, it is important to identify where mistrust comes from and engage with communities and trusted leaders.’ ■

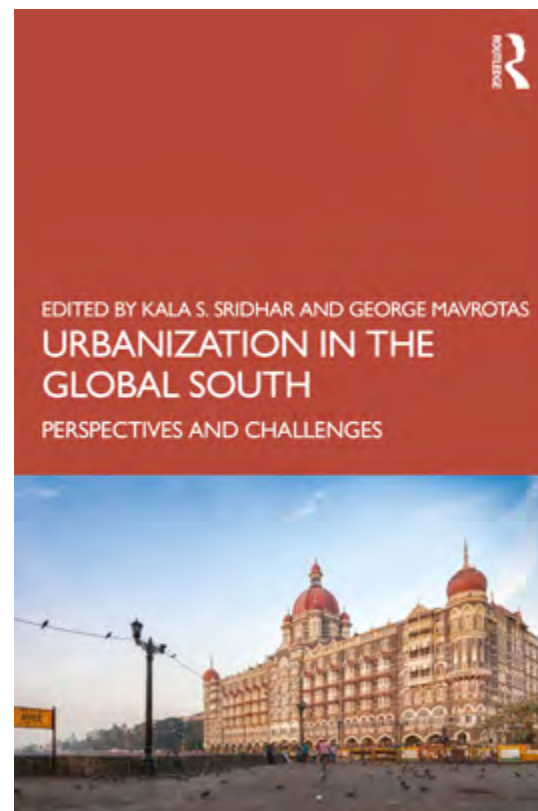


The blog post is available here: <https://bit.ly/33NJi1Y>

## New book: Urbanization in the Global South

George Mavrotas co-edited this book, which examines the challenges of urbanisation in the Global South and the linkages between urbanisation, economic development, and urban poverty from the perspectives of cities in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

It focuses on various aspects of urbanisation, ranging from food security and public services like sanitation, water, and electricity, to the finances of cities and externalities associated with the urbanisation process. The volume also highlights the importance of participatory urban governance for cities in India with comparative perspectives from other countries. It further focuses on the urbanisation of poverty, livelihood in urban areas, overconsumption and nutrition and ecology. Based on primary data, the chapters in the volume review trends, opportunities, challenges, governance, and strategies of several countries at different levels of urbanisation. ■



## What type of governance do we need to build back safer, fairer and greener?

What does it take to make use of the pandemic and post-pandemic recovery efforts to turn the world into a more secure, less inequitable, and greener place? Although the COVID-19 pandemic is still with us, the contours of an increasing number of countries’ recovery plans are taking shape, and the recovery efforts will amount to unprecedented levels. Looming in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic are the ongoing global challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and rampaging inequalities.

While the COVID-19 pandemic is the latest crisis facing the world, it will not be the last, unless humanity eases the pressures we put on the planet. The recovery efforts may shape

development paths for years to come. Will these efforts also be game changers of the transformation we need to continue advancing human development while easing planetary pressures? Stark inequalities exist not just in the impact of the pandemic, but are also already evident in recovery spending.

IOB organised the closing panel of the HDCA Global Dialogue 2021, a virtual event bringing together the various HDCA regional groups in a decentralised manner. In 2022, IOB will co-host the HDCA Conference (19-22 September), which had been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. ■

## Migrant workers in Belgium during the pandemic

Twelve IOB students participated in a research project on migrant workers in Belgium, in cooperation with Fairwork Belgium. They interviewed (undocumented) migrant workers, who are often unaware of their rights in Belgium and have found their already precarious positions even further undermined as a consequence of the pandemic.

The interviews were set up as life histories. Students first asked questions about life ‘before migration’: what was family life like, social life, what did they do for a living, what skills did they acquire, did this allow them to live properly, did they see a future for themselves there, what problems were they facing? Second, they asked about the decision to migrate: why and when was this taken, how did family and friends react, was Belgium the destination they had in mind? Third, they were asked about the migration trajectory: how did they travel and what challenges did they face? Next were a series of questions about life in Belgium, focusing on work, but also addressing broader questions around social relations and well-being. We also specifically inquired about the impact of COVID-19. We closed the interview with some questions about their imagined future: What’s your dream job? What life do you imagine for your children? Do you envisage going back home? And what advice would you give to someone who wants to migrate to Belgium?

Six themes emerged from the life histories, which were brought together in six IOB Blog posts. Firstly, what is the meaning of ‘forced labour’? Mostly, definitions leave out the elements of ‘absence of choice’ and ‘coercion’. However, exactly these elements play a large role in (undocumented) migrant workers’ experiences. Secondly, migrant workers demonstrate astounding levels of resilience in the face of extraordinary challenging conditions and discrimination. Thirdly, even in countries such as Belgium, which have significant labour protections in place, horrible stories of exploitation lurk just beneath the surface. Fourthly, the crucial role of migrant networks and social networks emerged in providing support and social mobility. Fifthly, migrants consistently identify their lack of ‘paper’s’ (legal documentation) as their main obstacle, both practically, but also (as a consequence) for their mental wellbeing. A final blogpost looks at the structural challenges faced by migrants after one year of COVID-19. ■



The blog posts are freely available on the IOB Blog: <https://blog.uantwerpen.be/sustainable-global-society/studying-globalization-in-antwerp/>

## Changing intrahousehold decision-making to empower women in their households

In a peer reviewed IOB Discussion Paper, Els Lecoutere and Lan Chu assess the impact of an intervention that challenges gender relations by introducing a more participatory way of intrahousehold decision making on women’s empowerment in monogamous agricultural households in Tanzania. Participatory intrahousehold decision making is introduced through awareness raising couple seminars in which couples go through a self-assessment and group discussion about their intrahousehold division of roles and resources; and through a subsequent intensive coaching package of activities in which couples are coached by gender officers on how to implement participatory decision making in their household.

Lecoutere and Chu show that awareness-raising couple seminars catalysed women’s access to livestock, but not their access to personal income, although that would be highly valued by women for independently taking minor expenditure decisions for their household’s wellbeing.

In line with women’s priorities, intensive coaching in participatory intrahousehold decision making increased women’s control over and accuracy of information about household income earned with coffee. Both couple seminars and intensive coaching increased women’s involvement in strategic farm decisions, which fits women’s wish for effective decision-making power in this domain. Couple seminars contributed to a fairer division of productive and reproductive labour among spouses, which is advantageous to women, even if this was not a key priority from women’s perspective. ■



The Discussion Paper is available online at: <https://www.uantwerpen.be/dp202106>





## Lessons from past debt relief initiatives for addressing current debt problems

When the COVID-19 pandemic added to already elevated debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries, the G20 launched the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) and the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, which have provided limited relief so far. For several countries, deeper and more wide-ranging debt treatments will likely be needed to secure future debt sustainability. Dennis Essers and Danny Cassimon look at the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, the largest and most comprehensive debt relief effort for low-income countries to date, as a potential reference point for the 2020s.

While the HIPC initiative appears to have been a qualified success, its replication in the current context would be unfeasible and undesirable. Creditor base heterogeneity justifies a more flexible, differentiated approach to debt restructuring. Yet, the

HIPC experience holds valuable lessons. “Delay and replay” tendencies should be avoided. Involving commercial creditors is a real challenge, requiring carrots and sticks. And imposing extra conditionality on debt relief proceeds could be helpful but should not be overdone. Even if the Common Framework is unlikely to suffice in case of a systemic debt crisis, its inter-creditor dialogue could perhaps serve as the basis for a more inclusive advisory body or forum for debt restructuring. ■



The full Working Paper is available online at: <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-groups/iob/publications/working-papers/wp-2021/wp-202102/>

## Goma volcanic eruption

On 22 May 2021, the Nyiragongo volcano located on the outskirts of Goma erupted. The lava stream and risk of subsequent eruptions forced more than 364.000 people to flee their homes in Goma and surrounding areas. Elie Lunanga, Elias Maombi, Nik Stoop and Marijke Verpoorten designed a survey to analyze the intra-household decision to flee the city: Who decided to flee? Who decided to stay? And what was this decision based on? By analysing these questions, the team not only aims to contribute to the literature on household coping strategies in the face of natural disasters, but also to identify context-specific recommendations for policymakers who seek to support such coping strategies. The data was collected from a stratified random sample of 642 respondents from two city areas in Goma. Elias Maombi and Elie Lunanga trained and supervised a team of 15 enumerators to implement the survey.

## Environment and sustainable development

Environmental/climate change and poverty/inequality concerns are occupying an ever-more central position on the international policy agenda. The urgency of the challenges we face has also provoked heated debates on the appropriate (multi-level) governance structures to secure both poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

Sustainable development is increasingly being framed in terms of a ‘green economy’, and a reliance on market-based conservation mechanisms and conditional finance instruments, such as (voluntary) carbon markets, Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES), biodiversity derivatives, and payments for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).

We focus our research on actors, policies and instruments which aim to tackle climate change and ensure the provision of ‘global public goods’, and the kind of socio-political dynamics and interactions they trigger at and between multiple levels.

- **At the global level** we analyse the main trends, actors and factors in the evolving and evermore complex environment and climate governance landscape.
- **At the national level** we analyse the dynamics of the policy cycle (identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) surrounding the translation of global commitments into national policies.
- **At the local level** we analyse the (non-) implementation of the environmental/climate change agenda and how it interrelates with local dynamics and struggles of (unequal) access to natural resources. ■

## FWO Project: When Global Threats Meet Localised Practices

In 2021, a four-year FWO project coordinated by Gert Van Hecken, in cooperation with postdoc researcher Jennifer Casolo and PhD researcher Danya Nadar on traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) in Guatemala and Nicaragua, started.

Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) has become a dominant paradigm in environmental and climate policies. The approach encourages land users to generate benefits of nature (ecosystem services) on their land through conditional payments from interested consumers (for example energy-intensive companies paying for forest conservation). Global climate finance instruments such as voluntary/compulsory carbon markets, the UN programme for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation & Forest Degradation (REDD+), and biodiversity offsetting mechanisms reflect PES’ popularity among donors.

While appealing, PES also elicits criticism. Practices often impose global neoliberal governance on territories, dispossess land users, retrench existing inequalities, spawn resource struggles and prioritize carbon outputs over biodiversity. Tensions between PES’ win-win promises and ‘green grabbing’ concerns, combined with mounting evidence of ecosystem collapse, begs for critical attention to how global concerns entwine with localised knowledges. Comparing of PES sites in Nicaragua and Guatemala, our researchers study how PES shapes and is shaped by contested understandings of place, power and difference (class, gender, racial/ethnic). This research breaks open bounded or abstracted understanding of both PES and local ecological knowledge, offers insights into how historical geographies condition and rework global policies, and makes visible the multi-scaled processes through which alternatives emerge and gain traction. ■





## International consortium on environmental justice in transnational value chains

IOB will coordinate a new biodivERsA-funded international consortium which will trace the value frameworks of extractive value chains between Indonesia, Brazil, Colombia and the EU. The consortium consists of six partners: the University of Antwerp (IOB and the Faculty of Law), the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Research (ZALF), the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (together with Universitas Gadjah Mada), UFF Faculty of Economics, the Centre for Sustainability Studies (Lund University), and the Rural Development department of the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina.

Despite the scientific evidence about agriculture and mining as major threats to biodiversity and the global climate, the frontiers of global value chains continue to be expanded into tropical forests, causing deforestation, forest degradation and biodiversity loss. The conversion of natural ecosystems for agricultural land use and minerals' extraction is one of the main drivers of global biodiversity loss. At the same time, deforestation and forest degradation in the tropics is the second largest source of global greenhouse-gas emissions.

The planetary organisation of value chains is part of the problem: it intensifies the need for meat and minerals, increases the distance between the locations of extraction and production, and places of processing and final consumption. This 'telecoupling' disconnects spaces of consumption with the local socio-ecological impacts of production. However, in recent years, consumers, governments and companies based in the EU are increasingly looking for solutions to address environmental and social externalities of imported commodities such as meat and minerals. This renewed sensitivity has led to new regulations, but also to transnational corporations adopting best practices guidelines and certification schemes.

The consortium will investigate four selected commodity chains (cattle, palm oil, gold and tin) that 'feed' the European

market, using a polycentric governance and environmental justice approach. We will map the governance and power links that connect the multiple territories of production and transformation and their plural legal systems with the European regulatory, political and socio-economic space. In doing so, we will identify and analyse leverage points (chokeholds) and blind spots, and shed light on the micro and macro conditions that may facilitate the mitigation of environmental and social impacts that occur at the selected locations of production (in Brazil, Colombia and Indonesia).

The project will contribute to the production of new bottom-up and co-constructed multidisciplinary scientific knowledge about the interactions between transnational commodity chains reaching the EU, climate change, social and biological diversity loss and territorial ecological injustices. It will challenge the geographical and disciplinary silos in which loss of social and environmental diversity and climate change are often put. It will study them through the lenses of the complex set of material and immaterial relationships that exist between the local and the global economy, their institutions, actors and interactions, including through the regulations, legislations and private interventions that are undertaken by the EU and EU actors such as NGOs, civil society organisations and private actors. It will enrich mainstream governance studies with a political ecology, ecological justice and transnational value chains perspective. It will bring to light the interconnectivity of decision making, from global to local, so that policies and interventions at all levels of the chain are defined by a locally rooted, ecologically just, complex and multi-disciplinary understanding that what happens on the ground is connected with the network of private actors, institutions and power dynamics that shape, govern and operate within the value chains. ■



## Webinar: Microfinance and Transformations to Sustainability Insights from Action Research

On 18 February 2021, Frédéric Huybrechts engaged with policy-makers and practitioners in the financial inclusion sector during a webinar organised by the European Microfinance Platform. Frédéric presented findings from IOB's TruePATH project, a collaboration with UCA-Nitlapan, Fodo de Desarrollo Local and AgroParisTech. The take-home message? Conceptualisation of impact of Micro-Finance-Plus in terms of mitigation or adaptation will require us to go beyond a merely individual client-oriented approach and embeddedness into broader territorial pathway dynamics.

Frédéric also co-authored an open access publication in *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* with Johan Bastianesen, Pierre Merlet, Milagros Romero and Gert Van Hecken: 'Fostering bottom-up actor coalitions for transforming complex rural territorial pathways.' They start from a 'territorial pathways' framework, which holds that incumbent and transformative pathways emerge out of the power-laden interactions of the biophysical territory with dominant, respectively innovative configurations of ideas, social structures and 'rules-in-use'.

## Roundtable discussion on ecological crises

In February 2021, IOB's Vijay Kolinjivadi participated in a panel discussion hosted by the Centre tricontinental in Brussels to discuss the uneven effects of ecological crises on the Global South, both in terms of causes (productivism and consumerism of the wealthiest), of impacts and in proposed solutions. Are protests – intended to influence climate policies – the domain of privileged groups, without immediate material concerns? Fellow panelists included decolonial and environmental humanities scholar Malcolm Ferdinand, Belgian climate youth activist Adélaïde Charlier, and heterodox economist Thierry Amougou. The high-profile event was broadcast globally and raised some harsh realities about the need for systemic justice in the form of reparations to redress the ongoing colonial history of environmental damage around the world.

Vijay also contributed to the public debate on 'extractive tourism'. In an article for Al Jazeera, he argues that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic presents a unique opportunity to do away with the destructive mass tourism industry. He debunks the idea that without mass tourism, 'millions of people will be reduced to abject poverty', and points to the disruption caused by tourism from Amsterdam to the Maasai Mara in Kenya. At the same time, mass tourism does not contribute to local development as much as is often argued, as most of the wealth extracted from tourism sites 'flows into multinational conglomerates which own travel agencies, hotels, airlines, cruise ships and even local commercial retail shops.' Vijay calls for food sovereignty, labour sovereignty, cultural sovereignty, and climate action against airlines as strategies to break a vicious cycle of unsustainability and exploitation. ■

The full article is available online on Aljazeera: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2021/2/18/it-is-time-to-end-extractive-tourism>

The authors emphasise the centrality and political nature of the on-going territorial processes and acknowledge that uncertainty and epistemological plurality are inevitable characteristics of any change process, implying the impossibility to define any particular objective endpoint of 'sustainability'. This has methodological consequences for potential contributions to transformative change. They reflect upon the ambiguous role of actors (including themselves) involved in action-research processes and position their expected contributions to transformative change vis-à-vis potentially transformative actor coalitions. ■



The full article can be accessed here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S187734352100021X>



The full seminar and presentation are available on the European Microfinance Platform website: <https://www.e-mfp.eu/gicsf-webinars>





The multidimensional impact of rural and urban electrification: economic development, security and conservation?

Nik Stoop and Marijke Verpoorten were granted an FWO project for follow up research on the impact of electrification in North-Kivu. Elias Maombi and Elie Lunanga will be doing fieldwork in the region.

Their case study focuses on rural and urban communities nearby Virunga National Park, in DR Congo. Impoverished by armed conflict, the communities complement their livelihoods with the park’s resources to make ends meet. These resources are also illicitly exploited by several armed groups that have their hideouts within the park’s boundaries.

Virunga Alliance is implementing an electricity rollout in the area of the National Park. According to their theory of change, electrification will spur development, which will in turn reduce people’s reliance on the park’s resources and their support for rebel groups. The theory of change finds support in the literature but needs further testing. To learn about the causal effect of electrification, we designed an impact evaluation that compares time trends in socio-economic development, conservation and security across treatment and control localities.■



Environmental destruction and resistance: a closer look at the violent reoccupation of the DRC’s Kahuzi-Biega National Park

The decision of the indigenous Batwa to reoccupy parts of eastern DRC’s Kahuzi-Biega National Park by force shocked many outside observers. They were further shocked when the Batwa started to ally with rebel groups, traders, and illegal timber cutters in order to exploit part of the ancestral forest they had been forced to leave decades prior. In an article on the ISS Blog, Fergus Simpson and Sara Geenen show why the Batwa’s decision to return to the park should in fact come as anything but a surprise.

The reoccupation of the park by the Batwa followed decades of slow violence, manifest in the gradual erosion of their group identity and sense of dignity. The reoccupation should not be considered surprising, as numerous related events led up to it. The sudden transition of the forest from a protected to an exploited zone raises further questions about whether the exclusion of indigenous groups from protected areas can have the perverse effect of severing their relationship with the land they once conserved, which in the case of Kahuzi-Biega National Park led to both large-scale

deforestation and violent clashes.

Based on their research, Sara Geenen and Fergus Simpson argue that a better understanding of the factors which push communities from covert resistance toward overtly violent forms of contestation against conservation could help prevent the social unrest and environmental destruction we have seen in Kahuzi-Biega over recent years from being repeated elsewhere. Such knowledge could also be used to inform a contemporary conservation movement that is more environmentally sustainable and socially just for future generations of indigenous people. ■



Full article available on: <https://issblog.nl/2021/09/30/environmental-destruction-and-resistance-a-closer-look-at-the-violent-reoccupation-of-the-drcs-kahuzi-biega-national-park/>

Great Lakes of Africa Centre (GLAC)

GLAC is the IOB Great Lakes of Africa Centre, a platform that seeks to stimulate research and policy engagement, linking scholarship in and on Africa’s Great Lakes region.

- The thematic scope of GLAC is articulated in IOB’s research lines.
- The main focus countries are the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, with due attention for neighbouring countries as well as international organisations and how they relate to the region.

- GLAC works across local, national and international governance levels and dynamics.
- GLAC hosts scholarly research that is data-driven, theoretically informed and context-sensitive.
- As a platform where multiple partners and ways of knowing meet, GLAC engages with other scholars from various disciplines and policy makers.
- GLAC has academic partnerships in the DRC, Burundi and Uganda. It takes part in the IOB Scholar in Residence (SIR) programme. ■

GLAC Seminars

GLAC organises monthly online seminars in which staff members or other invited speakers present their research.

Astrid Jamar opened the GLAC Seminar series in October by speaking on ‘Dreams, Night Visions and Decolonial Aspirations’. Jamar: ‘Taking dreams seriously, my research seeks to articulate alternative ways of understanding the world’ in conflict-affected environments. Knowledges produced about peace interventions are often articulated around responses to root-causes of violence. Increasingly conflict studies acknowledge peacebuilding limitations due to their western-centric logics. South Kivu is an emblematic example in which extensive peace interventions had limited success in sustaining peace. Researching the dreamlife responds to the urgent need to appreciate alternative ways of knowing violence and managing peacebuilding. Sensorial, bodily, spiritual dimensions of dreams will be mobilised to discuss underlying pluriversalism. The project builds upon feminist decolonial scholarship and arts-based methods.’

Stef Vandeginste in November analysed the use of reserved seats and the evolution of cooptation norms and practices in Burundi between the signature of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in 2000 and the 2020 legislative elections. Vandeginste: ‘Why have reserved seats and cooptation been introduced in Burundi? What has been their application at the time of the 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020 elections? What effects did they produce?’

‘Value-driven objectives, such as minority protection, only partly explain their use and design,’ Vandeginste continues. ‘The adoption, functionality and recent transformation of electoral cooptation were also determined by realpolitik, most notably by the elites’ struggle for positions and the balance of power. Cooptation had important effects on ethnic cohabitation within parliamentary factions. The paper contributes to the literature on the micro-institutions of political representation and power-sharing.’

The GLAC Seminars will continue in 2022. Subjects will be announced on the GLAC website ([www.uantwerpen.be/glac](http://www.uantwerpen.be/glac)). For more information, mail [glac@uantwerpen.be](mailto:glac@uantwerpen.be). ■

**WOULD YOU FIGHT?**  
WE ASKED AGGRIEVED ARTISANAL MINERS IN EASTERN CONGO.

Nik Stoop, Marijke Verpoorten

**Abstract**

To meet the rising demand for minerals, mining companies have ventured into fragile areas, often at the expense of artisanal miners. This has led to grievances, and at times violence. Who among the aggrieved intend to use violence? How can peace be maintained? We use individual-level data to address these questions. Among a sample of 469 about-to-be-evicted artisanal miners in Eastern Congo, we inquire about the intention to engage in several forms of violence. We identify how this intention varies with miners' past exposure to violence and attitudes towards policies that seek social peace. A large proportion of miners intends to destroy the company's property, attack its employees, use fire arms, or join an armed group. These would-be fighters are motivated by grievances, as well as material and social incentives. Our results contribute to understanding the micro-motivations underpinning the local resource curse and small concrete levers for mining policies.

**Keywords**

1. Natural resources
2. Artisanal mining
3. Industrial mining
4. Conflict
5. Democratic Republic of Congo

**Output so far**

- "Would you fight? The armed engagement of artisanal miners in Eastern Congo" Journal of Conflict Resolution, 2021
- "Violence Against Localities: Dynamics at the Mining Front" Africa
- "The impact of armed conflict on the livelihoods of artisanal miners" Paper at the University of Antwerp, 2021
- "The impact of armed conflict on the livelihoods of artisanal miners" Paper at the University of Antwerp, 2021
- "The impact of armed conflict on the livelihoods of artisanal miners" Paper at the University of Antwerp, 2021

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🌐 More info on project: [glac.uantwerpen.be](https://glac.uantwerpen.be)

**Funding**

- Research Foundation - Flanders

University of Antwerp  
Great Lakes of Africa Centre  
February 2022

**DEBT SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS AND THE NEED FOR DEBT RELIEF**  
FOR COUNTRIES IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

Danny Cassimon, Dennis Essers, Christian Senga

**Abstract**

This topic is the current version of a long-standing research stream dealing with debt problems in low-income countries, and opportunities for debt relief to create lasting solutions. Recently, debt vulnerabilities have been on the rise again in most low-income countries. The COVID-19 pandemic reinforced these vulnerabilities. More than half of low-income countries, including countries in the Great Lakes region, are now classified by the IMF and World Bank to be at high risk of or already in debt distress. The international community responded to these debt problems with the provision of emergency financing. The GLAC in particular created the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) in May 2020 and the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI (CF) in November 2020. This research aims to look at the effectiveness and efficiency of international policy interventions aimed at restoring debt sustainability from the lens of experiences of countries in the Great Lakes region in particular.

**Keywords**

1. Debt sustainability
2. Debt relief
3. HIPC
4. DSSI
5. Common Framework

**Output so far**

- Essers, D. & D. Cassimon (2021), "Debt Sustainability Analysis of Countries in the Great Lakes Region", <https://www.glaac.uantwerpen.be/research/working-papers>, 2021
- Essers, D. & D. Cassimon & W. P. P. (2021), "Debt Sustainability Analysis of Countries in the Great Lakes Region", <https://www.glaac.uantwerpen.be/research/working-papers>, 2021

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University of Antwerp  
Great Lakes of Africa Centre  
February 2022

**INFORMING.**  
AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF INFORMALIZATION IN GLOBAL GOLD PRODUCTION

Sara Geenen, Maria Eugenia Robles Mengoa, Boris Verbruggen

**Abstract**

A growing body of research relies on 'chain frameworks' such as global commodity chains, value chains, and production networks, to make sense of trends in global production. It concludes that the global economy has witnessed a geographical expansion of production, a concentration of power in the hands of lead firms, and the rise of a flexible and irregular workforce. Despite its strengths, this research has important shortcomings, including a neglect of informal production, and of extractive industries such as mining. This project addresses both shortcomings, by investigating informalization processes in global gold production. More precisely, it analyses two mechanisms that indicate a growing reliance on informal labour: (1) extraction by large mining companies to local subcontractors who operate at the margins of the formal economy, and (2) the massive expansion of low-cost, labour-intensive and predominantly informal artisanal and small-scale gold mining. We first conduct a mapping of the global gold production system, to understand the global roots of informalization processes. We then conduct case studies of six mining sites in three countries (Philippines, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo) with a view to understanding how informalization processes interact with changes in local labour markets, thus affecting who stands (not) to benefit from these informalization processes.

**Keywords**

1. Gold
2. Mining
3. Labour
4. Informalization

**Output so far**

- Verbruggen, B. and Geenen, S. (2018) "The global gold production system: A chain framework analysis of informalization processes in global gold production", <https://www.glaac.uantwerpen.be/research/working-papers>, 2018
- Verbruggen, B. and Geenen, S. (2019) "Informalization processes in global gold production: A chain framework analysis of informalization processes in global gold production", <https://www.glaac.uantwerpen.be/research/working-papers>, 2019
- Geenen, S. and Verbruggen, B. (2021) "Informalization processes in global gold production: A chain framework analysis of informalization processes in global gold production", <https://www.glaac.uantwerpen.be/research/working-papers>, 2021

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🌐 <https://www.glaac.uantwerpen.be/research/working-papers>

**Timeline, funding & partners**

- 2018 - 2022
- Research Foundation - Flanders
- Centre d'Expertise en Gestion Minière
- Université Catholique de Bukavu

University of Antwerp  
Great Lakes of Africa Centre  
February 2022



## A closer look at Burundi's 2020 elections

Unlike the 2015 elections, Burundi's 2020 general elections did not plunge the country into chaos. They rather illustrate how elections can be used for authoritarian consolidation. As expected, they enhanced the ruling party's control on the state, thus consolidating a decade of gradual return towards a de facto single-party regime.

Stef Vandeginste takes a closer look at the elections and sheds light on some important political governance developments and challenges. Despite the sudden death of outgoing president Nkurunziza, the elections allowed for an orderly succession at the level of the presidency. The ruling party leadership, a group

of generals with a shared maquis experience, left the shadows and is now at the front scene of the state institutions. Both the electoral commission and the constitutional court, the main institutions in charge of organising the elections and of electoral dispute settlement, were perceived as serving the interests of the ruling party. Opposition party CNL has been able to mobilise large crowds of supporters from diverse backgrounds. It contested the electoral results through the institutional channels and now faces the challenge of taking up its role as parliamentary opposition.



Read the full Discussion Paper on the IOB website: <https://www.uantwerpen.be/dp202104> ■

## Conjonctures de l'Afrique centrale

This 2021 volume of *Conjonctures de l'Afrique centrale* features seventeen chapters on Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda and covers areas as diverse as elections, natural resource governance, the state, its performance and contestation. Through an in-depth analysis of current realities in the region, this book aims to contribute to a better understanding of social, economic, political and societal dynamics in Central Africa. ■



On the website of ECA-CREAC, the authors present their chapters in a brief video presentation: <https://www.eca-creac.eu/en/conjonctures-de-lafrique-centrale-2021>

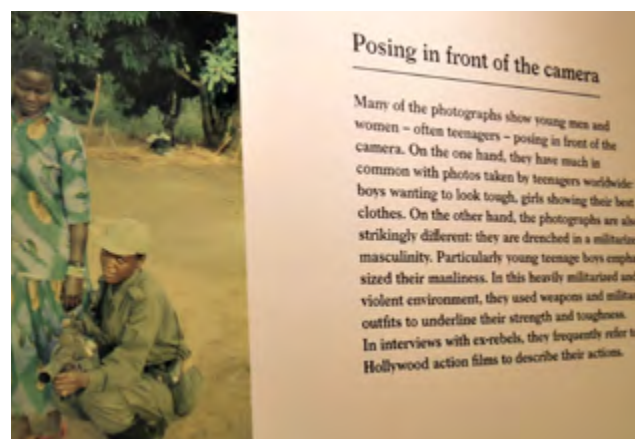


## ICC expert witness: Kristof Titeca on the trial of Dominic Ongwen (LRA)

In February 2021, Dominic Ongwen was convicted by the International Criminal Court on charges related to his activity with the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda. Ongwen, who was a child soldier himself, was sentenced to 25 years on charges of murder, rape, sexual slavery, forced marriage, torture, enslavement, recruiting of child soldiers, and more.

Ongwen's lawyers argued that 'western' courts are not well-placed to judge Ongwen's crimes, as they do not take into account non-western beliefs that may have informed his behaviour. Kristof Titeca explains: 'Spirits were a central element to the LRA. Joseph Kony claims to be possessed by a range of spirits, who dictate him what to do. This gave Kony particular powers, as they believed he could read their minds, or could predict the future. This, for example, stopped some combatants from trying to escape from the LRA.'

Titeca had written earlier in *The Washington Post*: 'While international law claims to apply universal justice, it still seems underequipped to deal with spirits that are an integral part of the worldview of many of the people caught up in trials.' ■



## 'Digital reconnection' to colonial collections: A first step towards restitution

The debate about restitution of African heritage has recently received broad political and public attention. However, the debate mostly involves actors in Europe. What do Africans in Africa think about the issue? The debate so far shows little concern for their wishes and priorities.

### Social cohesion

The Transformative Heritage project of the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA/AfricaMuseum), Université de l'Uele, University of Ghent and the Institute of Development Policy aims to fill that gap in the debate. **Vicky Van Bockhaven (UGent)**: "UNESCO has been promoting culture and heritage as important sources of well-being and social cohesion in processes of sustainable development for decades. However, it remains an assumption, without much research underpinning it. Success is difficult to quantify, and only in the long term. In the current climate around issues of restitution, it is really important to investigate whether such claims hold truth."

Researchers of the Transformative Heritage project will open a dialogue with communities in the Northeast of DR Congo about their needs and wishes regarding the heritage, which is kept in Belgium. The AfricaMuseum's digital collection database will be made available. **Hein Vanhee (AfricaMuseum)**: "Digital reconnection to heritage is a quick and efficient way of starting new conversations about the past, in a way that these conversations are directed by the local communities themselves. Their direct involvement is key."

### Rich cultural-historical heritage

"The Northeast of Congo has a rich cultural-historical past," says **Kristof Titeca**, "but the region became increasingly isolated politically and economically after independence. It was struck by violent conflict in the years following independence. More recently, there has been an inflow of poachers and armed groups, but also of artisanal miners and refugees."

**Roger Gaise of the Université de l'Uele** in Congo adds: "In this region, the loss of traditions and heritage is seen as an explanation for society's – bad – state. UniUele keeps the finger on the pulse for this project: we are researching the wishes and needs surrounding heritage within the communities. Are they even interested, and how can engagement with heritage be beneficial to them? How can we address these wishes and needs? Digital reconnection is a first step in addressing the sense of uprootedness. Traditional leaders and other local stakeholders are important interlocutors in these discussions."

Vicky Van Bockhaven: "It's important to note that digital reconnection can never be a substitute for material restitution. However, material restitution requires a legal framework and meticulous investigations, which require time. For us, the Transformative Heritage project is a significant intermediary step, a test case to gather knowledge on the support for reconnection to this heritage within local communities. We are looking at important ethical, scientific and legal questions on issues such as ownership and copyrights, for example, that will also be relevant to material restitution."

### Restitution of knowledge

How will this digital reconnection be organised? Hein Vanhee: "Regional universities and teacher training colleges will get access to the database. We'll organise workshops to teach them how to use the data. How they decide to use it, is entirely up to them. For example, they can use data for educational or research purposes. Or they can look for stolen, looted or lost artefacts from the region. We are hoping that creative initiatives will arise, even outside of the project. The project also wants to bridge the digital gap between urban 'elites' and the rural communities."

### Reconnection and transformation

Transformative Heritage researchers will investigate whether reconnection can aid in improving social cohesion and wellbeing in local communities. Maybe it can even help in peacebuilding. New conversations about the shared past can stimulate dialogue between communities about potential solutions for contemporary issues.

Kristof Titeca: "Local researchers will look into developing custom-made applications for local communities. For example, they can help organise intergenerational storytelling events. Photographs and data from the digital collection can also inspire artists during workshops. However, we also need to be aware that knowledge about the past and heritage also has the capacity to divide."

### Holistic approach

"Focusing on digital reconnection will help develop a model for a meaningful and holistic approach to the restitution of cultural heritage", says Vicky Van Bockhaven. "A model that is fundamentally based on consultation and cooperation with stakeholders in both Europe and Africa."

Hein Vanhee agrees: "In a later phase, when material restitution will be legally possible, the development of a structural dialogue and cooperation on the issue of heritage will prove useful for preparing legal frameworks for material restitution. This project is a first step."

*The Transformative Heritage project is a cooperation between the Royal Museum for Central Africa/AfricaMuseum (Hein Vanhee), Université de l'Uele (Roger Gaise), African Languages and Cultures at the University of Ghent (Vicky Van Bockhaven) and the Institute of Development Policy at the University of Antwerp (Kristof Titeca). The project is financed by the BRAIN 2.0 programme of the Sciency Policy PPS of the Belgian Federal Government.* ■



Transformations dans l'exploitation de l'or au Sud-Kivu, RD Congo

Publications uniquement en français

Ces working papers se focalisent sur différentes dimensions des technologies, de la santé et/ou de l'environnement. Chaque working paper a été écrit par quelques membres de l'équipe ayant un intérêt ou une expertise particulière dans un certain domaine.

Cette série de working papers est le produit de deux projets de recherche, et d'une équipe de chercheurs. Les recherches ont été conçues comme une recherche collaborative, avec une implication active des membres dans toutes les étapes de la recherche, de la conception jusqu'à l'écriture. Le premier projet fait partie d'un projet intitulé Winners and Losers from Globalization and Market Integration, avec sous projet qui se focalise sur les transformations technologiques dans les exploitations minières artisanales et à petite échelle (EMAPE). Le deuxième est un projet sur la santé et l'environnement dans les mines. Ce projet de recherche-action vise non seulement à comprendre la situation sanitaire et environnementale dans les mines, mais aussi à proposer de meilleures pratiques à travers une sensibilisation coproduite.

- Transformations technologiques et régimes de travail dans l'EMAPE au Sud-Kivu, RDC.
- Apprivoiser l'eau et l'air: la lutte contre les fuites des technologies dans l'EMAPE au Sud-Kivu, RDC.
- Technologies (ir)responsables dans l'orpaillage: quels risques pour l'environnement et la santé? Cas de Kamituga et Misisi, RDC.
- Celles qui "vieillissent trop vite": la santé des femmes dans les mines de Kamituga, RDC.
- Productivité et profitabilité: une analyse comparative basée sur l'impact de la mécanisation dans l'EMAPE de l'or en RDC.
- Taxation des technologies dans l'EMAPE: contribution à l'économie locale et à la province du Sud-Kivu, RDC.
- La fièvre de l'or: santé et environnement dans les mines d'or de Kamituga, RDC.

Pour télécharger les papers, et pour l'équipe de recherche complet, veuillez visiter notre site web: <https://www.uantwerpen.be/workingpapers-kivu>

The social lives of cacao and oil palm in times of extinction and hope

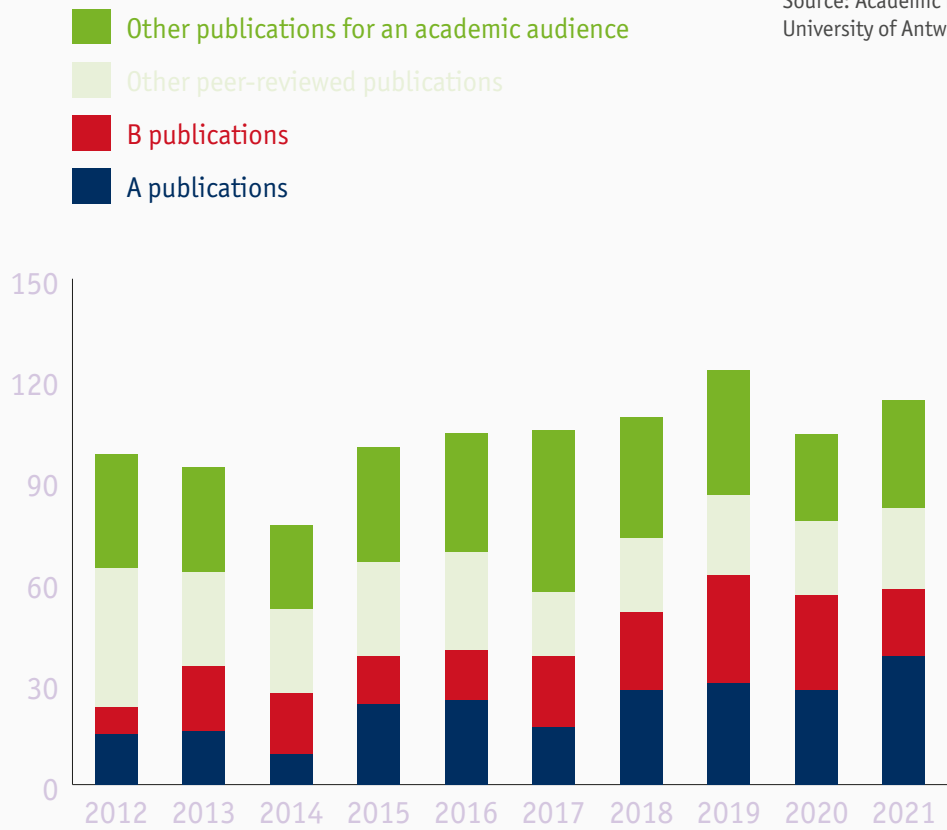
Catherine Windey has started work on her postdoc project, 'Multifunctional crops – The social lives of cacao and oil palm in times of extinction and hope'. This theoretically and methodologically innovative project aims at exploring how various, unequal groups of people relate to cacao and oil palm, not only materially but especially affectively, ethically and socio-politically, and how the very being of these plants and their ecologies influence these relationships. Catherine will follow the lives of cacao and oil palm from Virunga National Park and the Tshopo Province in DR Congo, to policy-making arenas in Brussels and small chocolate makers in Amsterdam.

Windey's postdoc project, supervised by Gert Van Hecken, looks at how various forms of environmental governance and knowledge, everyday practices, and multispecies relations come in tension to shape the social-ecological lives of these crops, and those of the people and landscapes who grow them. Comparing a non-native to a native crop in the Congo Basin allows to explore the importance of cultural-environmental histories and of place-based knowledge to (agro)biodiversity. As such, it will critically broaden conceptions of sustainability and justice to ask how ethical human-non-human encounters can be built so as to produce just outcomes.



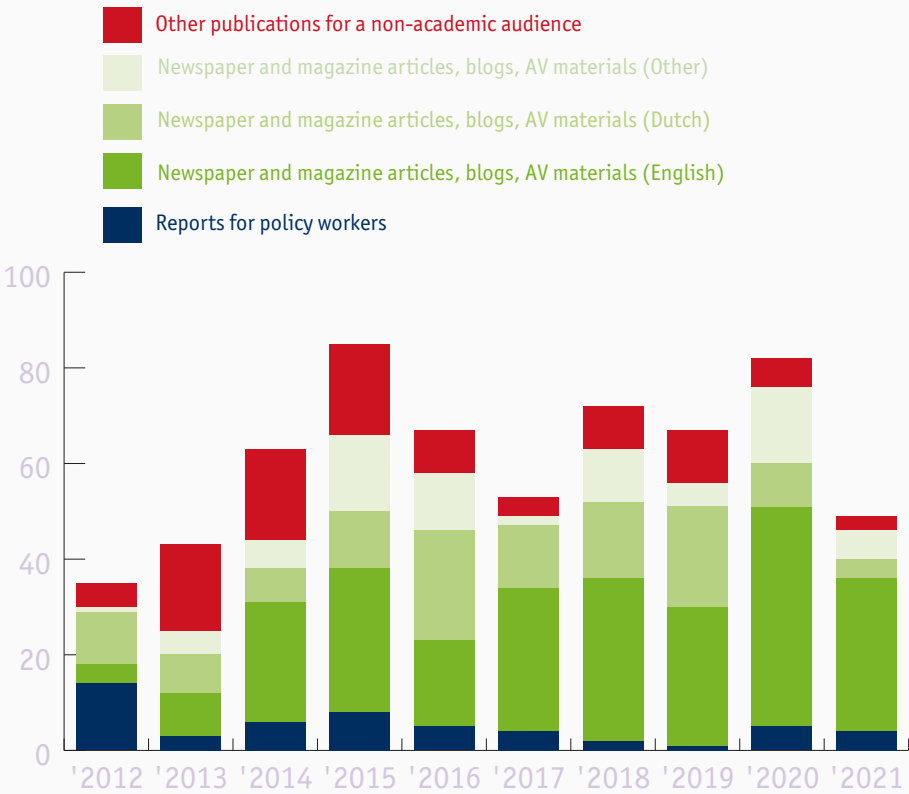
Facts and figures on research and outreach

FIGURE 1: IOB PUBLICATIONS FOR ACADEMIC AUDIENCE \*



\* Data as available in February 2022.  
Source: Academic Bibliography  
University of Antwerp.

FIGURE 2: PUBLICATIONS FOR NON-ACADEMIC AUDIENCE \*





# PhD training at IOB

As part of the Antwerp Doctoral School, IOB offers a multidisciplinary doctoral programme related to its institutional research agenda which leads to a PhD in Development Studies.

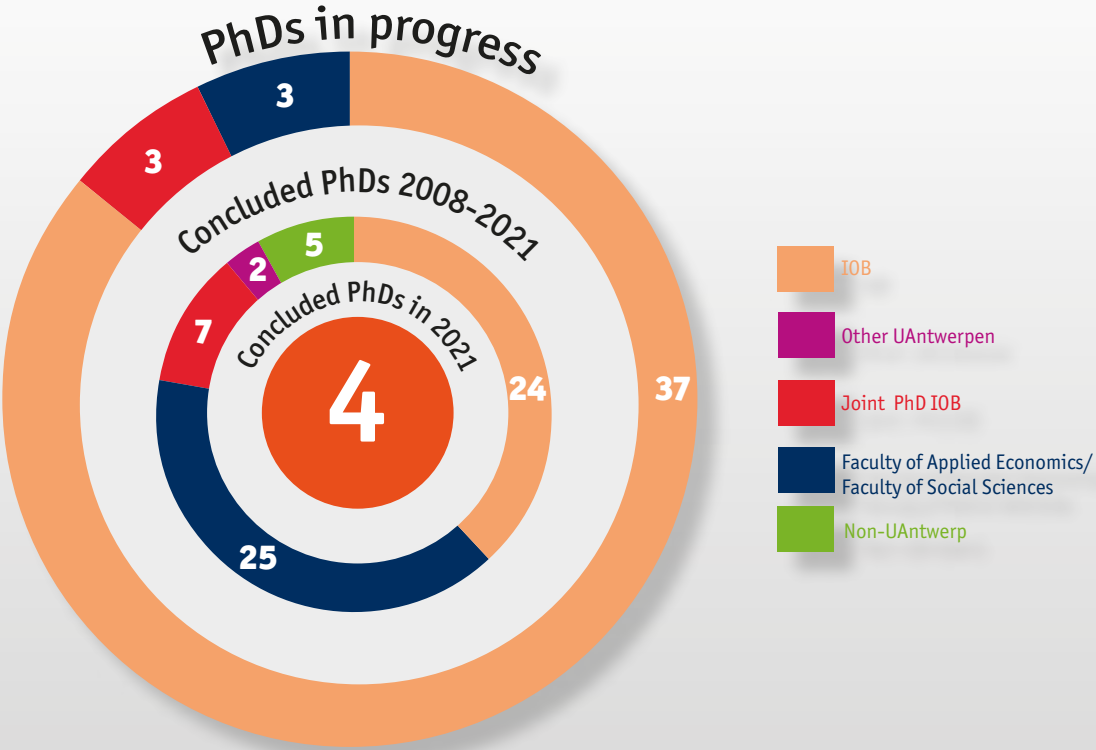
The Institute also cooperates with its sister faculties of Business and Economics and Social Sciences for disciplinary PhDs on development issues. During 2021, a total of 43 students were preparing a PhD dissertation on topics linked to IOB's research agenda.

Forty were pursuing an interdisciplinary PhD in Development Studies at IOB (ten of them IOB junior researchers), while two were working towards disciplinary PhDs at the Faculty of Business and Economics (one of them IOB junior researcher) and one at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

During 2021, four new PhD students were admitted, all will pursue a PhD in Development Studies. None of the PhD students dropped out. Three of the PhDs in progress are joint or double PhDs : one with Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven), one with International Institute of Social Studies (Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Hague, Netherlands) and one with Université du Québec en Outaouais (Canada).

In 2021, four students successfully concluded and defended their PhD in Development Studies.

FIGURE 3. CONCLUDED PHDS 2008-21 (INNER CIRCLES) AND PHDS IN PROGRESS (OUTER CIRCLE)



**Lisa Popelier**

*“Uncovering the potential of social accountability initiatives in fostering disability-inclusive development : a multi-method analysis of the influence pathways of disability-sensitive community-based monitoring in Katakwi, Eastern Uganda”*

Supervisor : Prof. Nathalie Holvoet (IOB, University of Antwerp)

**Antea Paviotti**

*““Us” and “them”: reciprocal perceptions and interactions between amoko in contemporary Burundi”*

Supervisors : Prof. Bert Ingelaere and Prof. Stef Vandeginste (IOB, University of Antwerp)

**Pierre Merlet**

*“The ecological agrarian question in the Nicaraguan agricultural frontier. How to promote more sustainable development pathways”*

Supervisor : Prof. Johan Bastiaensen (IOB, University of Antwerp)

**Sarah Vancluysen**

*“Continuity and connectedness. Everyday experiences of South Sudanese refugees in Northern Uganda”*

Supervisors : Prof. Bert Ingelaere and Prof. Kristof Titeca (IOB, University of Antwerp)



**PHD ANTEA PAVIOTTI**

During my PhD research, I explored the notions of ‘us’ and ‘them’ in contemporary Burundi, with the aim of understanding when and how, today, the boundary between ‘us’ and ‘them’ is situated between Hutu and Tutsi or between other types of categories. I analysed boundary-making in reciprocal perceptions and interactions in contemporary Burundi as well as in the Burundian Twittersphere. ■



**PHD SARAH VANCLUYSEN**

This thesis focuses on elements of continuity and connectedness in the everyday life of South Sudanese refugees. The findings are based on approximately six months of qualitative research in the Adjumani district of northern Uganda, including semi-structured interviews, life stories, informal discussions and observations in and around the selected refugee settlements. The overall contribution is to show how refugees negotiate justice, authority and mobility, and to draw attention to the role of continuity and connectedness within those negotiations. ■



**PHD PIERRE MERLET**

The transformation of forests into agricultural land, in what are known as agricultural frontiers, brings huge social and environmental challenges. This work focuses on analysing the socio-ecological transformations related to agrarian change processes in the Nicaraguan agricultural frontier in order to bring insights that could better inform development practice in these regions. ■



**PHD LISA POPELIER**

The thesis reveals that perceptions on what constitutes disability are context-specific and that disability prevalence estimates among village residents are influenced by the measurement instrument and the moment of data collection. Further, the results signpost various behavioral, motivational, relational and affective changes that may lay the foundations for collective action towards disability-inclusive development in the longer term. ■





ONGOING PHD PROJECTS IN 2021

ABAINZA Loresel
Return migration and entrepreneurship: an investigation of the success of failure of return migrants’ entrepreneurial activities <i>Supervisors: Prof. Nathalie Holvoet - Prof. Germán Calfat (em.)</i>
ALATORRE TRONCOSO Andrea
ePEStemology: Towards a consolidation of social and ecological integrity for conservation and development in Payments for Ecosystem <i>Supervisors : Prof. Gert Van Hecken - Prof. Jérôme Dupras (Université du Québec en Outaouais)</i>
ASHABA Ivan
Environmental crime as transnational organized crime: a case of wildlife trade in Uganda <i>Supervisor: Prof. Kristof Titeca</i>
BAQIR Fayyaz
Factors determining the effectiveness of citizen’s response to public policy failure in efficient delivery of water supply services <i>Supervisor : Prof. Tom De Herdt</i>
COLLADO Carmen
Social innovation in land initiatives as a basis for inclusive rural development <i>Supervisors: Prof. Johan Bastiaensen - Prof. Pieter Van den Broeck (KU Leuven) - Prof. Constanza Parra (KU Leuven)</i>
DA COSTA Shaun
Development for the poor: evaluating the multidimensional impact of development interventions with respect for the preferences of the poor <i>Supervisors: Prof. Koen Decancq - Prof. Joachim De Weerd</i>
DE MAESSCHALCK Filip
Statebuilding support to fragile states: a temporal analysis of the interplay between European legitimation and internal legitimacy in post-conflict states <i>Supervisors: Prof. Nadia Molenaers - Prof. Stef Vandeginste</i>
EPOUNDÈ Adolphe
Achieving the 2030 international development policy in a predominantly self interest globalised world: digging into the stakes of donor countries policy (in) coherence for development from an international political economy perspective. <i>Supervisor: Prof. Nadia Molenaers</i>
GIEZENDANNER Eliane
From combatant to loyal party member or disillusioned defector? A case study on CNDD-FDD ex-combatants in Burundi <i>Supervisor: Prof. Bert Ingelaere</i>
GLEIBERMAN Mollie
Predict and control: mobilizing the past and future to shape development policy, planning, and scholarship <i>Supervisor: Prof. Sara Geenen</i>

GRISOLIA Filippo
One for all and all for cash? An inquiry into social network and collective action effects of cash transfers in rural Uganda <i>Supervisors: Prof. Nathalie Holvoet and Dr. Sara Dewachter</i>
HERRERA Héctor
Green City Bonds for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects in Latin America and Africa: a comparative analysis of processes, regulations, and implications <i>Supervisor: Prof. Tomaso Ferrando</i>
INNOCENTI Demetrio
Evaluation of climate change investments in international finance: achieving the climate paradigm shift through effective resource allocations <i>Supervisor: Prof. Nathalie Holvoet</i>
IRAGI Francine
Artisanal mining and local food markets: analyzing the linkages <i>Supervisors: Prof. Marijke Verpoorten - Prof. Nene Morisho (Université Catholique de Bukavu (UCB))</i>
KADIGO Mark
Policy responses and coping strategies in refugee-hosting populations in Africa: a multidisciplinary and multidimensional study on the refugees and their hosts in Sub-Saharan Africa <i>Supervisor: Prof. Marijke Verpoorten</i>

KYANDO Doreen
Community and service delivery: analysing the potentiality of Mobile Community Based Monitoring systems (MCBM’S) in water service delivery in rural Tanzania <i>Supervisors: Prof. Nathalie Holvoet - Dr. Christina M. Shitima, (Mzumbe University, Tanzania)</i>
LUNANGA Elie
Powering development, stabilization and conservation? The impact of electricity roll-out by Virunga Alliance in Eastern Congo <i>Supervisors: Prof. Marijke Verpoorten - Dr. Nik Stoop</i>
MANGUNI Grachel
Pantawid conditional cash transfer and intimate partner violence in Filipino households <i>Supervisor: Prof. Nathalie Holvoet</i>
MARIJSSE Simon
Knowledge production and technology adoption in ASM in the DRC <i>Supervisors: Prof. Sara Geenen - Dr. Boris Verbrugge</i>
MATUNGULU Bienvenu

Taxation, Hybrid State and Inequality in the DRC  
*Supervisors : Prof. Tom De Herdt - Prof. Christian Kamala Kaghoma (Université Catholique de Bukavu (UCB))*

MUHOZA Benjamin
Drivers of unequal development in the Democratic Republic of Congo <i>Supervisors: Prof. Tom De Herdt - Prof. Christian Kamala Kaghoma (Université Catholique de Bukavu (UCB))</i>
MUKENA Jacques
The hydrocarbon sector in the DRC: a political settlement analysis of the sector’s role in development and conflict <i>Supervisor: Prof. Kristof Titeca</i>
NADAR Danya
When global threats meet localized practices: Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) vs. recognition and regeneration of ecosystem knowledge in Nicaragua and Guatemala <i>Supervisor: Prof. Gert Van Hecken</i>
NDAYIRAGIJE Réginas
Institutional engineering in divided societies: power-sharing and political representation in Burundi <i>Supervisors: Prof. Stef Vandeginste - Prof. Bert Ingelaere</i>
POPONETE Valentin
Evaluating the Effectiveness of International SecurityForce Assistance in Conflict-Affected Countries <i>Supervisor: Prof. Nadia Molenaers</i>
ROBLES MENGOA Eugenia
Research project for PhD: InForMining? An in-depth study of informalization processes in global gold production <i>Supervisors: Prof. Sara Geenen - Dr. Boris Verbrugge</i>
RODRIGUEZ FABILENA René
Towards a power-sensitive and socially-informed analysis of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES): comparative case studies in Nicaragua and Guatemala <i>Supervisors: Prof. Gert Van Hecken - Prof. Jennifer Casolo (Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala)</i>
ROMERO Milagros
Heterogeneities of farmers rationalities and territorial development pathways: perspectives for ‘microfinance plus’ models in Nicaragua <i>Supervisors: Prof. Johan Bastiaensen - Prof. Gert Van Hecken</i>
SAMNICK Denis
Social actions and interactions around the daily public governance of prisons in Africa: a comparative ethnography between Cameroon and the DRC <i>Supervisors: Prof. Tom De Herdt - Prof. Sara Liwerant (Université Paris Nanterre/ UNIKIN Kinshasa)</i>
SEBU Baudouin
Power, religion, and the resurgence of customary authority in Haut-Uele (1999-2020) <i>Supervisor: Prof. Kristof Titeca</i>

SIMPSON Fergus
Socio-ecological resilience: a new perspective for ASM? <i>Supervisors: Prof. Sara Geenen - Prof. Kristof Titeca</i>
SSENNYONJO Aloysius
Coordination of multisectoral action for health in Uganda: mechanisms, actor experiences, motivations and implications for policy and practice <i>Supervisors: Prof. Kristof Titeca - Prof. Bart Criel (Institute of Tropical Medicine) - Prof. Sara Van Belle (Institute of Tropical Medicine) - Dr. Freddie Ssengooba (Makerere University, Uganda)</i>
VAN CAPPELLEN Hanne
The city is not that far: urbanisation, social change and rural labour patterns in sub-Saharan Africa <i>Supervisors: Prof. Joachim De Weerd - Prof. Bert Ingelaere</i>
VELEZ TRIANA Juan Sebastian
Neoliberal conservation and hybrid resistances in Colombia: A scalar political ecology of environmental governance and social-ecological change in the Andean-Amazonian conservation corridor <i>Supervisor: Prof. Gert Van Hecken</i>
VET Cassandra
The architecture of profit-shifting: state-power and interest for collective action. An analysis in the production and articulation for global governance <i>Supervisors: Prof. Danny Cassimon - Prof. Anne Van de Vijver (Faculty of Law UAntwerp)</i>
WATERLOOS Evert
‘Development Local Government’ and rural development in South Africa: brokering integrated rural development across spheres <i>Supervisor: Prof. Nadia Molenaers</i>



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



As external research funding is not integrated in the regular budget, the overview of IOB's financial and budgetary performance addresses the two items separately.

The table below provides an overview of the regular budget outturn for 2021, compared to previous year's results. The basic annual endowment from the Flemish Government provides the lion's sha-

re of the regular budget, and amounted to €2.38 million euro in 2021 (including an exceptional corona compensation of around €80,000). The University of Antwerp structurally adds a fixed matching annual endowment of €220,000. Other miscellaneous regular income sources add about €260,000 euro. As a result, actual regular 2021 income of about €2.86 million euro exceeded the budget by about €100,000.

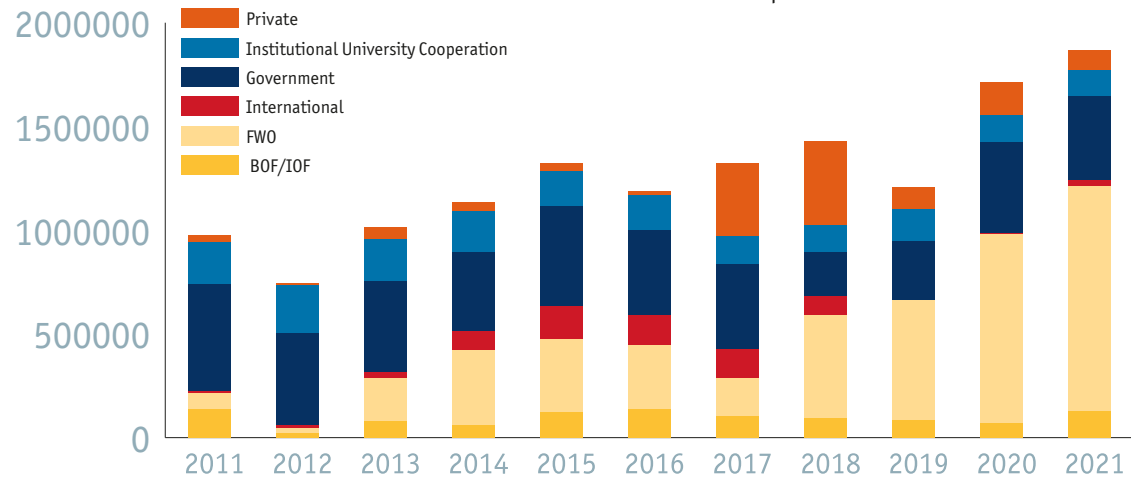
TABLE 1. BUDGETARY IMPLEMENTATION IN 2019 AND 2021 (IN EUR)

	2020		2021		
	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	%
<b>Income:</b>					
Core funding Flemish Government	2,285,000	2,262,387	2,285,947	2,377,497	104%
UAntwerp funding	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	100%
Other miscellaneous income	324,000	375,610	254,000	258,832	102%
o/w exempted payroll taxes	65,000	82,294	65,000	76,879	118%
scholarship administration fee	95,000	110,225	60,000	62,972	105%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>2,829,000</b>	<b>2,857,997</b>	<b>2,759,947</b>	<b>2,856,329</b>	<b>103%</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>					
Personnel costs	2,568,000	2,582,602	2,565,000	2,551,875	99%
Tenured academic staff	1,184,000	1,187,987	1,203,000	1,165,910	97%
Other academic staff	892,000	903,389	857,000	908,829	106%
Support staff	492,000	491,226	505,000	477,136	94%
Operating expenses	446,000	378,039	434,000	341,376	79%
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>3,014,000</b>	<b>2,960,641</b>	<b>2,999,650</b>	<b>2,893,251</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Net result</b>	<b>- 185,000</b>	<b>-102,644</b>	<b>-239,703</b>	<b>-36,922</b>	

Total realised expenditures amounted to €2.89 million. Of that total, personnel costs represented about €2.5 million in 2021, close to what was budgeted, while operating expenses added about €340.000, somewhat lower than budgeted. Overall, the net budgetary outturn leads to a deficit of about €37.000 in 2021, substantially less than budgeted, partly using the earmarked institutional reserve funds, which now stand at about €2.3 million at the end of 2021.

Apart from its regular income, IOB also attracts additional income from a broad range of external sources. Figure 4 combines the data on external research funding registered by the University of Antwerp's Research Coordination and Administration Department with the research component of IUC projects, where IOB staff participate as project leaders. As figure 4 highlights, total additional external finance amounted to close to €1.9 million in 2021, an increase of about €150.000 compared to 2020, and an all-time high. Recent years also show a much more diversified portfolio, with a substantial, and still growing part coming from Research Foundation-Flanders (FWO) in the form of pre-doc and post-doc scholarships.

FIGURE 4. EVOLUTION OF EXTERNAL FUNDING FOR RESEARCH AND SERVICE DELIVERY





# PEOPLE AT IOB



## Scientific advisory board

- Hannelore Beerlandt - CEO AgriCord, chair Board Enabel
- Geske Dijkstra - Professor, Erasmus University Rotterdam
- Melissa Leach - Director, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Brighton
- Kate Meagher - Associate professor, London School of Economics and Political Science
- Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni - Professor, Universität Bayreuth
- Mateo Porciuncula Añaña - IOB Alumnus, International centre for transnational justice, New York
- Annelies Zoomers - Chair IDS Utrecht

## Commissions and chair persons

- PhD Commission: Marijke Verpoorten
- Social Committee: Nadia Molenaers
- Library Committee: Danny Cassimon

## Master programmes

- Student secretariat: Greet Annaert, Nicole Dierckx
- Social service: Greet Annaert
- Quality assurance: Elfje Godderis
- Alumni and promotion: Sara Dewachter
- Librarian: Hans De Backer

## Secretariats

- Institute coordinator: Vicky Verlinden
- Research secretariat: Joëlle Dhondt, Katleen Van pellicom
- Financial secretariat: An Vermeesch
- Communication: Joëlle Dhondt, Charlotte Teunis
- Flemish interuniversity cooperation: Marjan Vermeiren



## Bureau

- Chair IOB: Danny Cassimon
- Chair Education Commission: Nadia Molenaers
- Chair Research Commission: Tom De Herdt
- Representative Research Staff: Cassandra Vet & Catherine Windey
- Representative Support Staff: Vicky Verlinden



# IOB PUBLICATIONS



IOB has been publishing its own series of open access research: peer-reviewed Discussion Papers, Working Papers and Analyses & Policy Briefs. On our website you will find these publications freely available.

Other open access publications on the IOB website include *Political Chronicles of the African Great Lakes Region* and the archive of the *Yearbook of the Great Lakes Region* (1996 until 2016).

IOB's own blog 'Sustainable Global Society: Policies and Partnerships' offers easy access to research from IOB and its global partners.

Many of our researchers also offer 'ungated preprints' on their ResearchGate profiles. The University of Antwerp library also makes available author copies of articles if and when available.

Finally, IOB researchers often publish on blogs, in newspapers and take part in other media outlets, making their expertise available to a wider audience.

## Articles in peer-reviewed journals

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