



Voor een enorm getalenteerde onderzoeker en leraar,
een warme collega, een lieve vriend

We gaan je missen, Bert.

For an enormously talented researcher and teacher,
a warm colleague, a kind friend

We will miss you, Bert.

From your
colleagues...

Peter Vermeersch

In maart 2012 nodigde ik Bert voor de eerste keer uit om een gastcollege in Leuven te geven. Ik herinner me die lezing nog goed, zijn rustige, warme stem, zijn glasheldere uiteenzetting, en de foto's die hij op het scherm projecteerde: beelden van gacacatribunalen, van ontmoetingen met gewone Rwandezes, en dat tegen een achtergrond van prachtige natuurlandschappen. Hij deed onderzoek naar hoe mensen verder leven na het vreselijkste te hebben meegemaakt, zei hij, en over hoe je dat verleden niet kunt wegdenken en er op een of andere manier iets mee moet doen. 'De waarheid gaat door het vuur zonder te verbranden,' was een Rwandees spreekwoord dat hij citeerde. De studenten hingen aan zijn lippen. Ze leerden over de gebeurtenissen in Rwanda maar ze pikten daarnaast iets op dat alle feitenkennis oversteeg. Ze begrepen opeens dat ze als politieke wetenschappers geïnteresseerd mochten zijn in méér dan die glimmende kantoorgebouwen in Brussel. Je kon kennelijk zelf ook écht de wereld intrekken, en bijvoorbeeld naar Rwanda afreizen en daar levensverhalen verzamelen. Ik had Bert zelf niet lang daarvoor leren kennen en was van meet af aan onder de indruk geweest van zijn kennis, intelligentie en onderzoekservaring. Ik begreep ook wat de studenten zo geweldig hadden gevonden aan zijn les. Hier had je een bedachtzame man met een zachte stem, maar hij deed spectaculaire dingen, en hij gaf je het gevoel dat jij die ook kon. Dat ook jij verschillende Afrikaanse landen zomaar met de motor zou kunnen afreizen, dat ook jij levensverhalen zou kunnen verzamelen waar je maar wilde, dat ook jij het veldonderzoek dat je nodig achtte daadwerkelijk zelf kon uitvoeren. Ik bewonderde ook de tedere kracht waarmee Bert over zijn werk en leven praatte. Dat praten was als een vuur dat rustig flakkerde. Na dat eerste gastcollege gingen we pizza eten en maakten we plannen om regelmatig eens af te spreken, wat we in de loop der jaren een paar keer deden. We moesten dat vaker doen, zeiden we steeds. Nu staan vooral flarden van dat eerste gesprek me weer voor de geest. De verhalen aan tafel bij die pizza waren persoonlijker dan die in de collegezaal geweest — zijn werk en leven liepen blijkbaar nog meer door elkaar dan ik had kunnen bevroeden — en ik bewonderde hem er alleen maar meer om, want ook in die verhalen hoorde ik datzelfde gestage vuur branden: in flakkerende zinnen, met woorden die bleven knisperen. Terwijl ik dit schrijf probeer ik zijn stem weer te horen. En ik moet denken aan dat Rwandees spreekwoord, dat nu van hem is: 'De waarheid gaat door het vuur zonder te verbranden.'

Reginas Ndayiragije

Bert was for me more than a supervisor; he was a colleague, a mentor, and a friend. He has been my supervisor for my masters' dissertation, and was very enthusiastic to co-supervise my PhD research. When I applied to be an IOB staff, he was in my recruitment committee. One of his questions was how I intended to reconcile my research and family lives. I was not prepared to the question, and till now I am not sure if he was convinced by my answer. Eventually I realized later - through his actions and follow up discussions - that he was not questioning my professional choices or intending to embarrass me. He really cared for my well-being. I will never forget the emotional support he provided me when my child was very sick. Bert is - yes his place in not (and will never be) in the past - my rock. Having met Bert is the most important thing that has ever happened to me. He is precious to me. And luckily, he knows it. Iruhukire amahoro mugenzi.

Janus Verrelst

Some years ago, several IOB colleagues got married during the same summer. The conversations at the lunch table were therefore pretty much about weddings: the marriage proposal, the preparations, the party, etc: a perfect topic for hilarious lunch talks.

One day, Bert spent an entire lunch listening to these animated conversations. At the end, he dryly said that he also just got married, and more specifically in Rwanda. We were stunned. Bert came up with the most incredible wedding story!

Dear Bert, your philosophical and critical reflections - on any issue - will always stay with me. In the conversations we had - which were too few, you seemed to me to be imbued with ethics and justice. I hope to learn more about you by reading your work.

Eliane Giezendanner

For three years, Bert accompanied and guided me on my PhD journey at IOB as my supervisor. The journey resembled a tiring hike in the Swiss mountains much more than a walk through the gentle, flat fields of Belgium. There have been many hurdles to take. And there have been many moments when I felt that I cannot do it. And there is one day in particular that I remember in this regard.

That day, Bert wrote me a message to ask how it goes, and I responded that actually, it is not going so well. I told him that I was struggling with self-doubts and insecurity. Immediately, he responded, telling me to come see him in his office that very same day. And he took the time - more than an hour - to listen to me, even though he had certainly a hundred other things to do. And he told me this one thing that stuck in my mind: "Doing a PhD consists of 10% having a good idea; 50% hard work; and 40% psychology. And I am here for the latter as well. We will take step by step - together. I am on your side".

I chose this memory for the booklet at hand, because to me it represents one of Bert's greatest qualities. He didn't take and judge other people's insecurities and fragilities as weakness - but accepted and embraced them as a part of being human, and more than that, always tried to accommodate them.

That is what made him so human. And that is how I will remember him - in gratefulness.

Danny Cassimon

"Dear Bert,

We did not have a lot of personal contact, but our rare more personal bilateral talks stand out for me as being characterized by an unusually high level of mutual respect. In that sense, I truly enjoyed each of them. I also admired you for your incredible field experience, knowledge and treatment of the impressive self-collected field material. I was highly impressed by the way you performed at your ZAP-application process, and hence, convinced that you were a truly great supplement to our ZAP group. For me, it showed most in the way you engaged in truly multidisciplinary research first together with Marijke, then e.g. with Joachim. I truly enjoyed the privilege of joining you and Joachim (and later Hanne) in research work to see how my real option approaches could fit into the research on domestic migration behavior, discussing this while eating taco's around the corner of IOB. We never managed to finish (yet) the joint work on this, but for me the road was already rewarding enough. I knew little of the struggles that characterized your road, and I would have definitely enjoyed being able to walk a bit longer on joint roads, but I hope you found a peaceful destination along the road, and, as I said already, the little road we walked together, was for me already rewarding enough."

Marie Gildemyn

"I worked towards my PhD in a similar period as Bert but on a totally different topic. Whenever he would come back from fieldwork, we would all gather at the IOB lunch table to hear about his experiences and adventures. These were often accompanied by laughs and incredible stories. I don't remember the exact details but once he was called as a witness by the UN. They had sent him in a very small plane, and it was one of the worse flights he had had, with a cackle he added the ironic name of the airline: Precision Air.

Although we didn't share the same research interests, I had a lot of admiration for Bert and his work, his dedication and deep analysis. He seemed so calm, as a rock standing amidst turbulence, gentle with the people around him. I always thought he would become an old and wise professor, THE Rwanda expert. His passing has hit me harder than expected. He will be missed. I hope he's at peace now and watching over all his loved ones from above."

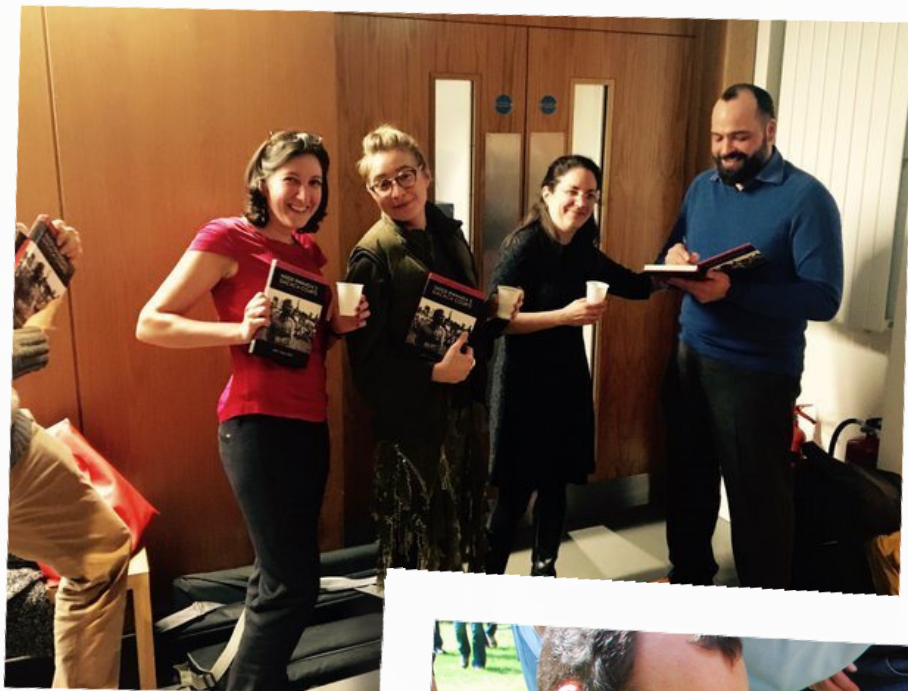
Vicky Verlinden

Dear Bert,

You were part of IOB long before I arrived in 2014. I got to know you as a deep-thinking, engaged and (self-)critical researcher, who cared deeply about co-workers and about integrity. Your out-of-the-box questions startled me sometimes, but they always led me towards more thoughtful results.

I remember a quiz we participated in in Mechelen; thanks to your phenomenal knowledge of sports (and especially cycling) we even won the trophy. The picture in the kitchen reminds me of that memorable night every time I see it.

Bert... bedaard, bebaard, fijnbesnaard... je had zoveel te bieden! Nu laat je een leegte achter. Hoezeer we je ook missen, ik wens je de rust en vrede toe waar je zo naar op zoek was. Rust zacht, Bert.



Benjamin Chemouni

"Dear Bert,

Bert was a very kind person and an amazing scholar. I remember the quality of his presentation when I invited him to talk to the University of Cambridge's African Studies seminar. He impressed everyone! He will be missed. My sincere condolences.

Margot Leegwater

Ik leerde Bert kennen tijdens mijn eerste veldwerk in Rwanda in 2004. Ik meen dat dat ook Berts eerste veldwerk was. In de loop der jaren, toen wij beide aan ons doctoraat werkten (ik in Leiden en hij aan de UA), kwam ik hem geregeld tegen in Antwerpen of op conferenties, bijvoorbeeld in New Orleans of Philadelphia. Van de conferenties herinner ik me niet meer zoveel, wel dat we vaak 's avonds met een paar andere onderzoekers in de kroeg belanden. Ik herinner me Bert als een aardige, innemende en belangstellende man waarbij je je op je gemak kon voelen. Echt een goeie vent. Het is heel verdrietig dat hij er niet meer is.

Jean-Benoît Falisse

C'était en 2019, Bert et moi nous étions rejoints au congrès de la Chaire Mukwege, à Liège. Des journées de discussions denses et parfois dures, et puis à un moment le besoin de prendre l'air. Sans nous coordonner nous nous retrouvons sur le parvis de l'université. Se changer l'esprit. Je montre alors à Bert une librairie des environs, ma favorite dans la ville de mon enfance que j'ai depuis longtemps quitté. Nous passons une bonne heure à parcourir les couvertures des livres, à discuter de tout et de rien, des grandes idées et des petites anecdotes. Suspendus dans le temps. L'image me reste encore, ce moment c'est un peu la vie académique rêvée, celle de la passion, de l'amitié, et de la curiosité libérée des contraintes et des contingences. J'aurais voulu mieux connaître Bert, mais je sais que sa sagesse restera avec moi, et avec mes collègues ici à Edimbourg, également marqués par son départ. Bien trop rapide.

Gillian Mathys

How funny Bert was. How he is the only one who ever managed to show me that cycling (de Ronde van Vlaanderen!) is actually very interesting. Sitting on the back of his motorbike and seeing Rwanda from a different perspective. His swearing when said motorbike broke down. His integrity, which he kept intact, which is not easy in academia. His dedication to the truth in spite of the polarisation in Rwanda studies. With Bert in Congo, looking for colonial plantations, and being questioned by CNDP in Masisi. Drinking too much waragi and smoking too many cigarettes when going out in Kigali. The first time he told me about Margaux. His warmth, even if at first sight, Bert could seem like a very distant person. Bert, I will miss you.

Andrea Filipi

"I have only just started getting to know Bert a few months ago. I wanted to apply for an FWO postdoc at the IOB and Stef suggested that because of my research interests I also reach out to Bert. I came to see Bert in his office and we ended up talking for three hours. I had expected he would give me 30 minutes of his time! In our prior email exchange in which we were simply trying to find a day and time to meet, he somehow managed to tell me he normally biked from his home near Leuven all the way to Antwerp, that it was good for his health. I was honestly shocked and kind of impressed, and told him that while I'd be taking the train from my home in Brussels this time around, I'll take up that challenge if I get the postdoc. He did thereafter admit the bike was electric, which helped me feel a little less shocked, but still impressed.

In any case, since that first meeting, he was nothing but engaged and reassuring about my work. Both he and Stef gave me so much incredible feedback on my draft proposal, from the big picture stuff to the tiniest of issues, that it felt like we were already working together on a joint project. Bert reached out to me a few times since I submitted the proposal, once to ask me if he could read my very first academic article that was only about to be published, another time to ask me some questions in preparation for his research trip to the Great Lakes that was to start on 19 February. We exchanged a few long messages and he proposed that later this year we would work together on an article on refugee return decisions in the region.

What I am trying to say is this: I only had a chance to know Bert briefly, in what would turn out to be the last four months of his life. He was in these months as engaged as ever, a deep thinker and a passionate researcher, a dedicated educator who non-hierarchically and effortlessly gave much-needed encouragement to a far junior scholar. I am sorry I will not get to learn from you, Bert. I promise to carry that article idea through, in your memory. Oh yea and you gave me no choice, I have to take up the bike challenge."

Marc Le Pape

"Hommage à Bert

<https://msf-crash.org/fr/blog/hommage-bert-ingelaere>

<https://msf-crash.org/en/blog/hommage-bert-ingelaere>

Son absence est inimaginable, difficile à croire.

Mes amis de MSF avec Claudine Vidal et moi nous avons écrit un message collectif. Marc"



Marijke Verpoorten

Liefste Bert

In 2010 zag ik je presenteren, over de levensverhalen van mensen in Rwanda en Burundi. Je deed onderzoek naar hun belevingen: vóór het massale geweld, tijdens, en erna. Jouw presentatie bleef me bij. Ik was enorm onder de indruk, van de originele data die je had verzameld, en de doordachtheid waarmee je te werk ging. Niets was toeval, niets was zomaar. Alles had een bedoeling, een betekenis.

Veel antropologen verzamelen levensverhalen voor hun onderzoek, maar die van jou waren bijzonder. Je verzamelde geen verhalen van slechts enkele mensen. Je verzamelde levensverhalen van 800 mensen. Je tekende ook niet enkel de verhalen op. Je vroeg aan de mensen om voor elk jaar in hun levensverhaal aan te duiden welke 'score' ze gaven aan vijf verschillende thema's, zoals bijvoorbeeld hun gevoel van veiligheid, en hun vertrouwen in de andere etnische groep.

De dataset die je opbouwde bevatte daarom zowel kwalitatieve als kwantitatieve elementen, zowel de verhalen als de scores doorheen de tijd. Je kwam aan zo'n 120.000 datapunten. Dat is absoluut uniek en totaal ongezien in antropologisch onderzoek. Je was op zoek naar een manier om die indrukwekkende data volledig tot hun recht te laten komen, ook via een statistische analyse. Zo kwam je bij mij uit, een econome die pas was aangeworven op het IOB.

Het was het begin van een fijne samenwerking.

Ik vond het een bijzonder voorrecht om met jouw zo uiterst zorgzaam verzamelde data te mogen werken. Ik zei je af en toe: "Bert, het is alsof je jouw kindje aan mij toevertrouwt". Ik probeerde dan heel voorzichtig om te gaan met je data, zodat je jouw kindje nog zou herkennen zoals jij het geschapen had. Het was op meerdere manieren een zoektocht. Omdat de data zo uniek waren, konden we de reeds bewandelde paden niet volgen. Het was zoeken, naar óns pad, dat van Bert en Marijke, dat van de antropoloog en de econoom samen.

Die zoektocht was ook het begin van een mooie vriendschap.

We fietsten samen, jij met je stoere Bianchi en ik met mijn niet-zo-stoere Bianchi, inclusief hondenmandje. We namen samen de trein. We praatten veel, heel veel.

Telkens weer voelde ik hoe jij gevoelig en zorgzaam was. Je twijfelde ook veel. Je vroeg je voortdurend af: Klopt het wat ik zeg? Is het echt zo? Is het goed genoeg?

Het was dan niet gewoon goed, het was gewoon fantastisch en dat besepte je vaak niet.

Ik zal mijn twijfelende warme vriend missen. Ik zal mijn allerbeste collega op óns pad missen en ik zal proberen te aanvaarden dat je er niet meer bent. Ik zag je graag Bert, samen met zovelen.

Marijke

Greet Annaert

"Lieve Bert,

En plots is er dat gemis. Je hebt waarschijnlijk niet geweten hoezeer ik jou apprecieerde. Ik had het je moeten zeggen...

Wat een leegte laat je toch achter. Je was in mijn ogen zachtaardig, lief, begaan, inspirerend, altijd proberend om beide zijden van het verhaal te horen en te begrijpen. Ik herinner me je verhalen over je veldwerk in Rwanda; we hingen aan je lippen. Ik had zoveel respect voor jouw onderzoek en voor jou als onderzoeker.

Weet je nog dat feestje meer dan 15 jaar geleden waar we dansten, een glas dronken en lachten? Weet je nog onze rookpauzes; wij waren op den duur de enige rokers op IOB (hoewel je de laatste jaren enkele gelukke en mislukte pogingen deed om te stoppen). En telkens was daar dat leuke, fijne praatje met jou. En altijd met een vleugje humor. Ik wilde dat die gesprekken langer hadden geduurd.

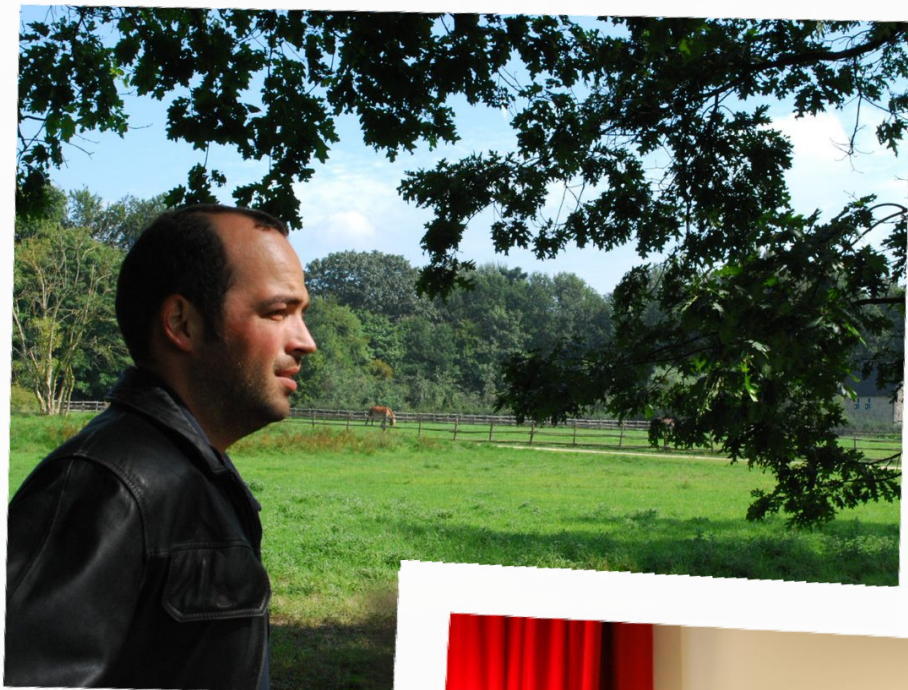
Hadden we maar geweten hoezeer je worstelde met het leven. Had ik maar wat meer gevraagd 'hoe gaat het met jou'? Hadden we maar geweten hoeveel pijn en verdriet je had. Had ik maar geweten dat jouw uiterlijke rust niet reflecteerde wat je binnenin voelde.

Veel sterkte aan je familie en vrienden.

Waar je bent, hoop ik dat je rust en vrede kan vinden."

Astrid Jamar

"I started to read Bert's work as I was student in Japan in 2007. I still remember walking up to him at an IOB conference and telling him I had read all his work few years later. From that point, we often joked that I was his first and best fan; in return he gave me my very first citation. Being both obsessed about Gacaca, transitional justice, and the Great Lakes, we had a lot to talk about! His dedication, thoroughness and sharpness were such an inspiration. When I got back in little pieces from fieldwork, he had the most sympathetic words reassuring me I was on interesting tracks; I also left Leuven with several boxes of Gacaca policy material he didn't use. Bert set such an inspiring example of what it means to be an upstanding scholar, supportive ally and scholar friend. During these difficult grieving days, I sometimes finds myself smiling about this interaction we had during the launch of his book in Edinburgh: at the end of the talk, I queued like everyone else for Bert's signature. At my turn, he said he had to think about what he would write; the next day he wrote few words along the lines 'thanks for all the discussions and to many more'... I was, like, seriously, you thought 24 hours for this!!! Bert, many thanks for all of this!"



Sarah Vancluysen

"If I have to describe Bert in a few words, I would say that Bert was someone who truly cared.

He truly cared about his research, he truly cared about his work more generally, he truly cared about his family, he truly cared about doing things the right way.

Whereas academic life, and life in general forces us to do things efficiently and to focus on our output, Bert focused on the things that truly mattered to him. He always took his time to do things with care and sincere interest.

Not because he had to, but because he wanted to.

Six years ago, I knocked on Bert's door, asking if he could be my supervisor. I was his first PhD student to supervise, so it was a learning process and new experience for both of us. In the beginning of this process, I realized how different our characters were, and I wondered if this could work.

Over the years, however, we worked together intensively and it seemed that this difference in character was actually a strength, we were complementary to each other in our work.

Bert was a rather closed person, a bit mysterious. But over the last one or two years, I got to know him in a different way, and I actually had the feeling he was opening up.

He often asked me how I felt. For instance, before my pre-defense, he called me to ask how I was feeling and if I was ok. And then after my pre-defense, he called me again to ask if I was happy or how I felt with the result. And this happened several times in the foregoing months, so I had the feeling things were going well.

But there are people for whom good is never good enough; Bert was such a person.

So Bert, I wish that during the many conversations we had in the previous years, we had talked more about your feelings, instead of mine.

Rest well."

Lars Waldorf

*Bert came to Rwanda with an enormous, metal traveling trunk filled with books, mostly ethnographies of violence and peace. He would let me rummage around and use it as a lending library. When I got bewildered and frustrated with Michel de Certeau or Michael Jackson, he would patiently explain them. One late night in Kigali, back from several weeks of fieldwork, he excitedly introduced me to Stathis Kalyvas' *The Logic of Violence in Civil War* over a Primus. Bert was the very best sort of intellectual: curious, passionate, engaged, and generous. He was also fearless when it came to calling out dishonesty and "magical thinking." I'll never forget the way he calmly but forcefully parried an ad hominem attack at a SOAS conference some years back. His book on *gacaca* is unbeatable. He taught me, he inspired me, and he gave me a bad case of "imposter syndrome." Like Alison Des Forges and Lee Ann Fujii, he helped us better understand Rwanda and, like them, he leaves us forlorn.*

An Ansoms

"Sometimes there are no words.

Bert was one of the few scholars whose work on Rwanda managed to keep a balance in a very complex labyrinth of polarised scholarship. Embeddedness, long-term field research, nuance, and courage, those are the markers that characterised his engagement as a researcher. Core values that all too often buried under the many obligations that the academic world imposes upon us.

He will be missed."

Sara Dewachter

"Lieve Bert,

Onze paden kruisten al heel vroeg in het leven...

Opgroeïend in hetzelfde lieflijke dorpje, zag ik je af en toe voorbij vliegen met de fiets... soms met je vader, of met vrienden... maar ook toen al, terwijl wij als volleerde talmende tieners voortsjokten, vloog jij alles en iedereen voorbij ... alles gevend, recht op je doel af.

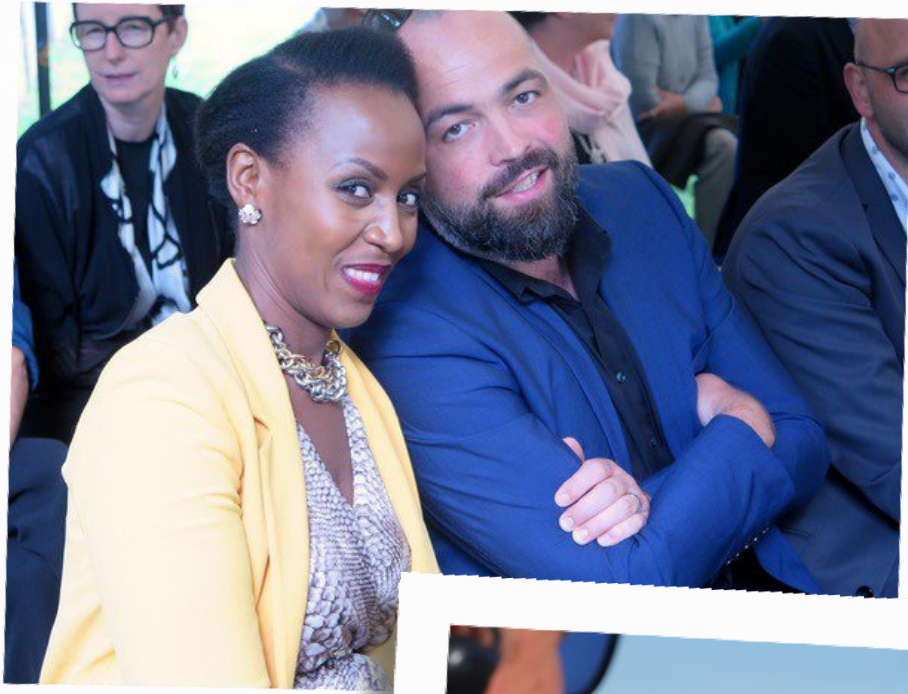
Omdat onze levens maar met de naden aan elkaar verbonden waren, waren onze contacten eerder sporadisch ... soms eens op café via vrienden van vrienden, bij het IOB koffie machine, dan weer eens op de trein Leuven-Antwerpen ... maar ook al waren ze sporadisch, het was altijd heel interessant om te praten met jou ... ging het nu over de studenten (waar je erg mee begaan was), jouw heel interessante life story onderzoek, vroege jeugdverhalen over een boomzaag en ambulances, of jouw heroïsche avonturen op de fiets of andere tweewielers... het was altijd een heel fijn gesprek!

Het is zo jammer dat er geen tijd meer is om jouw andere verhalen te horen!

en als ik – slechts aan de “naden van jouw leven”- dat al ervaar, kan ik me alleen maar voorstellen wat een enorm gemis er moet zijn voor jouw “nabijën”.

Ik wens Zeno, Margaux, jouw familie en vrienden héél veel sterkte !

PS: Volgende keer als ik in de Lindense bossen wandel ... hoor ik vast en zeker zo'n verhaal waaien ... ik (z)waai terug"



Joëlle Dhondt

"Bert...

Ik heb je zoveel jaren gekend bij IOB, van toen je nog aan je doctoraat werkte, daarna je doctoraat verdedigde, en uiteindelijk Prof. Bert werd, zoals de studenten zo mooi schreven in hun jaarboek... Ik herinner me je als een avonturier, ik was helemaal onder de indruk dat je op je motor helemaal van Leuven naar Rwanda reed... Je nam me ook telkens mee in die avonturen als je me je foto's stuurde voor het jaarverslag...

Ik leerde je beter kennen tijdens de korte stiekeme (rook)pauzes aan de fietsenstand op IOB... Hoe je met de fiets van Leuven naar Antwerpen pendelde, een racemodel inruilde voor een echte speed pedelec (en je toen snel een oplader moest gaan komen omdat je de jouwe thuis vergeten was)... We spraken vaak over de gewone dagelijkse dingen, en je sprak over Zeno en Margaux, je was zo trots op je familie!

Pas vorig jaar begonnen we vaker samen te werken. Ik leerde je de ins en outs van het online lesgeven... Je wilde het allemaal zo goed doen, je had goede ideeën, en samen zochten we naar de passende oplossing... Onlangs nog hadden we een bijeenkomst over ICT-gebruik en communicatie binnen IOB. Ook daar was je inbreng zo waardevol, wat een plezier was het om met je samen te werken!

Bert, ""toeme toch"" denk ik tegenwoordig heel vaak Maar meer dan dat denk ik ""ik ben dankbaar voor zo'n fijne, intelligente, zachtaardige collega als jij"".

Bedankt Bert dat je Bert bent!"

Devon Curtis

I knew Bert's work before I knew him as a person. I was a big admirer of his research in Rwanda and Burundi because the humanity came through so strongly. He was so meticulous and respectful, and he gave voice to people who were not always given the opportunity to be heard. He was a principled scholar and deeply committed to improving the lives of others. He challenged accounts of politics that only focused on elite levels and he helped us all remember that behind all the theories there were real people with hopes and dreams and fears and successes and disappointments. Over the years, I have come to know Bert not only through his research, but also through discussions at various conferences and workshops. There are two that come to mind. One was years ago at SOAS in London. It was a time of heightened tensions between Rwanda and DR Congo, and during a panel discussion some members of the audience were very agitated and started yelling and throwing chairs. None of us knew what to do, but Bert somehow managed to diffuse the situation- through good judgement and humour and sensitivity to the different views. I was amazed at how he handled it. Most recently, just before the pandemic Bert came and gave a talk at Cambridge. It was characteristically Bert. As always, he presented research that had ground-breaking implications, but he never overstated his claims and he was humble and continually gave credit to others. Over dinner we grumbled extensively about the state of the world and the politics around us, and we thought about ways to act in response. I felt that Bert had managed to build an important community through scholarly inquiry and curiosity, but also solidarity. His intellectual generosity, his camaraderie, his humanity, his research and his political commitments will be hugely missed. Most of all, I will miss him as a person. I am so sorry. Love, Devon

Frédéric Huybrechs

I have never known an IOB without Bert. Already as a starting PhD student, I remember looking up to him for his research experience and integrity. But I also remember his presence and subtle sense of humour at IOB's social events; his kind messages after someone shared a birthday treat or other personal announcements. And I will remember his support towards whoever needed advice, as well as the literal pat on the back he gave me last time we met in the hallways. The support, the advice, the inspiration; it's still here.

Wim Marivoet

"Bert, makker,

We hadden de gewoonte elkaar wat te plagen door elkanders onderzoeksmethoden de grond in te boren. Je weet wel, de antropoloog die op een lijn door een dorp loopt, wat foto's trekt, en er een boek over schrijft, versus, de economist die getallen in een computer ramt, wat staafgrafiekjes inkleurt, en de toekomst denkt te kunnen voorspellen.

Ook al zagen we elkaar nooit echt veel, het was steeds aangenaam als je in de buurt was in Antwerpen. Van die eerste momenten in de Venustraart, tot de laatste in de Sint-Annastraat, en al de broodjes om de hoek, happy hours, cafe-bezoekjes ertussen in. Die ondervragende blik, een doorwrochte bedenking, en dan plots een kwinkslag gevolgd door die smakelijke lach, dat is hoe vele conversaties verliepen...

Het zal vreemd zijn om bij volgend bezoek aan het IOB te realiseren dat je er niet bent. Het zal nog vreemder zijn te beseffen dat je er in het geheel niet meer bent, ook niet in Centraal Afrika. Je had me anders niet zo lang geleden nog uitgenodigd toen ik toevallig in Rwanda was: "Yow Wim, zin in een pintje vanavond?"

Het was toen niet gelukt, maar ik hou je er aan in een volgend leven.

Wim

Rene Lemarchand

The news of Bert's passing left me dumbstruck. All I could do was to let my mind wander back to this morning in Antwerp when we discussed at length his manuscript on Rwanda's gacaca courts, a work of meticulous scholarship that has lost none of its relevance for those of us anxious to illuminate Kagame's criminal trickery. We became friends. I often go back to his important volume, kindly dedicated and carefully put together. Bert was someone I could always turn to for wisdom and guidance on a wide range of issues. He spared no effort to respond at length to my queries. I have lost a dear friend in a world where the term is not always synonymous with colleague. In this case they were inseparable.



Nina Wilén

"I have so many fond and fun memories of Bert: from co-writing our article, to the conferences where we went together, to lunches and dinners, so it is hard to choose.

One nice memory is when we had an apéro at Margaux and his place in Rwanda in 2014, just a few months after we first met at IOB. We had a really nice evening all the three of us together and I got to see how he and Margaux lived in Rwanda.

I think one of my last memories of Bert is also my favorite one, though. We had an 'apéro' during covid lockdown outdoors in Park Royal a Friday evening in the spring of 2021.

We hadn't seen each other for a long time because of covid, and had so much to catch up on, so we talked and talked and of course the topic soon became motorcycles, since we both love to ride motorcycles.

At the end of the evening we had planned a whole new - crazy- trip for the coming year: we were going to South Africa in the summer of 2022, buy two motorcycles, (of course an African Twin for Bert), and then do a road trip to Rwanda where we would meet up with Margaux and my husband, and sell the motorbikes.

It was a completely crazy idea, but at the time we were both really into it and kept chatting about it over the coming months.

I will remember Bert that way, as someone taking on crazy, almost impossible projects, but with a determination that pulled him through them.

I will miss his brilliant mind and his meticulous analytical capacity, but more than that, I will miss his sense of humor, his chuckles and loyalty.

All my thoughts go to his family and friends in this difficult period."

Sara Geenen

Trying to write down my memories of you, they flare up and fade too quickly. Like flames, unpredictable and elusive. I briefly hear your voice (unmistakable: the tone, the accent), I perceive your face in the doorway of my office (hey ça va?), I smell a cigarette (I thought you stopped again), I see a cycling outfit we won at a quiz in Mechelen, I catch snatches of a roaring laugh... that now turns into that typical chuckle, I listen to you teaching paradigms to the students in Bukavu, I am standing in front of your impressive library in your house in Leuven (of which, for some reason, I remember you told me you painted all the shelves black yourself), I hear our Swahili teacher Georges reciting Bible verses, I see a leather jacket.

And so I go further back in time, and realise that you were always there. Just before me you started working at IOB. Just before me you obtained your PhD and started your FWO postdoc. At exactly the same time we started our tenure track. I would like to say that we walked that path together. But the truth is that you were always a bit ahead of me. Not just literally, also scientifically. The quality of your work is undisputable. Nobody was so thorough, so meticulous, nobody gathered so many data and substantiated an argument so firmly. The only time you were a bit belated was when publishing your book, but that was because I was pragmatic and wanted mine to be out as quickly as possible (and you even came up with the title of my book!), whereas you wanted to publish the best possible book. And you did!

(it was so obvious to us, I never questioned it in any case, when we applied for the same position it literally never crossed my mind that I could aspire for more than being ranked second, behind you, and I swear, I did not mind at all, so why why why wouldn't you believe it yourself)
Yesterday I opened your website. I imagined the fire on the homepage is the campfire around which we gather one last time to listen to your stories. I hoped the fire will never be stamped out, that the truth will continue to pass (without burning), that your ardent fight for justice will continue to inspire us. I am intrigued by the page on your website you have titled "Moralia: Notes & images from the field, 'raw' data and reflections on lives - damaged or not". Life stories you meticulously recorded, with respect, dignity, a sharp eye for the damages that are done, frantically looking for ways in which they can be healed – but can they? Videos that have been taken 'on the road', the 2006 Fifa World Cup Mix as a soundtrack to one of them. Everything is there: joy and pain, life and death, and the road in between.

In the original Moralia, Plutarch has included a consolation letter to his wife after losing their daughter. He writes that "the soul, which is imperishable, is affected like a captive bird: if it has long been reared in the body and has become tamed to this life by many activities and long familiarity, it [...] re enters the body, and will not be reborn. A soul that has resided a shorter time in the body though, when liberated will quickly recover its fire and go on to higher forms of life". I don't have any scientific evidence to substantiate this argument, but let me just believe now that you liberated your soul and are on the road to other forms of life.

In een poging mijn herinneringen aan jou op papier te zetten, flakkeren ze op en verdwijnen te snel. Onvoorspelbaar en ongrijpbaar als vlammen. Ik hoor kort je stem (onmiskkenbaar: de toon, het accent), ik zie je gezicht even verschijnen in de deuropening van mijn kantoor (hey, ça va?), ik ruik een sigaret (ik dacht dat je weer gestopt was), ik zie een koersoutfit die we wonnen op een quiz in Mechelen, ik vang flarden op van een bulderlach, die nu overgaat in die typische monkel, ik luister hoe je paradigma's doceert aan de studenten in Bukavu, ik sta voor je imposante boekenkast in je huis in Leuven (waarvan ik me om één of andere reden herinner dat je me vertelde dat je zelf alle plankjes zwart verfde), ik hoor onze Swahili leraar Georges bijbelverzen declameren, ik zie een lederen vest.

En zo ga ik verder terug in de tijd, en besef dat je er altijd was. Net voor mij begon je te werken op IOB. Net voor mij behaalde je je doctoraat en begon je aan je FWO postdoc. Op precies hetzelfde moment begonnen wij aan onze tenure track. Ik zou graag willen zeggen dat we samen dat pad hebben afgelegd.

Maar de waarheid is dat jij altijd een beetje voorop liep. Niet enkel letterlijk, ook wetenschappelijk. Niemand was zo grondig, zo nauwgezet, niemand verzamelde zoveel gegevens en onderbouwde een argument zo stellig. De enige keer dat je een beetje later was, was bij de publicatie van je boek, maar dat was omdat ik pragmatisch was en het mijne zo snel mogelijk uit wilde hebben (en jij hebt zelfs de titel van mijn boek bedacht!), terwijl jij het best mogelijke boek wilde publiceren. En dat deed je!

(het was zo duidelijk voor ons, ik heb er alvast nooit aan getwijfeld, toen we solliciteerden voor dezelfde functie is het letterlijk nooit in me opgekomen dat ik meer kon nastreven dan de tweede plaats, achter jou, en ik zweer het, ik vond dat helemaal niet erg, dus waarom waarom waarom kon je jezelf daar niet van overtuigen)

Gisteren opende ik je website. Ik stelde me voor dat het vuur op de homepage het kampvuur is waar we ons nog een laatste keer rond verzamelen om naar je verhalen te luisteren. Ik hoopte dat het vuur nooit gedoofd zal worden, dat de waarheid het vuur zal blijven trotseren (zonder te verbranden), dat jouw vurige strijd voor gerechtigheid zal worden verdergezet en ons zal blijven inspireren

. Ik ben geïntrigeerd door de pagina op je website met als titel "Moralia: Aantekeningen & beelden uit het veld, 'ruwe' gegevens en beschouwingen over levens - beschadigd of niet". Levensverhalen die je consciëntieus optekende, met respect, waardigheid, een scherp oog voor de beschadigingen die werden opgelopen, onrustig zoekend naar manieren om deze te helen – maar kunnen we dat? Video's die 'on the road' zijn genomen, de Fifa World Cup Mix van 2006 als soundtrack bij één ervan. Alles zit hierin: vreugde en pijn, leven en dood, en de weg ertussenin.

In de oorspronkelijke Moralia heeft Plutarchus een troostbrief opgenomen, gericht aan zijn vrouw na het verlies van hun dochter. Hij schrijft dat "de ziel, die onvergankelijk is, wordt aangetast als een gevangen vogel: als zij lang in het lichaam is gebleven en door vele bezigheden en lange vertrouwdheid tot dit leven is getemd, treedt zij na de dood [...] weer in het lichaam, en wordt niet herboren. Een ziel die echter een kortere tijd in het lichaam heeft verbleven, zal na bevrijding snel haar vuur hervinden en doorgaan naar hogere levensvormen". Ik heb geen enkel wetenschappelijk bewijs om dit argument te staven, maar laat me nu maar geloven dat je je ziel bevrijd hebt en op weg bent naar andere vormen van leven.

Lyndsay McLean

I met Bert several times in Rwanda 10-15 years ago when we were both conducting doctoral and post-doctoral research. I remember him as a hugely warm, committed and intelligent person. We discussed his work and my work and had many interesting and inspiring exchanges. Since then, I have followed and read his work with such interest. I have always appreciated the open, generous and insightful style of his writing. He has made a huge contribution to scholarship and this will always be remembered, as will his warm friendship.

David Mwambari

"So long Professor Bert Ingelaere

This past November we finally managed to seat for a long conversation.

At that point, we discovered our mutual interest in cheese, bread, and tea. We talked about the tram ticket story of 2018, books, gaps in the literature (haha) we laughed some and had also serious discussions. You showed me your new home and I was so blessed to be in the company of your kind wife and young child. Then we ate cheese again and again! How long did we eat that bread! For hours we drank tea.

Our conversation after you read not one not two but many of my published works will live with me for a long time. You affirmed me. What a generous encouraging senior scholar you were, are, will always be!

We exchanged our last emails in January 2022. We were to meet. Continue our conversation. Maybe write something together about life in the hills. Examine this or that.

We made plans. We developed visions. We will continue to dream just in different worlds. To you kind soul may you continue to live through your son, your family! May you find peace in your transitions.

You will continue your legacy. Your work with 'thick empirical' (your words not mine), will be part of your legacy.

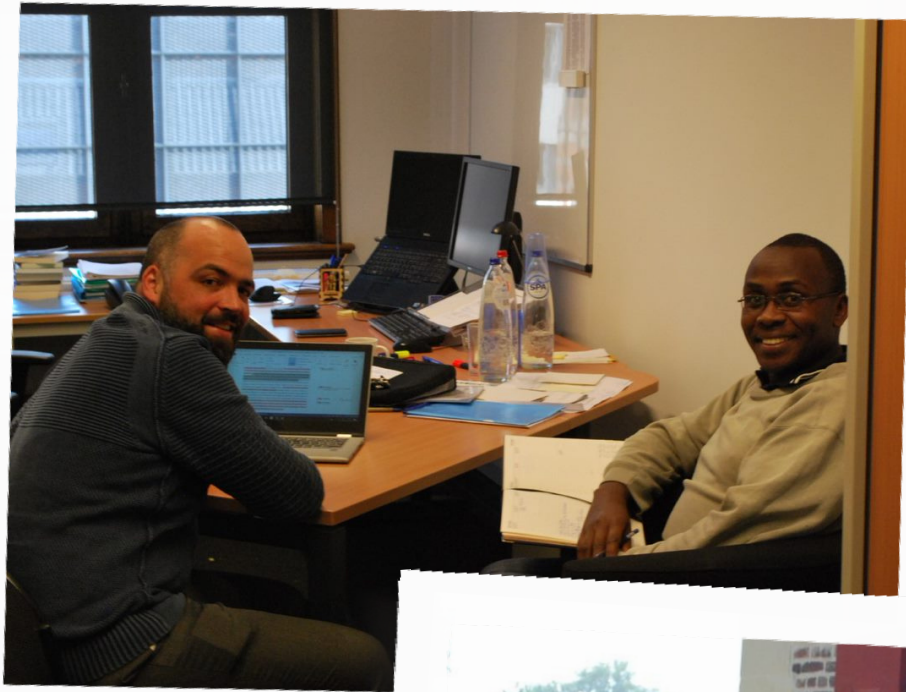
You will continue to shine a light for many researchers, policymakers, community members, and anyone else who cares to read and learn about the beautiful country and the Great Lakes Region we both love and loved and struggled to understand.

May your ashes fly into the sky of the hills of mother Rwanda and bless the lakes to the Serengeti, and to the children of our mother Africa, you loved and that loved you back.

May your Rwandan 'umutima', yes the heart you studied and wrote about live on!

Amahoro y'Imana abane nawe, nabawe, n umutima wawe! Isinzirire uruhuke imiruhho yiyisi!

Long live Professor Bert, Long Live professor Ingelaere and his people!"



Scott Straus

I am deeply and terribly saddened by Bert's passing. The news is just awful. I knew Bert professionally for close to twenty years. In that span, I came to respect and admire him tremendously. He was one of the few whom I trusted on Rwanda. I would read whatever I could of his, and I was thrilled to help publish his book on gacaca in a book series at the University of Wisconsin (USA). His book is one of the best, if not the best, books on gacaca. I admired Bert's thoughtfulness, his depth of understanding, his commitment to research in Rwanda (and Burundi), his emphasis on ambiguity and complexity, his wit, and his courage to call out bad ideas. Bert was also deeply human and caring. I cherished all of my interactions with him, and I am heartbroken that he is no longer here. My deepest, most sincere condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

Timothy Longman

"I was shocked to learn of Bert's death. He was an extraordinary researcher and analyst whose perspectives I thoroughly trusted. In the polarized world of scholarship on the African Great Lakes Region, Bert's analysis was always based upon strong empirical evidence rather than ideology. His long-term, deep field research in Rwanda in particular distinguished his work and lent power to his conclusions. His book ""Inside Rwanda's Gacaca Courts"" is careful and convincing in its analysis, easily deserving the Ogot Prize it was awarded.

Bert was someone I always looked forward to seeing at conferences, when we would get together to share a meal or a drink. Whether in Paris or Cambridge UK or Boston, I looked forward to hearing from him about his research and news about Rwanda and Burundi. He had a wry sense of humor that I will truly miss. I can't imagine not seeing him at the next African Studies Association meeting or next workshop on Rwanda. What a sad and tragic loss for us all."

Ugur Umit Ungor

Graag neem ik hierbij de gelegenheid om mijn diepe condoleances aan te bieden aan de familie en nabestaanden van prof. Bert Ingelaere. Ik heb Bert in juli 2013 leren kennen in Kigali, waar ik een paar weken gestationeerd was om een zomercursus in genocidestudies te doceren. Ik had gehoord dat hij in Rwanda was en heb hem toen uitgenodigd voor een diner met een collega. Uiteraard kende ik Bert al van zijn ijzersterke wetenschappelijke reputatie, maar voor mij was het de eerste keer dat ik hem in persoon zou spreken. Het diner kon dus alle kanten op gaan, maar het bleek snel dat de stevige man die van zijn motor afstapte een uiterst aardige, kalme en inschikkelijke persoonlijkheid had en voor we het wisten, was het laat in de avond en was het al met al zeer gezellig. Het komt niet vaak voor dat iemand professioneel een uitstekend academicus is, én tegelijkertijd een warm innemend karakter heeft. Wij hebben toen daarom voorgenomen om sinds dat diner in Kigali in contact te blijven, wat we daadwerkelijk hebben gedaan, en het ongelukkige toeval wil dat ik voornemens was om Bert deze maand in persoon te bezoeken. Nogmaals mijn diepe deelname.

Lidewyde Berckmoes

Working in academia has the strange quality that we sometimes feel closest to colleagues with whom we share questions rather than offices. Bert, you and I were close in the sense of pursuing the same research questions, whilst facing similar struggles and joys at this stage of our career and family life. Our paths crossed now and again, and at those moments I was always impressed with your kindness, dedication and the balanced and respectful ways in which you treated the stories of people from Burundi and Rwanda. I always expected that we would have more time to act upon our plans to collaborate more. I always hoped to have more time to learn more from you. I will dearly miss you as a colleague and a friend on this path that became a little lonelier since last Friday.

Valerie Rosoux

I did not have the chance to be a close friend of Bert. I have been living abroad most of the time during the last decade. However, I have always admired Bert for the brilliance of his analyses and the rightness and honesty of his research posture. Bert is and will remain inspirational to me. I will never write a paper on Rwanda without quoting him. In this sense, I confirm the words shared by Victor Hugo about the dead: "The dead are invisible. They are not absent".

Nathalie Holvoet

"Rwanda 2006... we were conducting field research in Rwanda about the politics of monitoring & evaluation. On one of our first evenings we visited Bert who had already settled in Rwanda since a couple of months. He was passionately talking about his research. He impressed us with his meticulous application of the life-story methodology, his in-depth knowledge of the Rwandan culture, the nuanced way in which he shared the preliminary findings. Later that week, he invited us to his favourite restaurant in Kigali. Again, he impressed us, this time round by his 'impersonator' skills, his knowledge of the local food and beer culture.... It was an evening full of laughter and joy, but also with serious conversations and philosophizing. This is how we will remember Bert, rich and layered. An excellent scholar. A kind and witty man.

Thank you for what you gave to this world.

Heidy Rombouts (IOB 2000-2006) – Nathalie Holvoet (IOB 1992-....)"



Filip Reyntjens

I have closely worked and interacted with Bert since he first joined IOB, and his sudden disappearance is a very sad shock. It has been a privilege and pleasure exchanging with him on difficult and sometimes dramatic issues, an opportunity I now no longer have. Bert's approach to science was careful and nuanced, he checked and counterchecked, and at no time went for the easy, simple answer to complex questions. He was never satisfied with his findings and their formulation, and always went the extra mile. In addition to being a pleasant interlocutor with an alert sense of humour, Bert was also a complex and sometimes tormented person, often living in great doubt. This has unfortunately marked the end of his life. His passing away is a terrible loss for IOB and the entire African great lakes research community, but first and foremost for his loved ones, and more particularly Margaux and Zeno. I wish them strength in these trying days.

Filip De Maesschalck

Het was Bert die me suggereerde om voor mijn doctoraat de volgende titel te kiezen: Time is of the essence. Hij vond dat de helderste uitdrukking in het Engels omtrent tijd. Ik wil graag geloven dat ze op hem ruim van toepassing was. Dat hij de tijd eer betuigde door diep en beginselvast te leven. We kenden elkaar niet goed, maar dat is het beeld dat ik van Bert had. Een beeld mooier nog dan de uitdrukking.

Nadia Molenaers

"As co-lecturers in Theories of Development, I remember Bert as a dedicated teacher, focused, serious, a perfectionist. Always worrying 'is this good enough?'. He was auto-critical, self-reflexive, always questioning if we were doing things right, or doing the right thing...

He didn't laugh a lot, but when he did... the room lightened up. I would have loved to see him burst into laughter... but I haven't seen that. And I regret this.... That said: the scarcity of a smile surely does increase its value... And valued he was... In many ways...

Stef Vandeginste

*"Together we travelled.
Together we supervised PhD students.
Together we wrote.
Together we taught.
Together we organized.
Together we laughed.
Together we were upset.
Together we wondered.
Together we looked back.
And forward.*

Together we were.

You were my together.

*Vaarwel, beste Bert.
In gedachten blijven we samen."*

Martien Schotsmans

Een hele tijd geleden, toen ik zelf niet meer in Rwanda woonde, maar er wel nog rond werkte, ontmoette ik Bert voor het eerst. Hij was toen een jonge onderzoeker. Waar hij toen vooral veel vragen had voor mij, zijn de rollen snel omgedraaid : zijn degelijk, nauwgezet en gedreven onderzoek rond Rwanda en gacaca, maakte van hem een aangenaam gesprekspartner voor al wie op zoek was naar informatie gebaseerd op feiten en eigen vaststellingen in plaats van op ideologie. Zijn immer rustige en grondige manier van uitleggen wekte veel vertrouwen. Of het nu ging om een analyse van hoe het nu gaat met de mensen in Rwanda, hoe ze gacaca ervaren, hoe ze met het verleden leven in het heden, of over een erg gecontesteerd boek over de genocide, Bert bood altijd inzicht en nuances, liet zich niet in één hokje stoppen en onderbouwde zijn standpunt. Tegelijk voelde je zijn grote betrokkenheid, zijn hart dat voor Rwanda (en Burundi) klopte, onder meer ook voor de wielerronde van Rwanda. Hij verlaat ons veel te vroeg. Iemand die zowel als onderzoeker als als persoon zo gewaardeerd wordt kan niet anders dan een immens gat achterlaten. We zullen je missen, Bert. Veel sterkte aan je familie, vrienden en collega's, die het nu zonder jou moeten stellen. Dank voor al wat je ons achterlaat.



Catherine Windey

Dear Bert,

There are few words to express such a shock, such a tragedy. We had a disagreement a couple of years ago, and I know that you still felt guilty about it, while for me it really was forgotten. I remember you as a sensitive anthropologist and person, for whom the academy was too violent, too personal. I remember the words of encouragement you sent me before my PhD thesis defense, when I received my postdoc fellowship and when my dear dad passed away last year. I was touched by it. I would have liked to get to know you a little more, behind the veil of the introverted IOB professor.

I hope that the world will be more tender to you up there. We will remember you.

Catherine

An Vermeersch

Ik zal Bert nooit vergeten en herinneren als een bezorgde lieve man. Het was een genoegen om hem bij te staan in alle financiële werk. Altijd in dank en respect door Bert aanvaard. Toen ik vorig jaar met psychologische klachten enkele maanden uitviel reageerde hij met heel veel warmte en empathie. Ik durf zeggen dat ik van hem hield.

Oh, ja, en ik zal hem ook herinneren als een stijlvol geklede man. Fier.

Ik ga hem ontzettend missen. Gelukkig hebben we zoveel mooie foto's van Bert aan IOB. Enkele sieren (al lang) de fotomuur in mijn bureau.

Veel sterkte aan de familie.

Hans De Backer

Verdomme, Bert. Je was zo'n fijne vent. Een goeie gast, rustig, altijd bedachtzaam en een tikkeltje serieus, maar op tijd ook met een droge kwinkslag en daarna je verlegen lachje. Sinds je die volle baard en dat kortgeschoren hoofd had, vond ik dat je eruitzag als een wijze professor uit een ver vervlogen tijd. Dat paste wel bij jou.

Op het einde moet je het moeilijk hebben gehad. Veel moeilijker dan we hebben beseft. Zo moe en machteloos dat je maar één weg meer zag.

Je laat een leegte achter. We zullen je missen.

Rust zacht, Bert.

Hanne Van Cappellen

Lieve Bert,

‘Als ik een boom onder de bomen was, een kat onder de dieren, dan zou dit leven een zin hebben of liever, dan zou dit probleem er helemaal niet zijn, want dan zou ik een deel zijn van deze wereld. Dan was ik deze wereld, waar ik mij nu met mijn gehele bewustzijn en met mijn gehele verlangen naar vertrouwde tegenoverstel. Juist deze bespottelijke rede brengt mij in verzet tegen de gehele schepping.’ (Camus, 1942, p. 70)

Ik maak er zo nu en dan een sport van om, in een poging te begrijpen, de wereld onder te verdelen in twee soorten mensen.

Er zijn mensen die opstaan, 10 kilometer lopen (of 50 kilometer fietsen ☺), 3 belangrijke telefoontjes doen, 5 pagina’s genialiteit neerpennen, en mensen die ’s ochtends even weer de handleiding van het leven moeten doorploegen.

Mensen die saus op hun frietjes, en mensen die saus naast hun frietjes doen.

Mensen met een lege inbox en mensen met 1456 ongelezen berichten.

Mensen die leven en mensen die weten dat ze leven.

Jij, als doordenker, bedreven onderzoeker en verstokte constructivist, weet evenzeer als ik dat dualiteiten slechts bestaan omdat ze relatief zijn, en juist door hun relativiteit enkel een schijnbare zingeving onthullen. Desondanks, sta me toe om tegen beter weten in abstractie te maken van voorgaand gegeven, al is het maar voor de deugd van het tijdverdrijf.

Er zijn mensen die het absurde omarmen, en er zijn mensen die hun hele leven er in slagen hun ogen ervan af te wenden. Jij was beslist één van de eerstgenoemden. Ja, jij was beslist geen ‘halve mens’¹.

De passie en zorgzaamheid waarmee je door het leven ging, zijn het onweerlegbaar bewijs van je uniek-zijn.

Je passie voor fietsen die aan het licht kwam toen we uitgenodigd werden in je prachtige tuin en ik van de gelegenheid gebruik maakte om je mooie Linden al fietsend te ontdekken.

Hoe je ons die trage, warme zaterdag oneindig bleef voeden met lekkernijen, interessante discussies, en elk een boek uit je sprookjesachtige boekenkamer. En hoe ik die avond toch ook een bezorgd smsje kreeg ‘Goed aangekomen, Hanne?’

En hoe je later tijdens een van onze lange gesprekken in de (niet zo idyllische) IOB tuin terug afdwaalde naar de verzorging van die mooie planten in jouw tuin. En hoe je naar het einde van die lange gesprekken toe, wanneer er vaak meer nieuwe vragen gesteld waren dan antwoorden gevonden, me steeds geruststelde met een ‘we komen er wel uit’.

¹ ‘De halve mens weigert de “passie” die behoort bij zijn staat van mens-zijn, hij weigert de pijn en het echec van deze sprong naar de existentie die altijd zijn doel mist, en daardoor weigert hij ook het bestaan zelf.’ (de Beauvoir, 1947, p. 47)

En onze gedeelde passie voor boeken die aan het licht kwam door het online medium van onze meetings over de voorbije jaren dat ons ondanks de afstand, toch net extra inzicht in elkaars leef-ruimte gaf; mijn boekenrek vele malen minder impressionant dan jouw voorgenoemd sprookjesachtig exemplaar, maar toch niets dat je niet in het oog sprong ('Hanne, heb jij Ulysses écht gelezen?' – 'Nee, natuurlijk niet').

Hoe lovend de studenten steeds over je waren. En hoe ze later op het academiejaar vaak lachend terugkeken op jouw boeiend maar uitdagend 'filosofisch' vak als het moment waarop ze waren 'wakker geschud'. Hoe je de tijd nam om de vragen van de studenten te beantwoorden, en mij hierbij ondertussen ook aan het denkwerk zette; 'Wat denk jij?', om onze reflecties dan te eindigen met een 'Nadenken – dat is onze job he'.

Hoe je na een rookpauze (zelfs in je pauzes bleef je doordenken) mijn bureau plots kon binnenwandelen 'Hanne, ik heb eens zitten nadenken..', en naast een lichte tabaksgeur ook een spoor aan nieuwe ideeën en inspiratie in mijn bureau en hoofd verstrooide.

Misschien is dat geluk: een geluk bij een ongeluk.

Misschien is geluk: nog een geluk dat.

Dat ik aan jou kan terugdenken, bv.,

in plaats van aan een ander.

(Herman de Coninck, 1975)

Je hebt mensen die het geluk hebben jou te hebben gekend, en dan heb je al de rest.

Rust zacht,

Hanne

How refugees resolve disputes: insights from a Ugandan settlement

“ Typically, refugee camps or settlements are seen as lawless environments. But, based on our study with South Sudanese refugees in northern Uganda, we bring a different story. We show there are a lot of rules and regulations that people abide by in the settlements.



The Conversation



Elfje Godderis

(Onder)zoekend

Warm

Steeds open voor feedback

Stil

Integer

Zacht

Mijn eerste indrukken van Bert.

Het bleef helaas bij eerste indrukken.

Ik had hem graag beter leren kennen.

Bij die eerste indrukken, in die korte blikken, vermoedde ik een heel mooi mens.

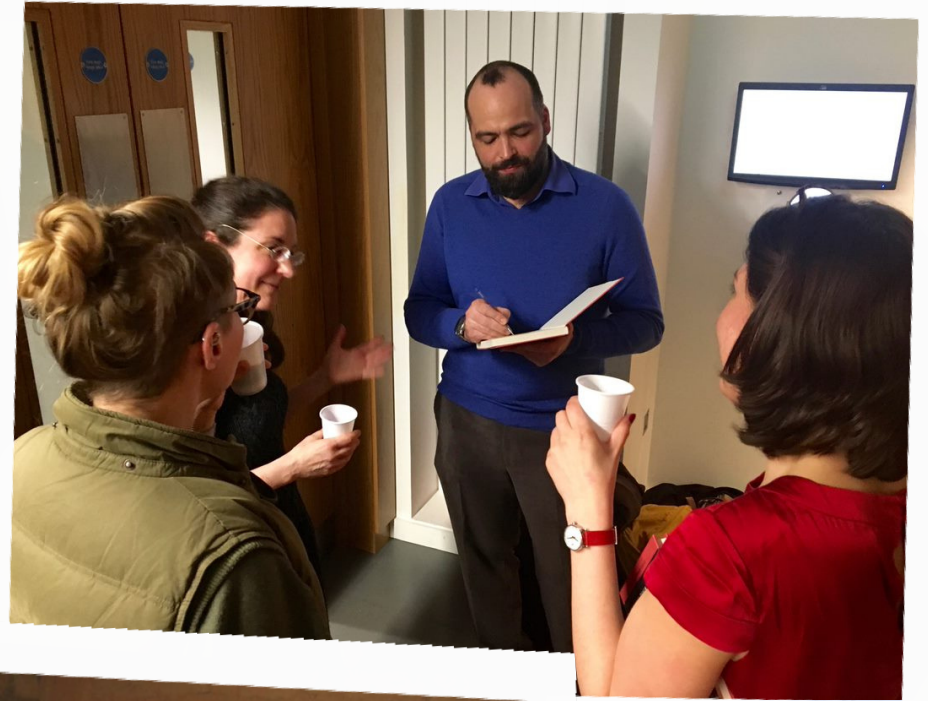
Te mooi, te goed voor deze wereld?

Jullie hebben nog veel meer vragen.

Zoveel zoeken naar antwoorden.

Dit loslaten lijkt me zo moeilijk.

“Afscheid is niet loslaten, het is een andere manier van vasthouden.



From your
former
students...

Laura Lopez Muñoz

Colombia

"Prof. Bert Ingelaere was one of my favorite teachers at IOB and the kindest dissertation tutor. Even after my life at IOB, he guided and helped me, and I will be forever grateful for that. He was a brilliant researcher and professor; he always made any conversation brighter with his insights. I feel honored because I was one of his students and had the opportunity to co-author a paper with him. I will always admire him and he will remain alive in my memory and heart.

My deepest condolences to his family and friends. May his soul rest in peace and light forever."

Inge Wagemakers

Belgium

"Ik heb Bert gekend als een heel aangename collega, een warm en mild man met het hart op de juiste plaats. Je zal gemist worden Bert! Veel sterkte aan familie en vrienden."

Hanne Vandersteegen

Belgium

Our government and development class was always intriguing and challenging. Bert's method of teaching lied in his inquisitive nature and was driven by the passion for his work. My condolences go out to his family, his friends, his colleagues and all those who knew him. May his soul rest in peace.

Tom Ogwang

Uganda

"It is not easy to find the right words to express your death. It was not easy to accept what I heard. It is not easy to accept that you are gone, gone forever, never to be seen again! We can only celebrate the times we shared since we met many years ago.

*My your family, friends and the greater humanity be comforted by God during this difficult time.
One day, our day will also come. We will always remember you for what you did for us.
We will miss you dearly, may you REST IN PEACE, Prof. Bert."*

Cécile Fameree

Belgium

"This is terribly sad news.

My thoughts are with all IOB colleague and Bert's family.

I don't know Bert personally, but very inspired by his work.

warm regards"

Fien Swaanen

Belgium

Ik wens de familie en vrienden van professor Ingelaere enorm veel sterkte tijdens deze moeilijke periode. Professor Ingelaere was enorm gedreven en heeft een blijvende indruk achtergelaten. Ik heb enorm veel bijgeleerd tijdens zijn lessen en vond hem een enorm sympathieke professor. Hij zal gemist worden.

Aura López

Colombia

"When I first met professor Bert I knew I'd like to have him as my thesis supervisor. I'd follow him after class to talk about his extensive Gacaca research or to get some hints to start crafting my thesis idea from day one. He had a quite but deep presence; and the human and intelectual humility, the kindness and the generosity that are so scarce these days.

Working with him was an empowering experience. Bert never discarded an idea, always listening and engaging as a peer, not a supervisor, easing with his words of affirmation the anxiety and insecurity his students had.

He guided with patience, respect and wisdom, and that already made all the difference.

My father says we are made of the people who believes in us, and Prof. Bert was the living proof of it. In 2017, holding the Prize in my hands, I knew his faith in me was the boat that had carried me there, and still until today. You will be greatly missed, my dear mentor and friend, but your legacy is way too big to be forgotten.

Aura"



Mahlet Anley Mengesha

Ethiopia

He was a remarkable professor with a great sense of humor. It has been a privilege to have known him.

Abu Said Juel Miah

Bangladesh

Prof Bert was a nice person and a good teacher at IOB so far I saw him. IOB has lost such a dedicated and knowledgeable professor that it would be difficult to fulfil. He will be missed always.

Salome

Kenya

"I remember the first day I walked into Berts class and as usual I was late as most often there would be a delay in the tram that I often took to school. I thought this man seemed so kind despite his domineering height. Through the days of attending his classes I was proved right he was exceedingly gentle. He always answered everyone's question, tried to know as many names as possible and you could tell because in a few lectures he knew guys by their names including the ones who always asked questions. He remained patient and diplomatic in his teaching especially when he answered questions on different perspectives and tried to understand our perspective. He would talk to us about his family and the challenges of raising children that helped grasp the kind of values he had towards family life even religion. He had in other times helped my colleagues with some issue with a laptop and I thought how kind it was. In most times when one had the chance to walk to IOB one would meet him on the hallway dashing to some place sometimes a hello and others a look. Well just as many of my colleagues we didn't know him for that long but he was a likeable humane person who taught us that what is important in life is our personal values and the battles we win against ourselves that are most important.

Rest well Sir Bert"

Cherie Anne Quirante

Philippines

I vividly remember Prof. Bert as this imposing figure. He had this quiet confidence that at times would make one self-conscious. But, he's the one who'll indulged a student's idea and take pauses while deep in his thought on how to respond. I started my year with his class, lost in between discussion about epistemology. Nevertheless, coming from an economics background, I have learned to unlearn and be more critical of the system. A friend of mine reminded us it was Bert who gave us The Idealist as a reading. The book I took away as a student of IOB, a culmination of my journey and a reminder of my role as a development worker. It is Bert's legacy to me about the continuous tension between the ideal and reality, which brings my experiences into perspective.

Yosef Hailu Berhe

Ethiopia

Professor, Bert Ingelaere was one of the top scholars I have ever seen in my whole life. I feel very pleased that I had a very close contact with him. I was supervised by him for more than two times. His well articulated teaching method, amazing personality and kindness are among the many best qualities that will remain with me forever. I am sure that Bert made everyone around him very proud. He will be remembered for eternity. May God rest his soul in an everlasting peace and harmony. Lots of respect dear professor.

Jean Baptiste Hategekimana

Rwanda

*"Prof Bert Ingelaere,
You've gone too soon. I'm grateful to have had you as my professor, my supervisor and mentor.
May your soul Rest in eternal peace."*

Sonya Ochaney

India

Prof. Bert taught us Culture and Society as part of our course. He was one of the sweetest person I have come across. He had a brilliant sense of humor that always made me want to attend his classes, and I enjoyed his philosophical rants where he would usually be debating with himself. This is a loss not just to IOB but to all of us he taught and whose lives he has touched. He was a good teacher and a genuine and caring human being who tried to make a difference, which is hard to find in this world.

Jed Francisco

Philippines

"Whenever I think of Bert, I only remember the words ""accommodating"" and ""responsive"". He always manages to make an effort to reply or provide suggestions to all types of concerns, however shallow and irrelevant his students' concerns were. My Filipino, Indonesian and Spanish-speaking classmates are all praises to him whenever we compare notes about our professors during parties/dinner.

Even though I only had a short amount of time and no close interaction with him, it's enough time to see how he interacts with others during/outside class and hear about him through other people. I feel lucky because I was one of his students and I got to know him. I wish him happiness and peace wherever he is. My condolences to his family and loved ones."

Ali Agoren

Turkey

"I am deeply shocked by your mail. Such a sorrowful news..."

I remember Bert as a great teacher whom I learned many things from and still recall his classes. It must be very devastating for the all IOB crew to lose such a kind colleague and I am sorry for your loss. I send my deepest condolences to IOB on behalf of you."

Emiel Buffel

Belgium

Bert Ingelaere was een professor die op een geweldige manier zijn onuitputtende kennis op een warmhartige manier kon overbrengen. Hij zal ons voor altijd bij blijven. Mijn oprechte innige deelneming aan familie en vrienden. Emiel Buffel.

Yohannes Teklehaimanot

Ethiopia

*"Besides his excellent in class teaching methodology, I remember Prof. Bert of his friendly relations with his students. After finishing our final presentation, he invited all students who wrote our paper under his guidance and advisory, offer us a drink in one of the pubs nearby to IOB and tell each and every one of us of our strong sides and areas we need to improve. He will be greatly missed.
May he Rest in Eternal Peace and wish strength to his family and friends."*



Fred Nkamwesiga

Uganda

"Dear Bert's family, friends, and colleagues at IOB,

Please accept my/our most heartfelt condolences on behalf of the colleagues and students from Uganda.

Bert was an excellent professor and I believe a kind man. He was beloved by my colleagues from Uganda who had a chance to be taught by him. I did have a chance too to be his student last year and have read his profound academic work all over the world.

I know that there is nothing i/we can say that will take away the pain you are feeling right now, but please know that you are not grieving alone. Bert will be truly missed by everyone who knew him.

May God give you strength and hope throughout your lives while you remember your Bert.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Fred Nkamwesiga, and students from Uganda"

Harold Mabwe

Tanzania

His teaching style, real impressed everyone! Using the lovely conceptual and theoretic text such, Durable inequality by Charles Tilly, The hidden transcript...James Scott and Moving out of poverty by Narayan etc. He really managed to stimulate my critical thinking on sociological imagination and on concepts related agency and culture and how to link with development. He was a kind of principled man, humbled, dedicated to his teaching and research careers. Rest in eternal Peace Prof. Bert!

Kujiek Ruot
South Sudan

"Prof. Bert Ingelaere took me through the qualitative research methods in the academic year 2017-2018 at IOB. As an anthropologist and philosopher, he had a unique way of understanding people. He easily became among my favourites personalities because of his calm nature and genuineness. He took me through my ECOMP and Dissertation. I would say his guidance through these papers made me what I am today in terms of writing.

As someone who has gone through refugee life and is constantly affected by protracted conflict, I found someone who could understand what my world views were in him. Not a single time had I ever heard an impolite or a disrespectful comment towards me from Prof. Bert. Instead, Prof. Bert gave me one recommendation after another whenever I wanted. He was so supportive, long after I left IOB, and has advised me on several occasions to maintain my dreams, especially at my low points. His encouragement, whenever I was down would lift me up, thus seeing the brighter side of life.

I remember one time he told me that I should reach out to him whenever I needed any help. To me, that is what a family does to another member of that family. Prof. Bert exemplified the IOB global family in that sense. From an African perspective, he showcased Ubuntu, 'you are because I am.' Prof. Bert was the reason why I ended up studying further after IOB. He saw my motivation, and when I approached him about joining KU-Leuven where he previously studied, he gave me a green light.

His death came as a shock to me as it did to many of those that knew him. I particularly regret that I did not pen down my ideas in the form of a book, which is what he advised me to do. He was so convinced that I have a certain way of writing and ideas expressed. That was how motivational he was to me and I am certain, to other IOB students former and present, his colleagues, plus all that interacted with him.

It is unfortunate that I just congratulated him a few months ago on his new role as an Associate Professor at the University of Antwerp (IOB). In my culture, the death that is mourned most is that of a young person, because they still have a lot of flowers to blossom. This was the case with Prof. Ingelaere. He was young and still had a lot to offer to the world especially in the field of conflict as shown by his book on Rwanda's Gacaca courts.

Prof was also funny. Someday in July 2018 for our usual consultation on my dissertation, he came 5 minutes late. After apologizing, which for me I felt was so humbling of him. I mean so humbling because I have experiences where one has come 2 hours late, yet that felt normal. Anyway, he explained he was late because of using his bike from Leuven. When he saw I was surprised, he added, ""it is an electric bike."" We started laughing when I told him I had no idea what that was! I added that my friends call me bushman, and I think they are right. So, he was someone who will also make you smile, to boost your morale for the demanding studies at IOB.

To his family, all the IOB, and the University of Antwerp fraternity, current and former students, receive my condolences on this sad event of losing Prof. Bert Ingelaere. We have all lost, and to me, I lost a friend and mentor."

Purity Chakacha

Kenya

"Dear Prof. Bert,

I'm greatly honored to have known and met you.

Thank you for stretching my thinking capacity on development discourse issues, you made class so much fun and interactive by giving us the opportunity to share our experiences, and also how to master content using flash cards (something I had never done before but it turned out very effective). The knowledge I acquired will forever be engrained in my heart and mind, you were are very approachable, warm and understanding teacher.

Your voice and all the class interactions are still fresh in my mind, I will leave to cherish all the memories we shared.

To Bert's family and friends; receive my deepest sympathy, my thoughts and prayers are with you, I do ask God to comfort you during this time of pain and sorrow.

Rest in eternal peace Prof. Bert till we meet again one day."

Rhoda Natukunda

Uganda

"Prof Ingelaere's classes on research methods were interactive and informative, he contributed to my greater appreciation of qualitative research methods, dynamics and dimensions of peace processes in post-conflict environments.

As a scholar, his experience and knowledge of the Great Lakes Region of Africa was remarkable. He was a kind teacher. It is sad he's gone too soon, but he has left a legacy, many will get to know him through his works.

May his soul rest in peace."

Marianelly Diaz

Peru

Professor Bert will be forever missed. I enjoyed how calmly and in depth he explained the theories of development and research methods in our master program, he was kind to us. A brilliant mind. Rest in peace, professor Bert.



Tsedey Girmaye

Ethiopia

Prof. Bert was my supervisor while writing my thesis and also thought me some courses. He was a very humble, kind and gentle person. I remember , after defending our thesis, he took us all(his supervisees)for coffee and it was a fun and memorable moment, he also shared with us about his new baby and how exciting it's to be a father. He was excellent in guiding me through the writing process and I am grateful for every knowledge, insights and informations shared. He will be missed. My sincere condolences to his family, IOB and friends.

Lotte Daens

België/Nederland

"Wat ontzettend verdrietig om te horen dat professor Bert is overleden.

Ik leerde hem kennen als een aangename docent met veel aandacht voor zijn studenten. Ik zat altijd graag in zijn les en leerde veel van hem bij.

Veel sterkte aan de familie en vrienden van Bert.

Lotte (IOB, klas 2019-2020)"

Lenyora Sihwa

Zimbabwe

Bert was a great lecturer and human being. I remember after graduation I met him by the corner next to the library. He congratulated me and told me that I could achieve anything I wanted despite my background and where I came from. I remember those words each day I am faced by I challenge. For that I am internally grateful and I thank you his family in extension. May he Rest In Peace, and may you his family find the courage to hope in these difficult times.

Tewodros Tekeste

Ethiopia

Bert was so kind, supportive and friendly to his students. He was an amyzing teacher and an amaying mentor who always motivate his students. May his soul rest in peace.

Francis Magaya

Zimbabwe

He was gifted in imparting knowledge.

Michaëla Stubbers

België

Though it was only very short, I was fortunate to be able to enjoy Bert's passionate teaching and also to meet him as a very empathetic person.

Chanbona Men

Cambodia

"I feel deeply sad to hear of Professor Bert Ingelaere's passing. May his soul rest in peace. I had the privilege to spend a year with him at the IoB. Though it has been very great memories for me to have Prof. Bert as my coach and professor. Again, my condolence to the family for losing such a great man.

May God bless his family and give them peace. God is holding in his hands a very special servant.

Men Chanbona, Cambodia"

Sebastian Paolo

Ghana

"Bert had a very kind and calm personality, which was hugely instrumental in the massive support that international students received at IOB.

I am still in utter disbelief about his sudden demise. His humility and deep thoughts propelled me to finish my MSc. Governance and Development thesis with a great mark, and further nursed my interest in research till date.

He was available for me when I needed recommendation letters for my PhD, which am about to complete now, and we have since checked on each other from time to time.

Words alone cannot explain how I will miss such a great personality as am just beginning my academic career in Ghana and needed his mentoring even more. I have been shattered since news of his demise broke out. May your humble soul rest in peace."

Andrew Ainomugisha

Uganda

"Bert welcomed me at IOB in 2008. I had just joined as a PhD researcher. Prof. Filip introduced me to Bert. He was very very kind and helpful.

May his soul rest in iternity."

Evas Kemigisha

Uganda

"Bert was calm and kind in his lectures; gentle in attending to students, yet full of knowledge in his subject.

Rest in perfect peace."

Gianfabrizio Ladini

Italy

I had the privilege of having Bert as professor at the IOB. He had the wonderful ability of making you see things from different angles, of making you aware of your assumptions by pointing at other perspectives that put yours into question. He communicated not only his wealth of knowledge, but also a gentle attitude keen on listening and understanding. I have no doubt that he has left seeds of growth in me and in all of his students, and that he will be remembered with the greatest affection.

Fabakary Daffeh

Gambia

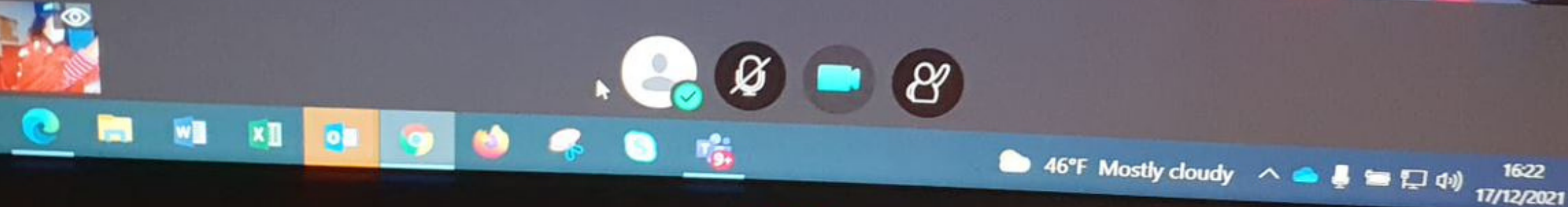
Bert supervision of my first End of Module Paper has been an invaluable learning experience which fundamentally transformed my development research specific skills. I will forever consider him as a volume when it comes to knowledge. A volume has gone but will forever remain in our hearts.

Faith Temba

Kenya

"I will always remember Professor Bert's classes on paradigms in research. He challenged us to reflect on our positionality. It was a challenging class but it changed the way I think and relate with fellow researchers, colleagues and people.

I will always carry this memory with me."



Zanna Ramaekers

Belgium

"Bert was not only my teacher, he was also a family friend. The lives of my parents and that of Bert's intersected in Rwanda. Bert was working on gathering data on the Gacaca courts and my folks were at the start of their Africa adventure. I was too young to remember him.

Initially, I spoke to my parents about the IOB because I was applying to a Ph.D. position (my first application). As we were going through the university's website we stumble upon Bert's page. Instantly my father recognized him and said, in our local ""Hamonter"" dialect, ""ma godverdomme dat is den Bert!"". He proceeds with sharing some memories they have of them together. I reached out to Bert in the hope that perhaps he can give me some advice on applying to a Ph.D. at IOB. He replied and remembered our family. In the summer we had a skype call. There I saw him sitting in front of his infamous bookcase, the one I later saw in class when they would be online. He gave me tips on how I could improve my application and how if that doesn't work out, there are always other options. I didn't get a Ph.D., but I did get intrigued by the IOB program and so enrolled into the master. My parents joined me one day to see my campus before they head back off to their now extensive Africa adventure. Coincidentally we run into Bert and they briefly catch-up before I had to run off to my class.

My parents will no longer get to opportunity to re-connect with Bert more deeply. I will no longer have the opportunity to learn from him what it takes to be a good anthropologist, which I aspire to be and Bert undoubtedly was. However, I am grateful for the moments of serendipity as are my parents.

Our sincere condolences go out to his loved ones. We cherish our memories with him fondly."

Kloe Nguyen

Vietnam

Professor Ingelaere taught us a class on Theories of Development and another on Research Method I in last term. I was very impressed with the way he carefully delivered the materials using his warm and calm voice so that international students like myself can comprehend the new knowledge properly, to which I am much thankful. It was funny also, sometimes during class, to see he was lost in deep thoughts on a topic he was excited about. I will remember the dear Professor with such fond memories. My love and thoughts are to his family and friends!

Denise Paulina Doble

Philippines

Bert was my advisor throughout the major papers required by IOB. A particular memory of him that comes to mind was when he invited all his advisees to the pub after we had completed our thesis defense. That was one of the highlights of my stay in Antwerp because I saw how genuine he was as a professor; he made sure that we relaxed and enjoyed the last of our academic days. We all successfully finished the hardest part of our graduate school, and we owe much to Bert for being a patient, encouraging, and passionate mentor.

Adeline Uwonkunda

Rwanda

Despite being a top teacher and scholar, Bert was a very humble man. One day during one of the lectures in the class of people as an informant in 2019, Prof. Bert noticed that I was from Rwanda and immediately started talking to me in Kinyarwanda, I sneezed and he said URAKIRE, which means God bless you in my native language. I was impressed to see such a teacher humble himself for me as a student, but that was his nature! A very humble man!. We are saddened by his premature departure and wish to comfort his family and the entire IOB community. Condolences! May Professor Bert's soul rest in eternal peace.

Sakina MWINYIMKUU

Tanzania

"He will be remembered as a warm and inspiring professor truly dedicated to students and his job.

Bert has been a great lecturer and a mentor to some of us. I will remember him the way was encouraging me to attend exam as I was worried that I hadn't done enough preparations. His strict demeanour and dedication towards research have shaped and moulded us as students towards high expectations and achievements. His endless support and encouragement have made many of us succeed in our Studies, which we could never imagine possible. There is no word to express my sincere appreciation to him for his valuable and tireless guidance. RIP and You will be deeply missed, Professor Bert"

Anna Voets

Nederland

"Woorden schieten te kort. Wat een groot gemis zal het voor jullie zijn. Ontzettend veel kracht, sterkte en zegen toegewenst om dit verlies te dragen; nu en in de toekomst!

Ik deel graag een kleine herinnering met jullie. Hoewel ik nog niet heel lang colleges kreeg, was het duidelijk dat prof. Bert een aardige en warme docent was die graag meedacht met zijn studenten. In de eerste colleges waren we wat onwennig en voorzichtig in de interactie en discussies, waarop prof. Bert ons gerust probeerde te stellen door te zeggen niet bang te zijn het verkeerde antwoord te geven en graag onze gedachten te willen horen. Deze geruststelling sprak en straalde hij uit. Dit is een kleine illustratie wie prof. Bert voor zijn studenten was. Nogmaals ontzettend veel kracht en sterkte toegewenst!"

Carolina Ponce

Ecuador

Bert was a very smart and kind man. Having him as a profesor was an honor. May he rest in peace and might his family find the strenght to overcome such an invaluable loss.

Caroline Wanjiru

Kenya

"Coming from a sociology background, I had come across the question of paradigms in social science research. However, I really had not come to a better understanding until Prof Bert's presentation in my research class at IOB. He taught and explained material that had been so complex for me in a very easy understandable way. He was calm and was never angered by the constant questions and requests to repeat and explain again."

"Outside the classrooms in the corridors of IOB, Prof Bert was always kind and warm towards everyone and never hesitated to help. His early departure is a big loss to the scientific community but God saw it fit to take him home at this time. My condolences to his family, friends and IOB and may God rest his soul in eternal peace."

Marianne O'Shea

Ireland

"My sincere condolences to Bert's family and to all at IOB on this unexpected loss."

Emmanuel Simon Mwang'onda

Tanzania

"It is hard to forget what he taught us in relation to development paradigms. It is through his class I came to be aware of how divided is researchers' world in defining what reality. It is a lesson hard to forget, as an academic, the question of my positionality will always emerge (either implicitly or explicitly) through my works."

"It is hard to forget how he pronounced ""development discourse"" ""when the means become the ends"". He is gone, but he will never be forgotten. We are all from Allah, and to Allah we shall all return."

Hannelore Delcour

Belgium

"Bert was een zeer fijne collega tijdens mijn tijd aan het IOB in Antwerpen. Toen ik naar Bujumbura verhuisde, en hij zijn onderzoek in Burundi aankondigde, nodigde ik hem dan ook uit om bij mij in huis te verblijven in plaats van op hotel te gaan. Die periode was hij heel gedreven en gepassioneerd met zijn onderzoek bezig, hij ging geregeld verschillende dagen op veldwerk om dan terug naar Bujumbura te komen en zijn bevindingen te delen met iedereen. Hij begreep beter dan wie ook de situatie voor de lokale bevolking, zijn nieuwsgierigheid en openheid maakten dat hij overal snel vrienden maakte."

"Zijn plotse overlijden is een groot verlies, voor de academische wereld, zijn collega's en vrienden, en zijn familie. Hij zal herinnerd worden, wereldwijd, en ik wens al zijn naasten veel sterkte, verbondenheid en geborgenheid."



Frank Ahimbisibwe

Uganda

I first met Bert in 2009 when I was a PhD student and I had a short stay at IOB, University of Antwerp. Bert mentored me on doing research among Rwandan communities. My PhD research was on Rwandan refugees in Uganda. Bert had done his research on Gacaca courts in Rwanda and had a lot of experience and knowledge on Rwanda. He was very knowledgeable, generous, humble, kind and friendly. Again, I worked with Bert in 2016 when I was a Scholar in Residence for 6 months. Bert was my promoter and I worked closely with him. I appeared in one of his classes as a guest lecturer. Bert treated me like his brother for the 6 months I was at IOB. Before he died, we have been working together on a VLIR-UOS Team project titled "Making Refugee Integration Sustainable: In Search of Durable Relations with Host Populations in Uganda". Bert has been a Flemish promoter and myself a Local Promoter in Uganda. I have enjoyed working with him together with other team members (Kristof, Sarah, Cleophas & Tom). I have lost an academic mentor, close friend, project partner and above all a brother. We will greatly miss you Bert. God knows why he has called you early. If I was able, I would question God but this is not possible for me. The world will miss your wisdom, great intelligence, kindness, warmth, humbleness and academic guidance. Till we meet again. RIP Bert.

Betty Lizzie

Uganda

I can vividly remember him for his passion and dedication . His readiness to help. This is a big gap for IOB. No duplicate for prof. IOB will miss a great resource especially in Research Methods paper 1.

Sokvisal Pou

Cambodia

It was my pleasure of having Bert Ingelaere as my prof in a class at the Institute of Development Policy at the University of Antwerp. His teaching methods were really able to deliver up-to-date research knowledge and experience to the students, never condescending always searching. He was a really good teacher, my sympathies go to his family.

Lani Tang

Philippines

My deepest condolences to Prof. Ingelaere's family and to the IOB.

Thandiwe Homela

Zimbabwe

Heartfelt condolences. May his soul rest in peace.

Shakil Ahmed

Bangladesh

*"I feel so sorry to hear the sad news. He is one of the teachers I like the most. He will be missed.
May his soul rest in peace, and may God grant his family and IOB colleagues the strength to endure this great pain"*

Hare Krisna Kundo

Bangladesh

Prof. Bret was a great teacher. I learned a lot about research methods from his class.

Ventura Mufume

Mozambique

"I was not that fortunate to have Prof. Ingelaere take me on any of the modules I did in 2019 at IOB but I am touched by the way he contributed for the program along with the brilliant team that has made the ECB seminar so attractive particularly with development evaluation community of practice in Mozambique and the Southern African region.

I add my thoughts and prayers to those of the Mozambican Monitoring and Evaluation Association (AMMA) that I represent for the uplifting of the Ingelaere family and IOB community."

Miguel Saquimux

Guatemala

"An amazing professor. I'll never forget him as a committed researcher. It is a pity that one of the few European political anthropologists that considered social, cultural, and political microdynamics passed away so soon.

Rest in peace, Bert. Your work and love for conscious and consistent academia will cross generations and continents."

Musobozi Paul Stephen

Uganda

I met Prof. Bert Ingelaere in 2017 when I joined IOB. He taught Research in the Development World. I remember the deep philosophy and reflective approach to teaching he instilled in students which I applied to reconstruct my views about the social world. He was an integrationist that helped me to transit from linearity to adopt an integrationist method to examine social situations. He was accommodative, warm, respectful and listened with a third ear to those who approached him for assistance. He practiced servant leadership and was apologetic when he realised he had not fulfilled his promise. His attributes will be missed by workmates, students and most of all his family. Rest in peace the 'great teacher'!

Ana Sanchez-Ramos

Peru

Professor Bert was my supervisor for module paper and teacher in many course I took in the Governance and Development Master (2019-2020). He was a nice person with a particular sense of humor, very reflective scholar and accesible one. He was also Athropologist. He was always giving space for discussion in class and reflected collectively. He was gentle and passionate about governance and power dynamics and I admired him. He motivated me to be more rigorous and careful on my research.

Lisa Popelier

Belgium

I got to know Bert as a lecturer at IOB during my master study programme and when I joined IOB as a staff member later on I also got to know him as my colleague. I will always remember him as a dedicated professor, passionate about his research subject and a great conceptual thinker. He did not shy away from tough, sensitive discussions. He often started his contributions with the words... "May I be honest..." and subsequently continued by humbly sharing with us his perspective on the topic of the debate. In doing so, he kept all of us sharp and (self-)critical. But he was also very reflective of his own actions and never claimed to be flawless himself. In his laudatio for Sarah, for instance, he honestly described how the PhD trajectory turned out to be a mutual learning process for both of them. The IOB and the academic community working on/in the Great Lakes Region will miss this warm, honest and (self) critical friend, researcher and lecturer.



Chrispine Botha

Malawi

"Oh what a loss we have amidst us! May his precious soul rest in peace.

We as alumni do sincerely cherish that we were fortunate enough to have had him as our teacher. We will surely miss his physical presence but his work shall live on among us, with continued impact on generations yet unborn.

*With a sad heart,
Chrispine Botha"*

Dennis Penu

Ghana

"In 2016, Bert was my lecturer at the IOB and was a supervisor for one of my Term Papers.

I will remember Bert as the person through whom I first heard about the Gacaca courts in Rwanda. He discussed them so well in class that they stuck with me. Eventually Bert wrote one of my successful academic recommendations that helped me secure my current research position.

This is indeed a great loss and I extend my condolences to all family and friends.

Sterkte!"

Franck Kamunga

DR Congo

A great person to have , very reliable et accessible and friendly. May his sould rest in Peace!

Abigael Teklu

Ethiopia

My passion for research and what it really means to the world comes from Prof. Bert Ingelaere's teachings. What a deep, meaningful and relevant courses he gave us in IOB!!! I still remember, after 6 years, the examples he used to give us and how he used to share his research in a very interactive and transparent way.

It's with deep sorrow that I am writing this memorial....the world will miss him. May God rest his soul in peace.

Kelemu Fenta Gebeyehu

Ethiopia

"In most of my international visits, I have had moments of academic and non-academic engagements and learned valuable experiences from professors, classmates, and residents. From those experiences, I will never forget Professor Bert Ingelaere's everlasting friendly advice on how to be a brilliant researcher and patinate scholar in the field of development. Moreover, his special qualities of compassion, open-mindedness, and hardworking ethics will be the timeless legacies he has given to us.

May the almighty God take his soul to heaven!"

Erick Hernandez

Mexico

Brilliant professor and excellent human being. Rest in peace.

Princewill ACHEM NKONGHO

Cameroon

Bert, the way you narrated your research exploits, made me to understand a lot on your personality. You are a great loss to the IOB family. Nonetheless, in my culture it often said the body dies but not the spirit. I have the believe that you're still in our mist. À Dieu ...

Tewelde Adhanom

Ethiopia

He is the charming, easy, and best advisor I ever had. Constructive and genuine person. He is going to be missed by many of us globally.

Frédéric Bandon Mboyong

Cameroon

"Prof. BERT

Fir all the fruitful lessons and listening that you had developed, for helping to make us what we are, we will never forget you. In your eternal rest, be proud."

Ana Júlia França Monteiro

Brasília

"I was at IOB in 2015-2016, in the Governance and Conflict track.

Professor Bert Ingelaere was my professor for Module 2 and was teaching the basics of the ""State"". This was very exciting for me, since I am a political scientist.

Unfortunately and for reasons I cannot recall, on the first day of class I was late. I was trying to make my way through the classroom without being noticed and not disturbing, but the class had already started. When I opened the door everyone was looking at me, including Professor Ingelaere. After a few seconds of silence, he asks me if I am the Brazilian from Brasília.

This made me a bit confused, but he went back a few slides and pointed at the screen showing what seemed to be the map of my home town. I still could not understand what was happening. As I took a seat, he explained that he was teaching earlier about ""planned cities"" and goes on and on about Brasília and how it was idealized in the 1960s, and that he had been there.

This story might not be necessarily of value to many people. But the thing is: being at IOB is an experience that is full of wonderful moments, we make friends from around the world and develop new skills. To do so, however, we have to be away from home. And it is worth it, and I wouldn't change it for the world. But being so far from your city and family and friends is hard. And, as simple as it may have been, knowing that someone not only knew my city but knew its history and had actually been there, made me a bit closer to home that day.

Professor Bert Ingelaere was taken from us too soon, but he will be remembered as a great professor.

I truly wish his family and friends strength in this difficult time."

Divine Tambe EBOT

Cameroon

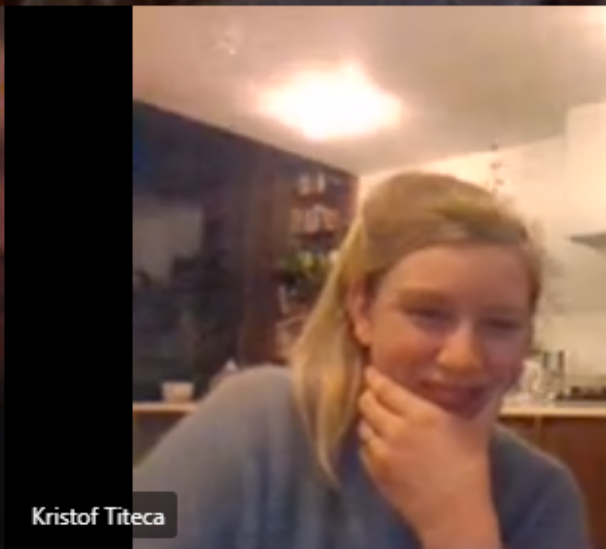
It is with great sadness that I learned about the passing away of Prof. Bert Ingelaere, my heartfelt condolences to IOB and his Family for such a great loss. May the Lord God Almighty comfort his loved ones and fill the gap caused by his untimely death.



Vicky Verlinden



Davy Peirs



Kristof Titeca



Janus Verr



Stef Vandeginste

Sara Dewa

Polina Gerelchuk

Russia

"My heart was completely broken when I read this news on the IOB Facebook page and it is still now.

Bert was my favourite professor at IOB. He had this rare combination of professionalism, intelligence and kindness and softness to his students at the same time. I was always surprised how it is possible to combine these qualities together in one person. He showed me that it is. He was my example in this. Now that I'm writing this, he is sitting on a desk in front of me and the other students in the class as we are discussing the components of countries' national identity. He is telling me that Russia has a strong patriotic component and that it might be something good from other perspectives. I was wondered because I never looked at it this way.

He was touching all the delicate topics so softly while being able to show his position quite strongly without hurting the feelings of anyone. Even when I completely disagreed with my marks he and his assistant gave to me, he managed to make me happy with his warm smile and respectful treatment :) Not everyone can do that.

To the Bert's family, I know this won't help and won't make you feel better now (I lost my mum as well) but it will be valuable after many years to read these nice words about your dad, brother, husband etc. just to know that he was an outstanding professional and a great person not only in his family but also at his favourite job that he was doing. He was loved and respected by many.

It's really not fair that the good ones always go first. Bert, thank you for everything you have done for us, your students. You will be forever remembered!

Your loving student,

Polina from Russia"

Wazeer M

Nigeria

I hope the whole family (blood relatives and professional relatives) takes solace in knowing that Professor Bert was a dedicated man and a thorough professional who has contributed to humanity in the way knew how to do best. My condolences.

Lode Smets

Belgium

"Met ongeloof en verdriet verneem ik dit nieuws.

Bert was een warme en zachtaardig persoon, uitermate intelligent en zeer gedreven. We waren een tijdje kantoorgenoten op het IOB. Ook al zagen we elkaar niet veel, toch kon ik altijd bij Bert terecht voor advies of een droge grap. En uiteraard voor diep antropologisch inzicht over Centraal Afrika.

Hopelijk vinden vrienden en familie troost bij elkaar.

Met warme groeten,

Lode"

Christine APIO

Uganda

"As a former student of Prof. Bert Ingelaere I am deeply saddened by his untimely death. The world still needed him. He was such a kind, composed, humble, intelligent, respectful and down to earth person. Bert had such a rare personality trait.

His approach to teaching and passing knowledge is premised on patience, compassion and understanding.

He will be greatly missed! Fare thee well Bert. May your gentle soul rest in peace and power.

Christine APIO"

Raymond Blaise Habonimana

Burundi

"I met Bert Ingelaere at IOB during the conference on Burundi in 2018. Then during my master's at IOB where he taught me and supervised my dissertation. Back home, we always exchanged emails.

I would always be grateful to him. I keep from him his apprehension of conflicts and methods of resolution at the local level. Bert was thoughtful, humble and collaborative. He helped me grow intellectually and humanly."

Adiam Hagos

Ethiopia

My deepest condolences. He was such a dedicated professor. He will truly be missed.

Jean-Berchmans Nzeyimana

Burundi

Great teacher, researcher, intelligent person.... beyond all things, humble person in his hardworking career. I remember him looking little fuel to travel from Bujumbura to Tanzania with his motor-bike in his research project. Few people could have 1l of fuel by then. as IOB alumni, we travelled with him evenings collecting few litters here and there. his lots of knowledge of the region, he could be with anybody and he was at ease with everybody. all of us who have known Bert Ingelaere, we are deeply surprised and broken heart. we will miss him. condoleances to his family and to his colleagues at IOB. may he rest in eternal peace.

