

Speakers Bio



Dr. Hanne Beirens

Director of Migration Policy Institute of Europe

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Hanne Beirens is Director of Migration Policy Institute Europe. She specializes in European Union policies related to asylum and migration, human trafficking, labor migration, and youth.

Prior to joining MPI, Dr. Beirens worked as a Lead Managing Consultant for ICF Consulting, where she focused on impact assessments, feasibility studies, and evaluations for the European Commission, with a particular focus on EU asylum and migration policy, as well as developing products within the European Migration Network (EMN), including pan-European studies and the EMN annual report. Topics covered include reception facilities for asylum seekers, unaccompanied children, and non-EU harmonized protection statuses.

Earlier, Dr. Beirens worked as a Research Fellow at the Institute for Applied Social Studies of the University of Birmingham, evaluating services, organizations, and community-based initiatives pursuing the integration of asylum seekers, refugees, and third-country nationals. She also has worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and as an independent consultant for the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO).

She holds a master's degree in race and ethnic relations (with distinction) and a PhD in sociology and ethnic relations on the participation of minors in armed conflict, both from the University of Warwick (UK).

Dr. Caroline Zickgraf

Deputy Director

The Hugo Observatory: Environment, Migration, Politics



Caroline Zickgraf is Deputy Director of the Hugo Observatory: Environment, Migration, Politics. She is also a lecturer at Sciences Po Paris, co-teaching the class “Environment and Migration” with François Gemenne at the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA). Caroline has been involved in several international research projects, including the HELIX project, an EU-funded FP7 programme on high-end climate change (2013-2017). Since its launch in 2016, she has led ULg in the Horizon 2020 “EDGE” project, a partnership between the University of Economics in Bratislava, Sciences Po Paris and the University of Liège on environmental diplomacy and geopolitics. She is also actively involved in ULg’s current ongoing projects, including MIGRADAPT, MISTY and MAGYC. Dr. Zickgraf recently concluded the IMMOBILE project, financed by the Belgian Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS), working with (im)mobile populations in Africa (Senegal, Comoros) and southeast Asia (Viet Nam). In addition to her academic work, she has consulted for the World Bank, ICMPD, and FAO on environmental migration issues. She holds a doctorate in political science and social science from the University of Liège. She also holds a Master of Research in History from Leiden University (The Netherlands), as well as a Bachelor’s degree in History from Michigan State University (USA).



MERVE SUZAN ILIK BİLBEN

Research Asisstant

Akdeniz University, Faculty of Literature, Department of Sociology

Merve Suzan Ilık Bilben is a Research Assistant of Sociology at the Akdeniz University since 2016. She published several articles and book chapters contributing to climate change, migration, and climate justice nexus. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Trade from Istanbul Commerce University and a Master's Degree in Sociology from Akdeniz University. She has held fellowships from the Student Selection and Placement Center of Turkey and the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce. She is currently working on her doctoral thesis by focusing on the socioeconomic effects of climate change in vulnerable regions of Turkey as a Ph.D. Candidate.

Dr. Isaie Dougnon



Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of French and Humanitarian Affairs,

Isaie Dougnon's research examines migration, work, and lifecycle in West Africa. Before coming to Fordham, Isaie was a professor of Anthropology at the University of Bamako in Mali where he taught courses on the anthropology of development, migration, and local knowledge. After publishing his first book, *Travail de Blanc, Travail de Noir* (Karthala 2007),

Dr. Dougnon published several articles contributing to current debates on child labor. His work uses historical and anthropological approaches to offer a local perspective on labor and migration in colonial and post-colonial Africa. From 2008-2012, he directed the UNESCO-University of Bamako research program Water and Migration.

He is currently finishing a book manuscript, *Crises of Passage*, which examines how Malian civil servants engage in secret societies and ritual practices to overcome career impasses and moral crises. Dr. Dougnon has contributed to the debate on the Malian political and humanitarian crisis of 2012 by publishing essays in local and international newspapers and journals. His most recent research examines the crisis of academic freedom and higher education in Mali after the end of dictatorship. He has held several fellowships, including at the Humboldt Foundation, Re:Work (Humboldt University, Berlin), and the Fulbright Foundation. His work has appeared in many journals and edited collections, including *Humanity*, *African Economic History*, *African Identities*, and *Hommes & Migrations*.