

Julia Van Dessel

CONTACT DETAILS :

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RESEARCH INTERESTS :

My research focuses on the externalisation of the European Union's border and migration policies, in particular the use of “information and awareness-raising campaigns” to deter irregular migration from West Africa. I take an original interdisciplinary approach to my work, drawing on international political sociology, philosophy, and development anthropology.

EDUCATION :

2019 – 2023 PhD in Political and Social Sciences – Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

Thesis defended on February 7, 2024
Mandat Aspirant F.R.S - FNRS (2019 - 2023)
Bourse Mini-Arc ULB (2018 - 2019)

Thesis title : *L'immobilisation pour horizon. Fabrique et enjeux d'un instrument européen de dissuasion migratoire en Afrique de l'Ouest : les « campagnes d'information et de sensibilisation »*

Thesis jury : Andrea Rea (ULB), promoteur, Julien Jeandesboz (ULB), co-promoteur, Elisa Lopez-Lucia (ULB), présidente, Irene Di Jorio (ULB), secrétaire, Antoine Pécoud (Université Sorbonne Paris Nord), Ilke Adam (VUB)

03 – 09/2023 Visiting Researcher – University of Amsterdam (UvA)

Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences
Institute of Migration and Ethnic Studies

2015 – 2018 MA in European Studies (Summa Cum Laude) - ULB

Institute for European Studies (IEE)

MA in Ethics (Magna Cum Laude) - ULB

Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences

2012 – 2015 BA in Political Science - ULB

Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences

2012 – 2014 BA in Philosophy - ULB

Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences

2010 – 2012 BA in Business Engineering – ULB

Solvay Business School of Economics and Management

PUBLICATIONS :

Articles published in peer-reviewed journals :

-Van Dessel, J., Maâ, A. & Savio Vammen, I. M ., "Can Migrants do the (Border)Work? Conflicting Dynamics and Effects of 'Peer-to-peer' Intermediation in North and West Africa", *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, 38:6, 995-1013, 2023.

-Van Dessel, J., "Externalization through 'awareness-raising': the border spectacle of EU migration information campaigns in Niger", *Territory, Politics, Governance*, 11:4, 749-769, 2022.

-Van Dessel, J., "International Delegation and Agency in the Externalization Process of EU Migration and Asylum Policy: The Role of the IOM and the UNHCR in Niger", *European journal of migration and law*, 21:4, 435-458, 2021.

Book chapters :

-Van Dessel, J., "I Know, Therefore I (don't) Go: The Role of Information in Migration Decision-Making and Irregular Migration Governance" in: *Research Handbook on the Institutions of Global Migration Governance*, Pécoud, A. & Thiollet, H. (eds.), Cheltenham, Edward Elgar, 2023.

-Van Dessel, J., "Sensibiliser sur la migration pour mieux externaliser les frontières : le spectacle des campagnes d'information de l'UE au Niger" dans : *Les frontières des migrations africaines*, Alioua, M. et al. (eds.), Éditions de l'Université de Montréal (coll. Pluralismes) et Éditions de l'Université de Bruxelles (coll. Sociologie), 2023.

Special Issues :

-Van Dessel, J., Maâ, A. & Van Neste-Gottignies, A., "Information Directed Towards Migrants and the (Un)Making of Borders: An Interdisciplinary Perspective Between Countries of Origin, Transit, and Destination", *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, 38:6, 895-900, 2023.

International Conference & Events :

-European Conference on African Studies (ECAS), 3 June 2023, University of Cologne, Germany.

-The European Union in International Affairs (EUIA), 04 May 2023, Egmont – the Royal Institute for International Relations, Belgium

-International Workshop : "De-centring and Contesting Externalisation in West Africa and Beyond", 19 September 2022, SOAS, UK.

-Chair of the Panel : "Migration Policy in West Africa", 19th IMISCOE Annual Conference, 29 June 2022, Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway.

-Invited Guest Speaker at the BIRMM Seminar : "Awareness and Information Campaigns Targeting Migrants", 07 June 2021, VUB, Belgium.

-Co-organizer of the International Workshop : "What do we say to migrants throughout their journey? Disputed communication strategies and informational practices between spaces of origin, transit and destination", 22-23 April 2020, ULB, Belgium.

-International Conference: "Governing Migration outside 'Fortress Europe'", 16-17 September 2019, University of Cambridge, UK.

-Co-chair of the Panel: "What do we say to migrants throughout their journey? Official communication strategies between spaces of origin, transit and destination", European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA), 30 and 31 October 2019, Brussels, Belgium.

Press articles & blog posts :

-Van Dessel, J. & Pécoud, A., "Campagnes de dissuasion massive", *Le Monde diplomatique*, mars 2021, p. 16.

-Van Dessel, J. & Pécoud, A., "A NGO's dilemma: rescuing migrants at sea or keeping them in their place?", *Border Criminologies*, Oxford Law Blogs, 27 April 2020.