

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



University of Antwerp
IOB | Institute of
Development Policy

Cover picture and inside picture taken by Master student Garelle Bacaron during his MobilityWindow research stay in Tanzania

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INTRODUCTION

by Danny Cassimon

MASTER PROGRAMMES

Facts and figures

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023



#completed applications
561



#accepted students
360



#enrolled students
87

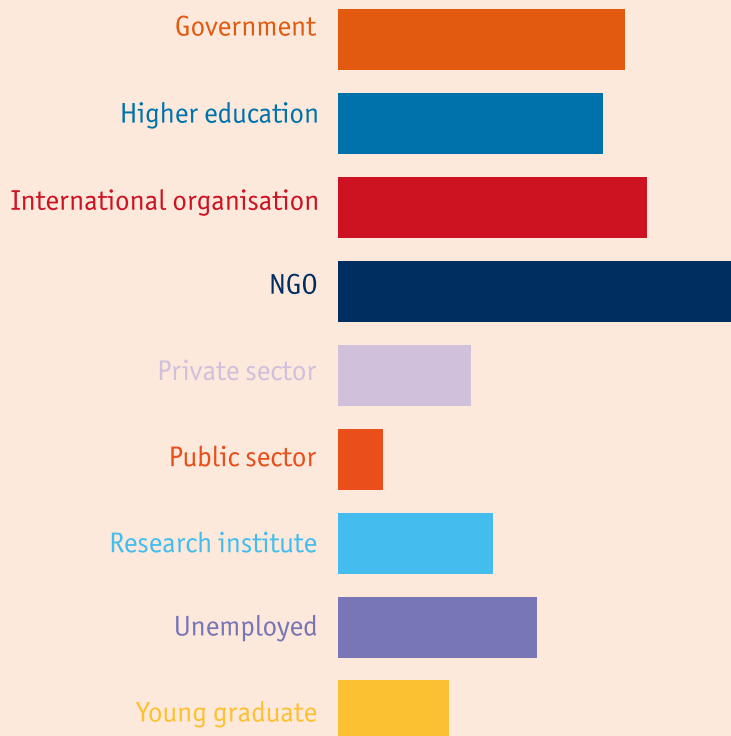
- 25** # Governance and Development
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#VLIR-UOS scholarships
30

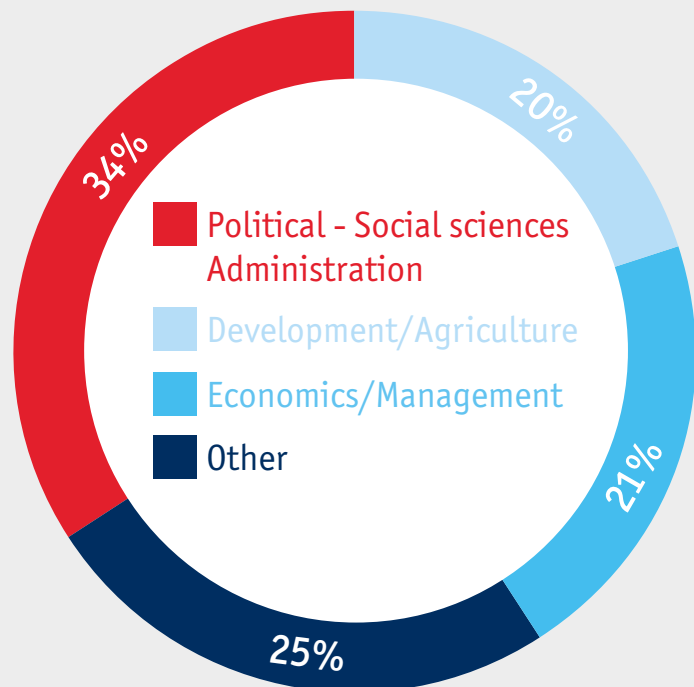


#different nationalities
27



SECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND



The Master programmes

The Institute of Development Policy (IOB) offers high-level education in topics such as migration, human rights, conflict, poverty, inequality, globalisation, and climate change.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Different instruments are used to cooperate: student and staff mobility, research internships, dissertation mobility,

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



GLOBALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- Aims to understand the complex dynamics of globalisation and its impact on development.
- Focuses on issues such as climate crisis, migration, inequality, and poverty.

[Learn more](#)

GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

- Explores governance's role in conflict resolution, peace-building, and sustainable development.
- Offers insights into global development debates and governance challenges.

[Learn more](#)



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

Policy-oriented

research-driven

student-centred

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



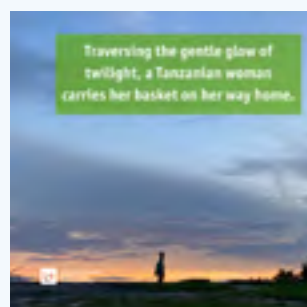
DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT

- Designed for current or aspiring M&E practitioners and researchers.
- Provides theoretical knowledge complemented by practical skills in development evaluation and management.

[Learn more](#)

Mobility Window 2023

Garelle Bacaron from the Philippines concluded an extraordinary six-week research stay in Tanzania, where he actively contributed to the Women Water Watch (wWw) citizen science project alongside a dedicated research team. His engagement exemplifies the global collaboration and impactful initiatives that define our commitment to advancing development studies.



IOB's alumni policy 2023

IOB values lasting connections with its alumni and has developed a robust policy to facilitate networks and collaboration. Through alumni spaces, including a Facebook community, LinkedIn groups, newsletters, and more, IOB fosters engagement. The institute organises various alumni activities, promoting interaction and impact within the development community, including meet-and-greet sessions, alumni in action talks, and impactful award seminars. This strategy not only strengthens alumni bonds but also contributes to South-South cooperation, influencing education, research, and societal services positively.

[Learn more](#)

IOB community event for IOB students, alumni and staff : 9 June 2023 - Antwerp

The event brought together the IOB community for an evening of connection, collaboration, and celebration. The diverse turnout of staff, students, and alumni engaged in thought-provoking discussions on a range of topics, creating a vibrant and memorable experience.■



Alumni event: Citizen Science in Tanzania ...the new magic bullet? : 9 February 2023 Tanzania (Dar Es Salaam)



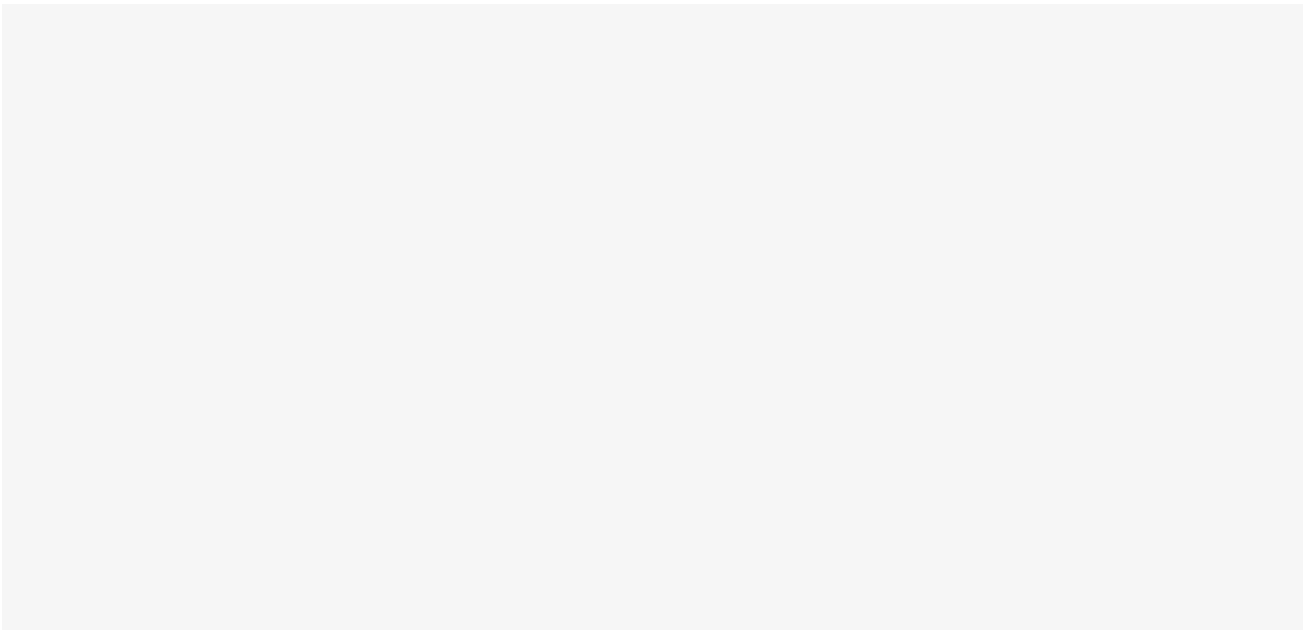
Prizes for Global Research

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



Abdulwahid Panganting Governance and Development

“A Move Forward or a Step Backward? Challenges in Implementing the 2014 Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro in the Philippines.”

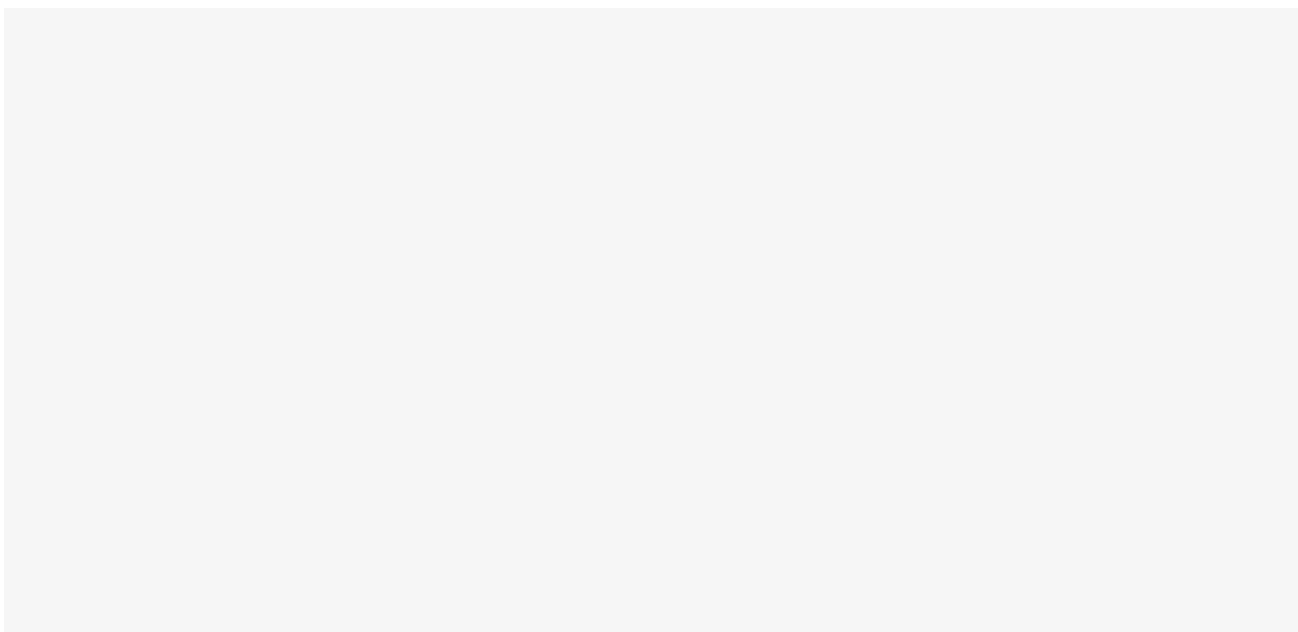
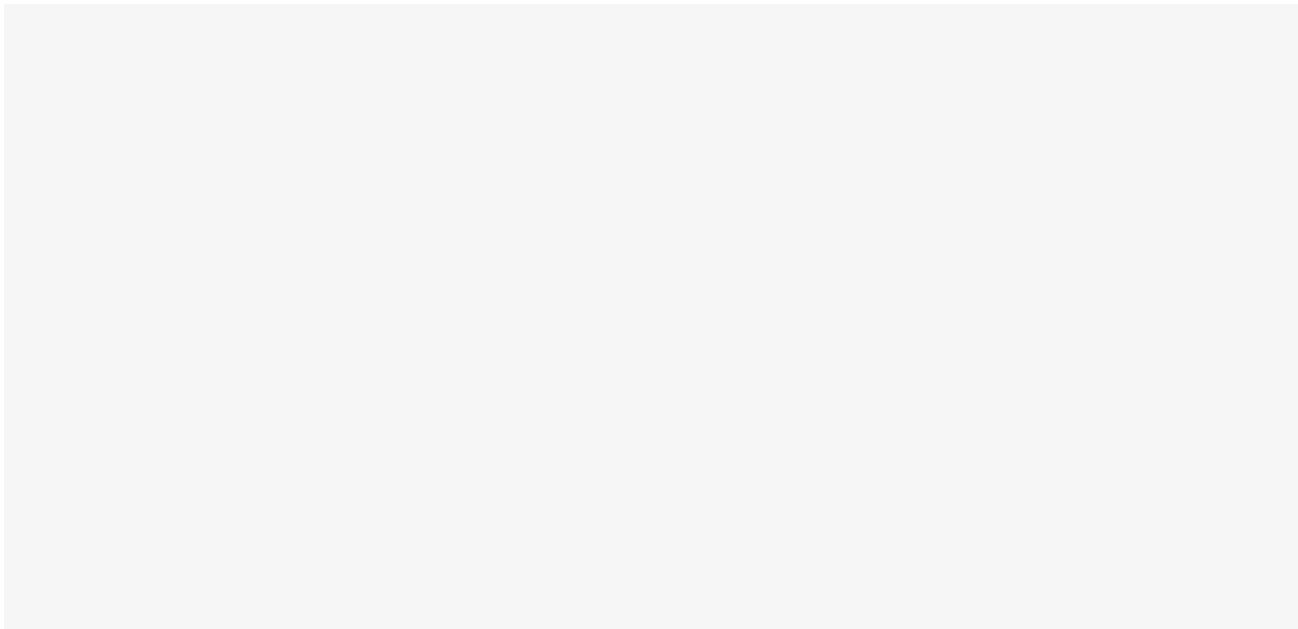




Martha Mutua

Development Evaluation
and Management

“Examining the Sustainable Effects of Cash Transfers on Gender Dynamics, Empowerment, and Resilience: Evidence from Rural Uganda.”



“‘Energise Cameroon’: A New Avenue for Green Remittances? The Migration-Development Nexus in Practice: A Stakeholder Analysis.”

Hannah Downes
Globalisation and Development



Debating Development 2023

Shakin' up the Ivory Tower: Imagining the university as the subject of social transformation

The Debating Development series, which explored the pivotal role of universities in societal transformation amid mounting concerns over inequality and ecological crises, concluded its weekly sessions at Stadscampus UAntwerpen. Running from 6 October to 19 December, each session delved into critical issues such as the politics of knowledge, extractive research practices, and ongoing colonial legacies.

Throughout the series, participants engaged in discussions on the responsibilities of higher education institutions, considering their potential pitfalls and contributions to social change. The sessions featured insightful talks from experts, including Willem Schinkel, Amber Murrey, Swati Kamble, Willem Halffman, Maddie Breeze, and many others, who shared perspectives on managerial structures, competitiveness, labour relations, and the dangers of extractive

scientific research. Historical colonial legacies framing knowledge production and recent attempts to 'decolonise' and diversify universities were explored, shedding light on the complexities of the higher education landscape.

The series also focused on alternative initiatives and potential spaces to reimagine universities and education more broadly. It aimed to foster a collective platform for students, lecturers, facilitators, and speakers to reflect on the possibilities and limitations of the university space for transformative social change. Each session provided an opportunity for participants to collectively imagine alternative university futures that equip individuals with tools for transformative social change both within and outside the university. ■





OTHER IOB STAFF TEACHING ACTIVITIES 2022-2023

IOB contributes to teaching at other faculties within the University of Antwerp and with IOB's partners. Several dissertations at other UAntwerp faculties were supervised by IOB staff.

Debating Development

Gert Van Hecken coordinated the Debating Development series for UAntwerp students, supported by the VLIR-UOS Global Minds program and co-organised with USOS.

Intl. Economics and Intl. Economic Organisations

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

Topics in Development Studies

Faculty of Business and Economics and of Social Sciences students could enroll in this course taught by a team of IOB lecturers, coordinated by Marijke Verpoorten.

Politics of International Finance

This course was taught by George Mavrotas within the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Political Economy of Development

Marijke Verpoorten and Olivier Sterck jointly taught this course in the Master of Political Science, Master of International Relations and Diplomacy, and Master of Social and Economic Sciences.

Sustainable Development

Kristof Titeca teaches 'Sustainable Development' at UAntwerp's Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development (IMDO) for the Biology Bachelor and Environmental Sciences transition program.

Global Justice

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

Gender and Development

Nathalie Holvoet taught this course in the interuniversity Master of Gender and Diversity.

Several staff members lectured at partner institutes in the South:

- **Several courses** at the Catholic University of Bukavu (DR Congo):
 - **Governance of natural resources: core economic principles** by Marijke Verpoorten.
 - **Research Design Course** by Marie-Rose Bashwira, Kamala Kaghoma and Tom De Herdt.
 - **Governance of mineral resources: Global Value Chain approach** by Sara Geenen
 - **Contributions to the DEA** (Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies) in Economics (option socio-economics of natural resources) Economic and Institutional Development (Marijke Verpoorten), Poverty and Inequality (Tom De Herdt) and Qualitative Research Methods (Sara Geenen)
- **Research Design Course** at Université Catholique du Congo by Bossissi Nkuba, Sara Geenen, Albert Malukisa Nkuku and Tom De Herdt.
- **Method Course for the project: "Making Refugee Integration Sustainable: In search of durable relations with host populations in Uganda"** at Mbarara University (Uganda), by Kristof Titeca, Frank Ahimbisibwe and Sarah Vancluysen.

Governance of mineral resources: Global Value Chain approach - the aftermovie

2023 Evaluation Capacity Development (ECD) Seminar

This two-week evaluation capacity development (ECD) seminar funded by the Belgian Development Cooperation's Special Evaluation Office (SEO) brought together leading evaluation experts (members of National Evaluation Societies, VOPEs) in developing countries to strengthen those evaluation societies in taking up the role of developing national M&E capacities and use. More specifically, this seminar enabled 25 evaluation experts - who are members of national evaluation societies - to become driving forces in

strengthening their national M&E systems and their own evaluation societies.

Twenty scholarships, funded by SEO, are available for evaluation experts from 14 partner countries.



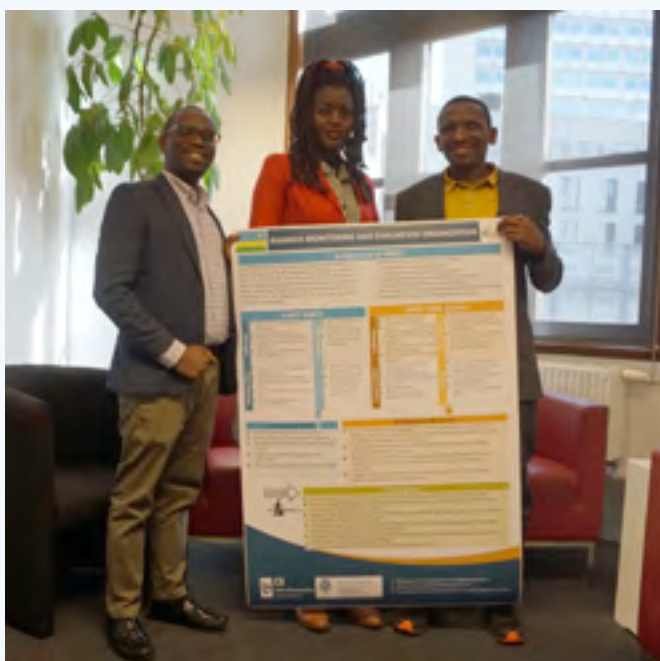
2023 ECD Programme videos

During the training programme, the participants worked together in country groups to make:

- a SWOT analysis of their national monitoring and evaluation system
- a SWOT analysis of their national evaluation society (VOPE)

All these building blocks were composed through country team group work in different workshops throughout the training programme, culminating in a full blown SWOT analysis of both the M&E system and the VOPE as well as a list of future actions to help strengthen the M&E system and VOPE.

Based on these analyses, a poster and video is made for each country team. These outputs help share the outputs of the ECD training with interested (VOPE) stakeholders.



[Watch the videos](#)

ECD Seminar Uganda 2023: the future of evaluation

The “Strengthening National M&E: Challenges & Opportunities for the Future” seminar was a three-day event held from 28 until 30 November 2023 in Uganda. This seminar was funded by the Belgian Development Cooperation’s Special Evaluation Office (SEO) and was designed to empower professionals in the field of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) by addressing the then-current challenges and exploring future opportunities in this domain.

The event brought together leading evaluation experts from around the world, offering a unique platform for learning, collaboration, and innovation. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in interactive workshops, topical sessions, ideas’ lab & co-creation workshops, and an evaluation fair.

[Discover the output](#)



RESEARCH AND OUTREACH



Every year, it is striking to see how much activity is actually going on at the level of the institute in terms of research and outreach. Under the umbrella of the institute’s vision of a just and sustainable world, our researchers cover a broad geographical focus and engage in different ways with a multi-disciplinary approach to dealing with the intrinsic complexities of real-world policy problems and their politically contested nature. Outreach activities range from the more classical policy briefs and opinion pieces to increasingly creative engagements with artists and other types of actors. These can result for instance in photo books, the use of comics or a stronger focus on citizen science and action research. Enjoy the overview of activities, and do not hesitate to look into our social media or our research webpage to find more information on other activities.

A word on outreach & impact pathways

At IOB, we strive to not just communicate our high-quality academic research to the broader community, but also to realise development impact. We do this through a variety of impact pathways. We have elaborated 7 pathways through which -in relation to our research and education activities- we are ‘reaching out’ and trying to create impact on the ground. These will be further elaborated and reflected on in the years to come, and have been adopted in our new research strategy. In the following pages, you will see the icons reflect the pathways that some of our activities have contributed to.

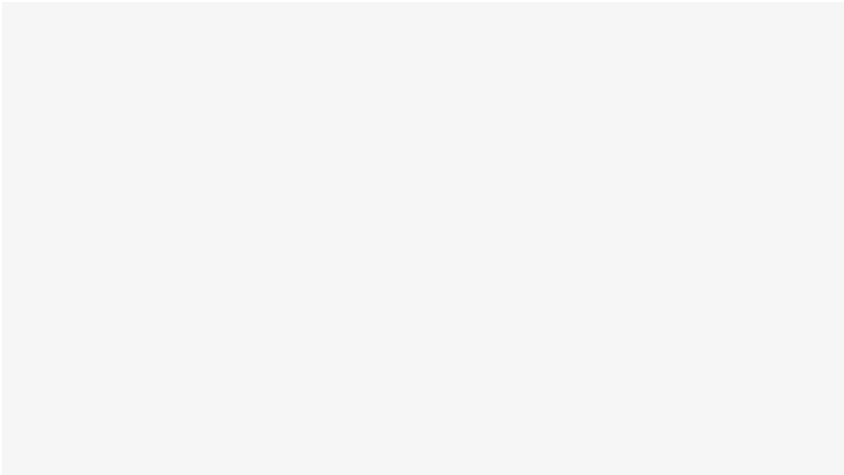


Institute highlights

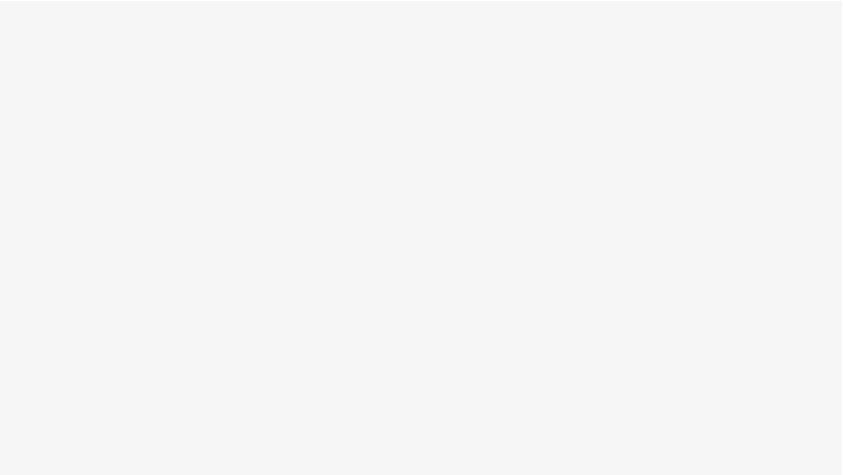
In this segment, we highlight the latest developments and accomplishments that have shaped our institute’s journey throughout the year. From welcoming new members to our ZAP and AAP teams, to showcasing spotlight projects and engaging in impactful outreach activities, this section offers a comprehensive overview of our institute’s vibrant activities and contributions in 2023.

New ZAP members

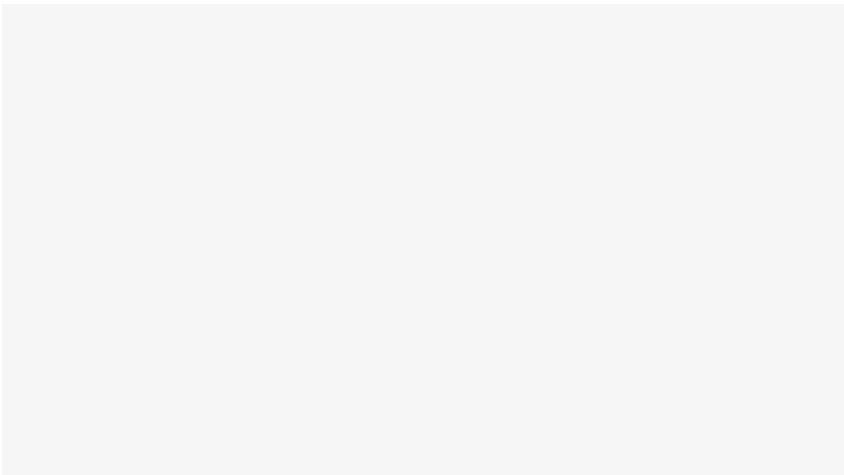
Bossissi Nkuba



Moisés Kopper



Olivier Sterck



New academic assistant members (AAP)

Divin-Luc Bikubanya



Divin-Luc Bikubanya, from DR Congo, joined IOB as a student in the Advanced Masters of Globalisation and Development in 2020-2021. He later became an AAP on 1 March 2023 under the supervision of Prof. Sara Geenen. With a master's degree in economics from the Catholic University of Bukavu (UCB), Divin-Luc is also a researcher at the Centre d'Expertise en Gestion Minière (CEGEMI/UCB), focusing on issues of informality and industrialisation in the extractive sector.

Baudoin Koussognon



Baudoin Ghislain Koussognon, from Benin, joined IOB team on 6 November as an AAP and PhD student under Prof. Marijke Verpoorten and Dr. Nik Stoop. With a Bachelor's in Economics from the University of Abomey-Calavi and a Master's from the African School of Economics, Koussognon has collaborated with several institutions including the National Institute of Statistics and Demographics, UNDP, and the African Development Bank.

IOB research profiles



Meet our research staff



Projects in the spotlight

PSP project

Over the next 5 years, IOB will be coordinating one of the three new Policy Supporting Programmes of VLIR-UOS and ARES, on the theme of Social Protection, Inequality & Inclusive Growth. The consortium consists of many partners, including the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Université Catholique de Bukavu, KU Leuven HIVA Research Institute for Work and Society, and Makerere University in Uganda. ■



ERC project

The ERC Starting Grant InfoCitizen began its activities in July 2023, with the research team joining in October 2023. Alina Kiel (PhD), Berta Fernández Nuez (PhD), Thaís Gonçalves Cruz (joint PhD), Guilherme Queiroz Alves (DOCPRO PhD), Daniela Linkevicius de Andrade (postdoc), and Moisés Kopper (PI) will explore the new forms of datafication and citizenship crystallising among marginalised communities in the Global South. We are joined in our meetings by external collaborators, Prof. Daniel Hirata (UFF, Rio de Janeiro), Prof. Eugenia Motta (IESP, Rio de Janeiro), and Prof. Rogério Barbosa (IESP, Rio de Janeiro).

InfoCitizen combines archival, digital, audiovisual, and ethnographic methods to unpack the politics and poetics of top-down and bottom-up data ecosystems involving both citizens and experts in Brazil, Tanzania, Kenya, Portugal, and Germany. The team has been meeting regularly since November and will host its first workshop on audiovisual methods in January 2024. ■

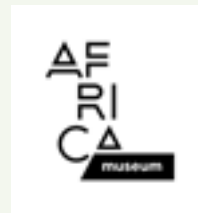
[Visit the ERC webpage](#)



Collaborations with RMCA

This year, IOB was granted two projects in collaboration with the Royal Museum for Central Africa. First, a BELSPO-funded FED-tWIN research profile “Uneven, unsafe and insufficient water access: resource governance in a mineral rush ([WATERRUSH](#))”, on which Dr. Bossissi Nkuba was hired to work for 50% at IOB and 50% at the museum. Second, a 5-year [BELSPO STEREO](#) project, in which IOB colleagues Sara Geenen, Marijke Verpoorten and Bossissi Nkuba are involved, was accepted. The project “EDITOR: Environmental hazards associated with mining activities in the tropics: a holistic risk approach from Eastern DR Congo” aims to use

advanced earth observation techniques to assess how mining activities and related landscape disturbances contribute to geo-hydrological hazards, impacting the environment and population vulnerability in densely populated areas of the DR Congo. The project will benefit from IOB’s expertise and methods in social sciences required to assess the vulnerability of populations exposed to mining-induced environmental changes. ■



Other highlights in 2023



Visit of Caroline Gennez

Belgian development policy in a changing world

In a recent Q&A session at the University of Antwerp, students and a broader audience engaged with Belgium’s Minister of Development Cooperation, Caroline Gennez. The session, hosted by Sara Geenen, delved into topics such as the Belgian development strategy, responses to China’s narrative, challenges in cooperation with DR Congo, and Belgium’s stance on Palestine during the Gaza war. The event provided valuable insights into Belgium’s approach amid global changes and historical considerations. ■



[View the photo album](#)



Institutional
visibility



UNIVERSITY
COOPERATION

Aula Lumumba

On 31 March, the 'Patrice Lumumba lecture hall' was inaugurated at the University of Antwerp. The inauguration was accompanied by different activities, including an academic event organised by IOB colleague Sara Geenen in collaboration with keynote speaker Denis Samnick and IOB students who presented their "Transformative research on colonial legacies & decolonial futures @University of Antwerp" .■



[More info on
UAntwerp webpage](#)

[Read the Exchange to
Change blogpost](#)



Public debate

Cobalt Rush documentary

Cobalt Rush, a documentary film by a team from the University of Bath including IOB postdoc researcher Bossissi Nkuba,, won the 'Best Educational Film Award' and the prestigious 'Premier Award' at the Learning on Screen Awards 2023 in London. The film sheds light on the hardships encountered by cobalt miners in the Democratic Republic of Congo. ■

[Watch the full Cobalt Rush movie](#)

Great Lakes of Africa Centre (GLAC)

The IOB Great Lakes of Africa Centre aims to give more visibility to our research on the Central African Great Lakes Region. The Central African Great Lakes Region stands out as a region of interest for many staff members and other scholars affiliated with IOB, across all research lines. Their work deals with a variety of topics (livelihoods, peace, gender, public services, etc.) and adopts a wide range of disciplinary perspectives. IOB's partnerships with local academic partners in DR Congo, Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania and the publication of our yearbook 'Conjonctures de l'Afrique centrale' also stand witness to IOB's institutional interest in the region.

GLAC seminars & posters

In order to give more visibility to the research taking place at IOB on the region, and to encourage academic debate and exchange, GLAC has launched two initiatives.

On a monthly basis, GLAC organises **online seminars**, providing a forum to both IOB affiliated researchers and external guests to present their research to a growing audience of participants. In 2023, 8 seminars were held.

GLAC also launched a series of **online research posters**, helping IOB staff members working on the region to present their work to interested audiences worldwide and thus to reach out to fellow academics and policy circles. ■

[Visit the GLAC website](#)



Conjonctures de l'Afrique centrale 2023

Conjonctures de l'Afrique centrale 2023 is a collective work by 29 authors, 21 of whom are African researchers working in the South; voices that are too often underrepresented in scientific debates. Themes include feminist perspectives on *agenciétés*, Afrodiasporic identity, resistance, and mining sector changes post-COVID. A timely exploration of post-pandemic shifts, geopolitical dynamics, and governance challenges in Central Africa. ■

[Discover the book](#)



Political Chronicles 2022

Continuing the tradition of *L'Afrique des grands lacs: Annuaire*, this companion volume to *Conjonctures de l'Afrique centrale*, offers a survey of political developments in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda over the course of 2022.

The publication is available as a free, open access download from the IOB website. ■

[Download this book](#)



Congo research network PhD days (7-8 December 2023)

The Congo Research Network organised a third PhD workshop, with a broadened focus on Central Africa. Opportunities for research in DR Congo and the wider region of Central Africa are expanding in Belgium and around the world. We feel it is important to continue to generate interdisciplinary dialogue among the various disciplines, which each have their own canon and research traditions. The event is co-organised with Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the Royal Museum for Central Africa, Université libre de Bruxelles and KU Leuven. ■



State Formation and Resilient Societies

We study states in three modes: underreach (fragile or failed states), reach (developmental states), and overreach (state crime or structural violence). Our goal is to grasp how state attributes like government, territory, law, nation, and power are expressed, and how actions such as legitimation, economic accumulation, security, and services unfold. Examining the evolving dynamics of state reach over time and space requires attention to societal resilience—the capacity of societies to withstand, adapt to, or recover from various challenges including lack of state presence, sudden shocks, or social exclusion.



Public debate



Institutional visibility

Nasser Road - Book publication on political posters in Uganda

This edited volume is the outcome of a 20 year fascination of anti-imperial political posters in Uganda. It offers an overview of these posters, interwoven with photography and essays. The book has received unanimous praise in reviews, from outlets such as Le Monde Diplomatique and FOMU's Trigger. It has been nominated for a number of high-profile prizes, such as Aperture's First Photobook award or Book of the Year by Arles Photo. Numerous book presentations have taken place, including those at the University of Uppsala and Makerere University in

Uganda. The first edition of the book sold out, leading to the printing of a second edition in Uganda for both local and international distribution. The contributors include photographers Badru Katumba and Zahara Abdul, as well as an essay by playwright and essayist Yusuf Serumkuma. ■



Discover this book

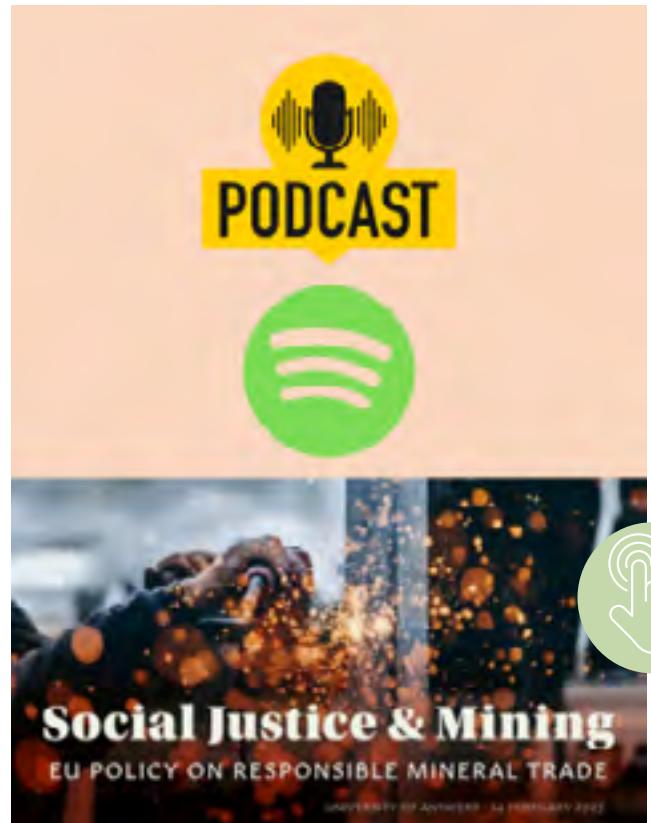


Social justice and mining

In February 2023, UCSIA and USOS organised a conference on social justice and the mineral supply chain from a European perspective. The conference opened a public conversation on the social impacts and environmental degradation of mining, among other challenges posed by the energy transition in relation to mining in what is usually named the 'Global South'. At the same time, the aim was to understand the extent to which EU mineral regulation initiatives take into account (or not) social dynamics and local knowledge in mining communities. The event highlighted the often underestimated role of SMEs in promoting sustainable due diligence and inclusive job creation, emphasising their significance for social justice. While the collection of follow-up data is still ongoing, this research already led to a range of spin-off research projects: on the socio-economic impact of Ebola vs COVID-19; on intra-household evacuation decisions in the wake of the Nyiragongo volcano eruption; on using satellite images and machine-learning to complement survey-based outcome measurements; and on electric cooking.

Check the project webpage for more detailed information on the research progress and the spin-off projects.

Additionally, IOB students created an insightful podcast series that expanded on the conference topics. ■



Cash without conditions

On 14 December, Nathalie Holvoet and Filippo Grisolia attended the "Cash without Conditions" event in Brussels, organised by Eight vzw. In the presence of the Minister of Development Cooperation Caroline Gennez, they presented some major findings from their research on unconditional cash transfers and basic income. Moreover, they discussed the importance of evidence-based research for policymaking ■



Mining technologies

Exciting research on mining technologies and techniques has been conducted by a multidisciplinary CEGEMI team in South Kivu’s artisanal and small-scale mines. From hand-held tools to mechanised ball mills, the team examined the impact of technological transformations on labour organisation, productivity, environment, health, and taxation. Check out their conference, webinar, seminar, and publications in French and English on their website. Don’t miss their captivating photo essay either! ■



Meeting Dr. Denis Mukwege

On April 8, 2023, Dr. Stef Vandeginste had the privilege of meeting Nobel laureate Dr. Denis Mukwege at Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, DR Congo. This encounter marked the launch of a research project on resilience and reparation after sexual violence in Eastern DR Congo, conducted in collaboration with partners from the University of Ghent, Université Evangélique en Afrique, and Université officielle de Bukavu. The meeting provided a unique opportunity to exchange ideas, and Dr. Vandeginste presented Dr. Mukwege with the latest edition of *Conjonctures de l’Afrique centrale*. ■



Podcast interview on Architectures of Hope

Listen to Moisés Kopper’s interview with Alize Ancan, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at City University of New York, on the New Books Network. They discuss Kopper’s recent book, *Architectures of Hope: Infrastructural Citizenship and Class Mobility in Brazil’s Public Housing*. The book explores how communal idealism, electoral politics, and low-income consumer markets facilitated home-ownership for millions of low-income Brazilians in the past decade. Kopper’s ethnography delves into the strategies of grassroots housing

activists and their role in shaping Brazil’s post-neoliberal development through programs like Minha Casa Minha Vida. ■



Global Governance and Inclusive Development

The limitations of (hyper)globalisation, evident in increasing inequalities and social exclusion, drive our focus on the poorest countries and marginalised individuals. Rather than portraying them as victims, our research studies small-scale producers and workers navigating local-to-global dynamics, particularly emphasising women, migrants, children, and people with disabilities as the

human faces of the globalisation paradox. While global governance theoretically addresses this paradox, our research highlights the need for a critical examination of the political processes and normativity underlying current global governance and aid structures, emphasising how policies interact with socio-political dynamics at the local level.



Public debate



Expert advice



Institutional visibility

Refugee policy in Uganda

Kristof Titeca wrote a series of three articles in *The New Humanitarian*, a widely read magazine focusing on humanitarian affairs, addressing issues within Uganda's refugee affairs. Two of them were on corruption and the lack of follow-up; a third one was on a problematic new policy. Each of the three articles had a high visibility and impact: (i) it had high visibility among diverse audiences - from humanitarian audiences both in Uganda and worldwide to the broader Uganda audience (the articles were reprinted in national newspapers), (ii) they had direct policy impact, putting each of these issues high on the policy agenda.



<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/authors/kristof-titeca>



Public debate



Institutional visibility

A collaborative academic journey through conferences and peer insights

Mark Kadigo "In 2023, my academic journey was enriched by participation in various conferences. Among them were the Nordic Conference in Development Economics in Gothenburg, Sweden, the IOB PhD day at the University of Antwerp, Belgium, and the EALE 2023 Conference in Prague, Czech Republic. While in Prague, I experienced my first ride on the Paternoster, a unique lift system—a metaphor for the collaborative effort behind our research. With colleagues like Julie Bousquet, Anna Gasten, Jean-Francois Maystadt, and Colette Salemi, we navigated highs and lows, ultimately submitting our work to a peer-reviewed journal. Additionally, presenting at the CSAE conference in Oxford proved invaluable, leading to publication in *World Development*. Peer collaboration fuels academic growth, shaping perspectives and methodologies." ■



Antwerp Interdisciplinary Platform for Research into Inequality

IOB is part of the Antwerp Interdisciplinary Platform for Research into Inequality (AIPRIL), together with the Centre for Social Policy Herman Deleeck and the Centre for Urban History. The consortium seeks to advance our understanding of how socioeconomic inequalities are changing, what is driving such trends and what -if anything- can be done.

The platform regularly organises PhD training workshops, internal and external seminars which provides an opportunity for (junior) researchers to present their work. ■







Workshop

Pioneers of Capitalism in the Low Countries

Date: Friday 30 June 2023
Location: Brantijser, Sint-Jacobsmarkt 13, Antwerp (s. KS.203)

13h: Introduction
 Prof. Dr. Ivo Marx (AIPRIL)
 Prof. Dr. Bruno Blondé (Centre for Urban History)

13h30: Book presentation
 Prof. Dr. Maarten Prak (Utrecht University)
 Prof. Dr. Jan Luiten van Zanden (Utrecht University)

15h: Reflections
 Prof. Dr. Anne McCants (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
 Dr. Janna Coomans (Utrecht University)
 Dr. Sam Geens (University of Antwerp)
 Drs. Bas Spliet (University of Antwerp)

16h30: Discussion
17h: Reception at Agora Caffe

(Coffee & tea available!)

Register by e-mail at
Bas.Spliet@UAntwerpen.be



Start impact evaluation of skilled-worker visas for refugees with Talent Beyond Boundaries (World Bank funding)

Olivier Sterck obtained a World Bank research grant to do an impact evaluation of skilled-worker visas for refugee talents, which promises to lead to many important academic and societal impacts. For this project, he has a partnership with the organisation

Talent Beyond Boundaries and collaborates with researchers including Jean-François Maystadt (UCLouvain), Jade Siu (University of Reading), Nour Moussa (in consultancy for IOB) and Nada Rostom (IOB). ■

Environment and Sustainable Development

The intertwining issues of environmental/ climate change and poverty/inequality have become increasingly central on the international policy agenda, giving rise to heated debates on multi-level governance structures. The urgency of these challenges adds to the complexity, with sustainable development now framed within the intricate context of a 'green economy,' relying on market-based conservation mechanisms

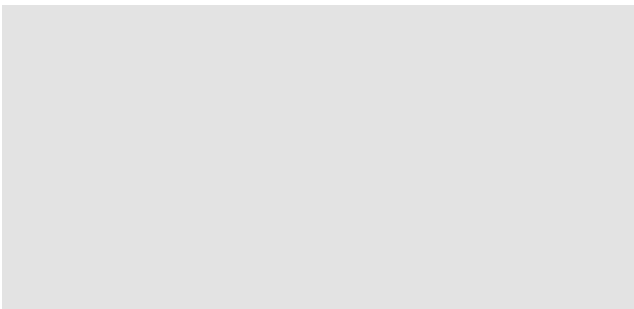
and conditional finance instruments. Our research delves into the dynamics and interactions at global, national, and local levels, where actors and policies grapple with the complexities of tackling climate change and ensuring the provision of global public goods, all within the context of socio-political struggles and unequal access to natural resources.



Health in ASGM

In 2021, a team conducted research in Kamituga, DR Congo, on how artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) affects health and how to protect workers. In September 2023, the team went back to organise several outreach activities in collaboration with UCB and CEGEMI. The column on the right shows the impressive list of outputs and activities of this team's research and outreach activities.

[Visit the project webpage](#)



Watch the aftermovie



CEGEMI | **University of Antwerp** | **VIROS** | **fwo**

1 RESEARCH PROJECT
13 ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS
3 CONFERENCES
100 PICTURES
1 COMIC STRIP
56 SENSITIZATION POSTERS
1 EXHIBITION
12 MAPS
136 PAIRS OF BOOTS
100 REUSABLE SANITARY PADS
4 PUBLIC TOILETS
16 TEAM MEMBERS
4 FUNDERS

1 WEBSITE
WWW.UANTWERPEN.BE/EN/PROJECTS/ASGM

How does work in artisanal and small scale mining affect health ?

How to protect workers?

Our team conducted research in Kamituga in 2021. In September 2023 they went back to share information, discuss with workers and contribute to better protection

Towards a decolonial turn in the evaluation of 'development' and 'conservation' programmes

Linda Khumalo & Gert Van Hecken spotlight knowledge asymmetries in 'development' and 'conservation' programmes, challenging the top-down evaluation practices rooted in colonial legacies. Their transformative approach calls for respecting local contexts, addressing power dynamics, and redefining evaluation as a tool for social transformation. Linda will start as a postdoc on the decolonial turn in development evaluation ■

[Read the article](#)

Construction in Bukavu

In April 2023, the team of the VLIR TEAM project 'From handmade gravel to handmade urbanism' organised a first meeting with all stakeholders to officially launch the project. On this occasion, the researchers collaborated with several organisations, associations and companies to present their activities in the form of a poster. ■

[Take a look at the posters](#)

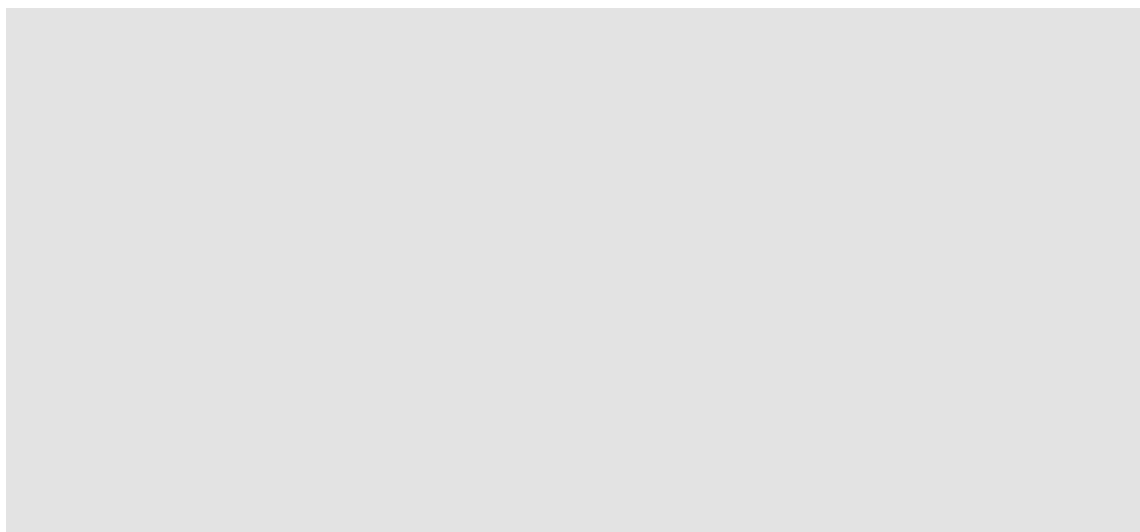


Blog series 'Debt and Green Transition'

Several IOB colleagues contributed to the EADI blog series 'Debt and Green Transition' to examine and discuss the multiple ways in which debt and climate change are intertwined. The series discussed variations of the climate change governance tools which promote debt to 'green' the economic system or finance the climate transition. These include, among others, green and

blue bonds, green microfinance, and blended finance. The series was launched through an online event in which the authors of the blog series discussed their view on the relationship between debt and climate governance, in conversation with academics and activists who are working at the intersection between climate breakdown, political economy, and socio-ecological justice. ■

[Read the blogposts here](#)



[See the video of the launch here](#)

FWO Instagram takeover by Lara Collart

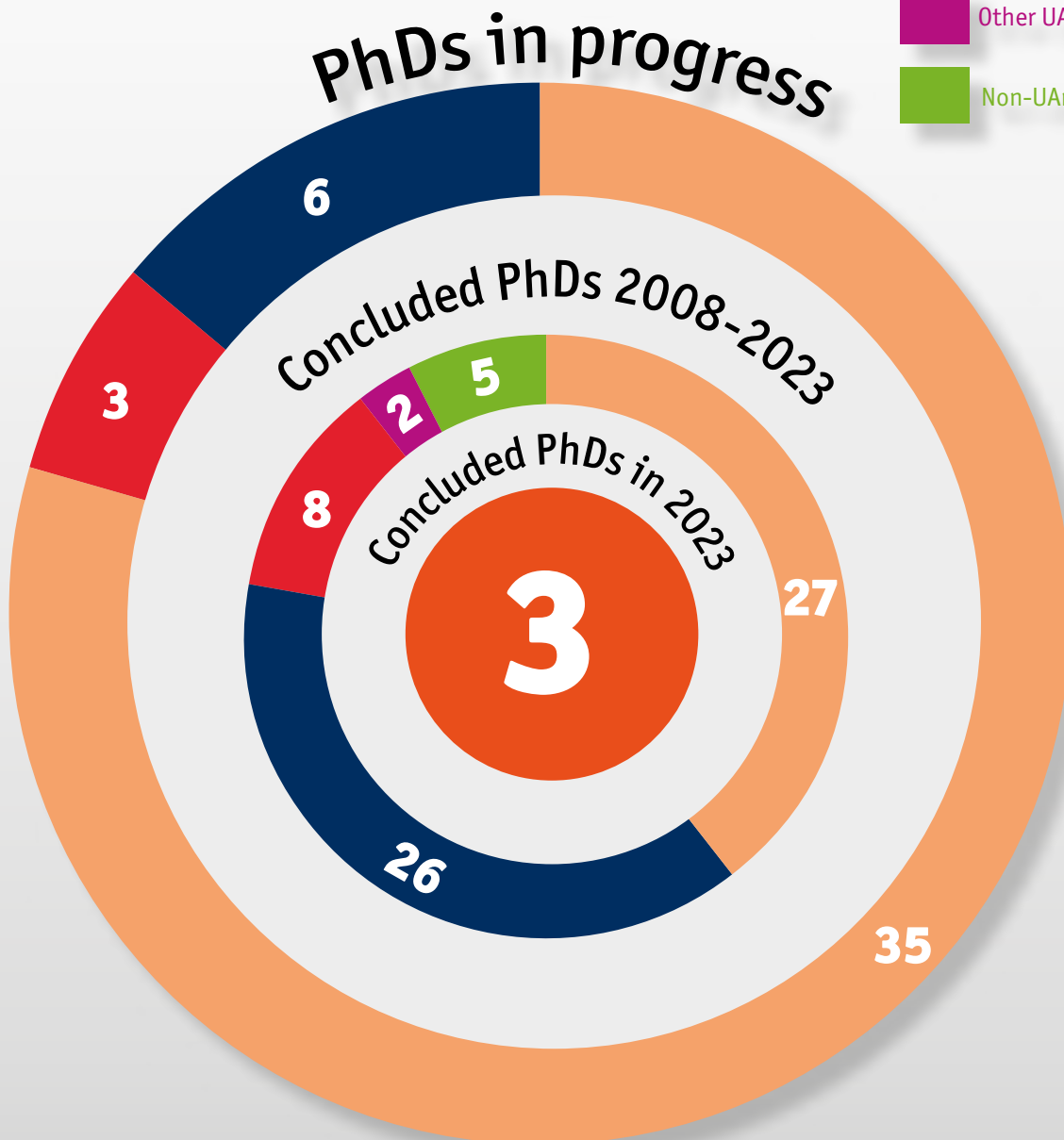
Our colleague Lara Collart took over the FWO Instagram account in April 2023! Lara is a PhD candidate, focusing on the intersection of environmental and development economics. Her research examines cooking habits and charcoal consumption in Eastern DR Congo. Read the insights from her fieldwork in Goma. ■



PhD training at IOB

As part of the Antwerp Doctoral School, IOB offers a multidisciplinary doctoral programme related to its institutional research agenda which leads to a PhD in Development Studies. The institute also cooperates with its sister faculties of Business and Economics and Social Sciences for disciplinary PhDs on development issues.

CONCLUDED PHDS 2008-23 (INNER CIRCLES)
AND PHDS IN PROGRESS (OUTER CIRCLE)



Defended IOB PhDs in 2023

> PHD EVERT WAETERLOOS

Agrarian reform and decentralisation in South Africa: can donor brokerage break the mould? Explorations in the complex management of official development assistance

Supervisor : Prof. Nadia Molenaers (IOB, University of Antwerp)



> PHD SIMON MARIJSSE

Ambient technologies : an ethnography of extractive pathways in Eastern DR Congo

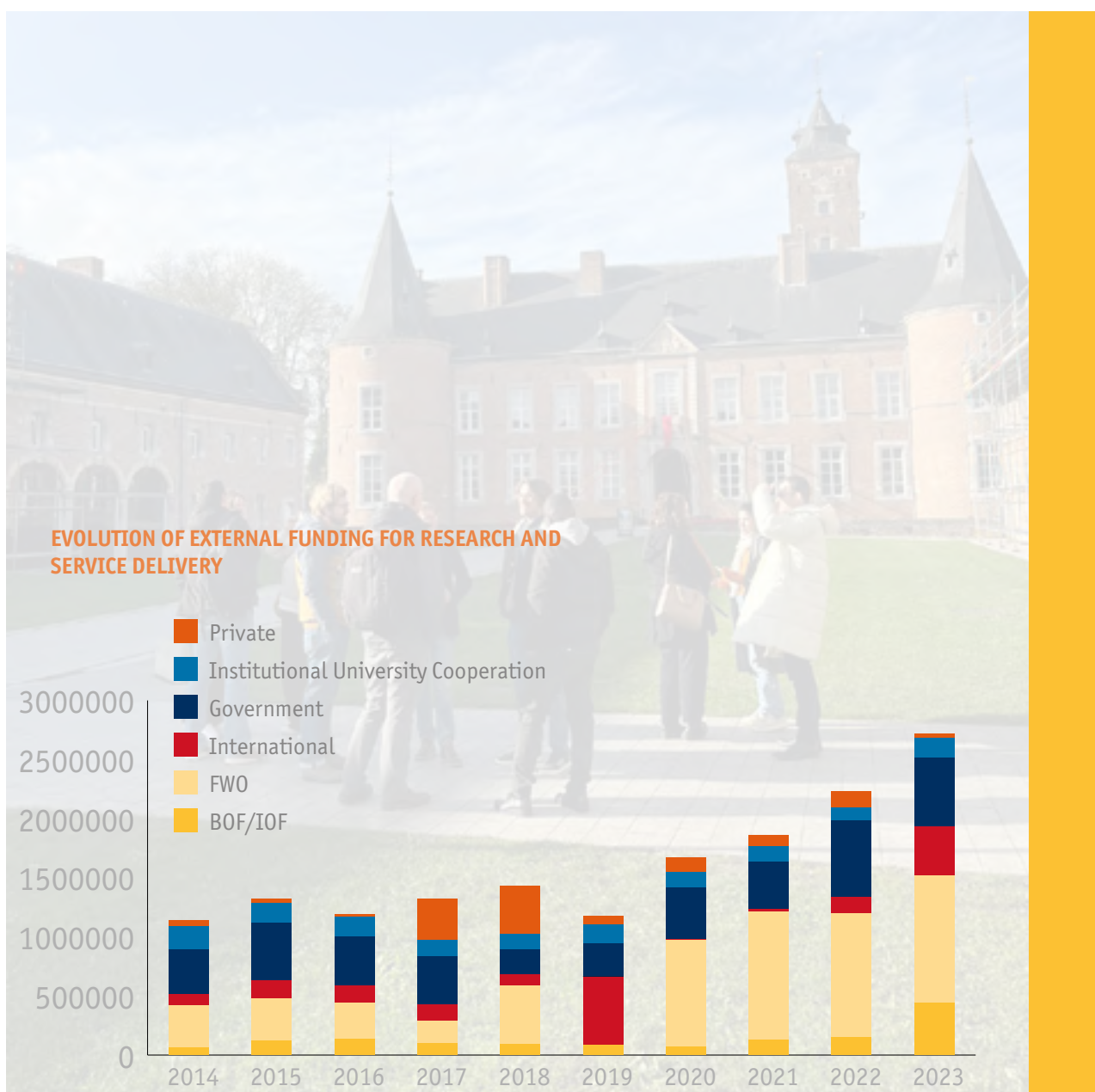
Joint PhD IOB & KU Leuven

Supervisors: Prof. Sara Geenen (IOB), Dr. Boris Verbrugge (KUL) and Prof. Filip De Boeck (KUL)



[More information about ongoing PhD research](#)

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



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

The table below provides an overview of the regular budget outturn for 2023, compared to previous year's results. The basic annual endowment from the Flemish Government provides the lion's share of the regular budget,

and amounted to about €2.5 million euro in 2023. The University of Antwerp structurally adds a fixed matching annual endowment of €220,000. Other miscellaneous regular income sources add about €215,000 euro. As a result, IOB had an actual regular 2023 income of about €2.96 million euro, about 110.000 lower than budgeted.

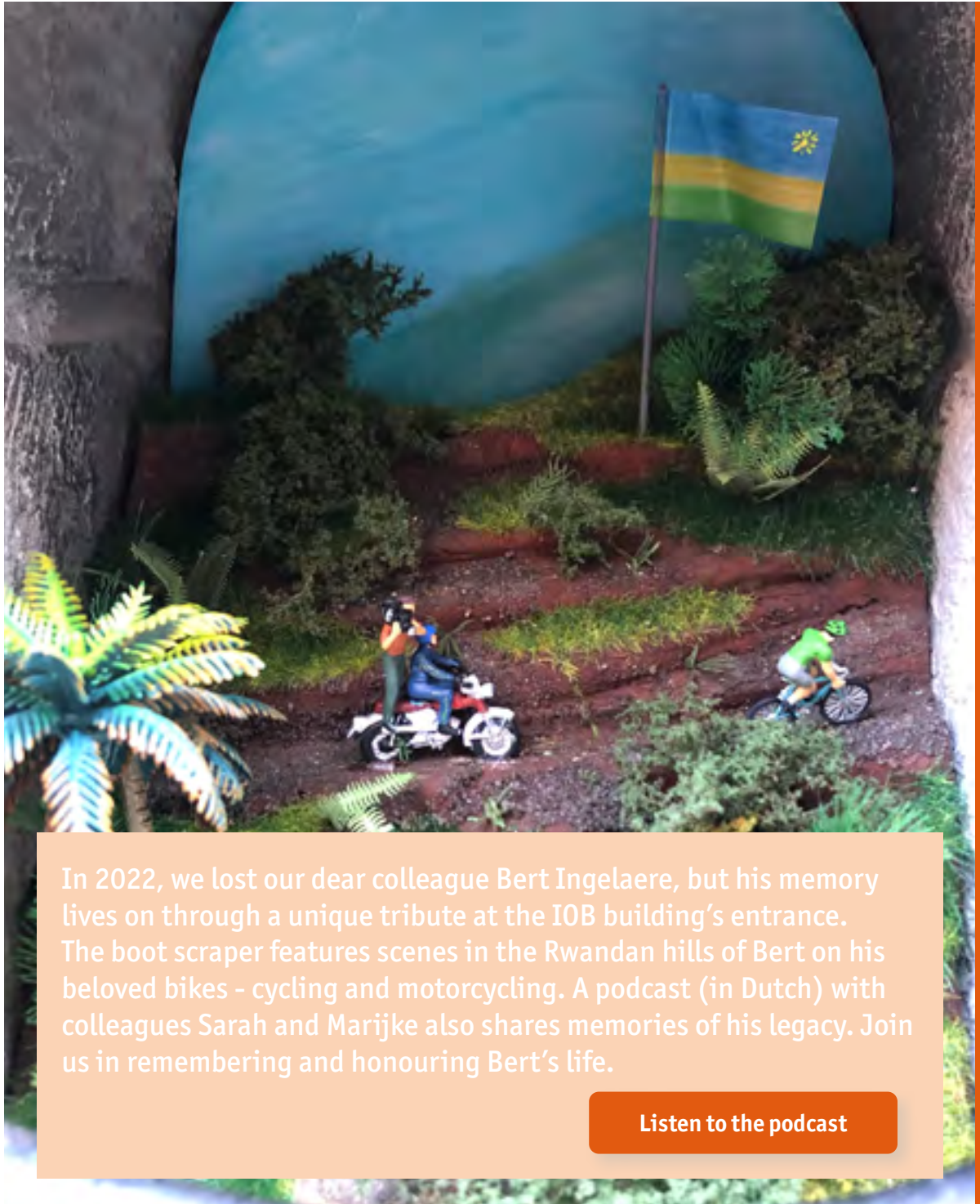
BUDGETARY IMPLEMENTATION IN 2022 AND 2023 (IN EUR)	2022		2023		
	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	%
Income:					
Core funding Flemish Government	2,320,639	2,411,931	2,566,957	2,527,698	98%
UAntwerp funding	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	100%
Other miscellaneous income	312,361	289,404	288,000	215,157	75%
o/w exempted payroll taxes	80,000	84,207	0	0	0%
scholarship administration fee	65,000	64,093	60,000	38,979	65%
Total income	2,853,000	2,921,335	3,074,957	2,962,855	96%
Expenditure:					
Personnel costs	2,740,000	2,666,522	2,956,000	2,971,241	101%
Tenured academic staff	1,209,000	1,170,329	1,257,000	1,248,670	99%
Other academic staff	1,004,000	984,129	1,094,500	1,116,329	102%
Support staff	527,000	512,064	604,500	606,242	100%
Operating expenses	402,000	393,200	397,000	420,654	106%
Total expenditure	3,142,000	3,059,722	3,353,000	3,391,895	101%
Net result	- 289,000	-138,387	- 278,000	-429,040	

Total realised expenditures amounted to €3.39 million. Of that total, personnel costs represented about €2.97 million in 2023, which was about €15,000 higher than budgeted, while operating expenses added about €420,000, again slightly higher than budgeted. Overall, the net budgetary outturn leads to a deficit of about €429,000 in 2023, that was covered using the earmarked institutional reserve funds, which now stand at about €1.7 million at the end of 2023.

Apart from its regular income, IOB also attracts additional income from a broad range of external sources. The figure on page 36 combines the data on external

research funding registered by the University of Antwerp's Research, Innovation & Valorisation department with the research component of IUC projects, where IOB staff participate as project leaders. As the figure highlights, total additional external finance amounted to more than €2.6 million in 2023, an increase of about €400,000 compared to 2022, and an all-time high. Recent years also show a much more diversified portfolio, with a substantial part coming from Research Foundation-Flanders (FWO) in the form of predoc and postdoc scholarships.

PEOPLE AT IOB



In 2022, we lost our dear colleague Bert Ingelaere, but his memory lives on through a unique tribute at the IOB building's entrance. The boot scraper features scenes in the Rwandan hills of Bert on his beloved bikes - cycling and motorcycling. A podcast (in Dutch) with colleagues Sarah and Marijke also shares memories of his legacy. Join us in remembering and honouring Bert's life.

[Listen to the podcast](#)

Bureau

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

Commissions and chair persons

- PhD Commission: Stef Vandeginste
- Social Committee: Nadia Molenaers
- Library Committee: Danny Cassimon

Master programmes

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

Secretariats

- Institute coordinator: Vicky Verlinden
- Research coordinator: Frédéric Huybrechs
- Research and PhD secretariat: Katleen Van pellicom
- Financial secretariat: An Vermeesch
- Communications: Joëlle Dhondt
- Flemish interuniversity cooperation: Marjan Vermeiren

Scientific Advisory Board

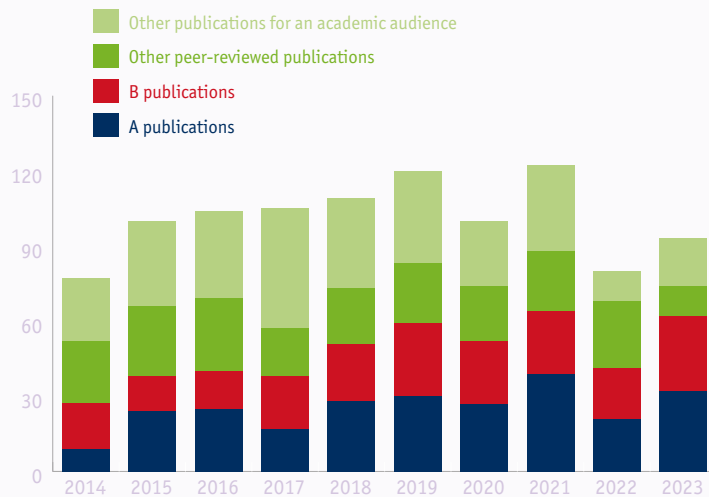
- Hannelore Beerlandt - CEO AgriCord, chair Board Enabel
- Geske Dijkstra – Professor, Erasmus University Rotterdam
- Melissa Leach - Director, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Brighton
- Kate Meagher – Associate professor, London School of Economics and Political Science
- Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni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

IOB PUBLICATIONS

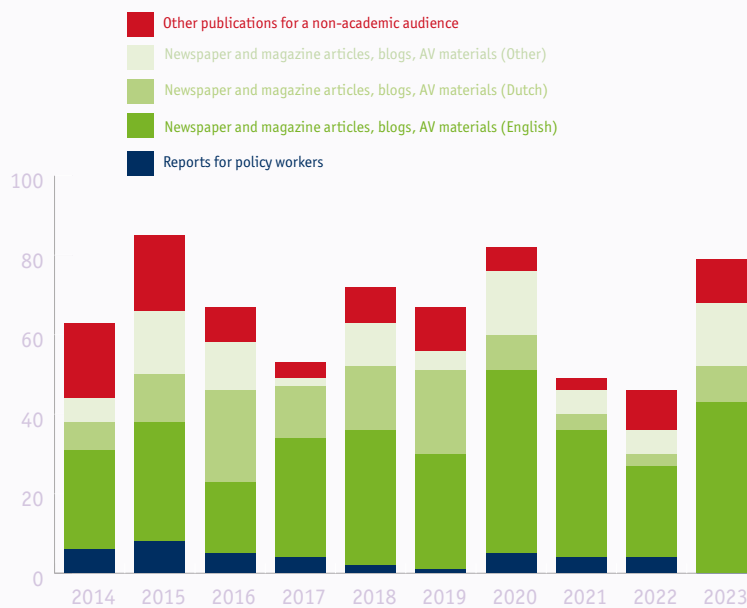
Facts and figures on research and outreach

FIGURE 1: IOB PUBLICATIONS FOR AN ACADEMIC AUDIENCE *

* Data as available in February 2023.
Source: Academic Bibliography
University of Antwerp.



IOB PUBLICATIONS FOR A NON-ACADEMIC AUDIENCE*



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

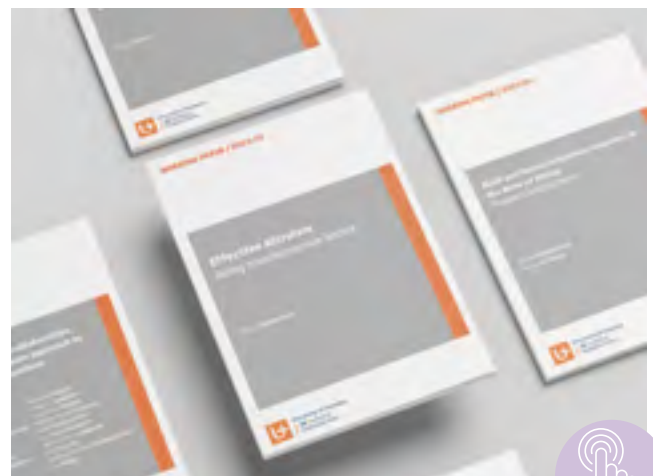
Other open access publications on the IOB website include *Political Chronicles of the African Great Lakes Region* and the archive of the *Yearbook of the Great Lakes Region* (1996 until 2016).

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

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



Discussion papers 2023



Working papers 2023



Analysis and policy briefs 2023



Overview all 2023 publications of IOB staff

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