

Annie Niessen, Ph.D.

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Highly educated professional with 8+ years of hands-on experience in **international relations, institutional communication, and public information in various international settings in both Europe and the US:** the United Nations, several academic and research institutions, a diplomatic representation, a multinational company, and several university councils as well as students' and researchers' associations. Fluent in **English and French**. Strong **analytical and research skills**, as well as **writing and journalistic skills**. Strong experience with the creation and management of a variety of **communications materials and strategies**. Strong experience with **project management and funding applications**. Comprehensive **understanding of the UN system**. Proficient in **public speaking and presentations to varied audiences**. Can work on **tight deadlines** while **handling stress**, provide **timely input** to senior executives, **prioritize** tasks, and effectively **collaborate with other team members**. Excellent **networking skills** to enhance collaborations and partnerships.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ASSOCIATE PRESS OFFICER – FRENCH

United Nations, New York (USA) - Meetings Coverage Section, DGC

Sept. 2023 – Current

Cover Security Council, General Assembly (UNGA78), and Committees meetings (2nd, 3rd, and 6th).

POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (USA) - Center for Political Science and Economics

Sept. 2021 – Aug. 2023

Managed my research project on EU institutions' legitimacy and communication in times of health, economic and security crises, wrote peer-reviewed publications, and presented at conferences.

LECTURER (*Professeure associée*), POLITICAL SCIENCE

University of Liège (Belgium) - Political Science Department, Faculty of Law and Political Science

Sept. 2020 – Aug. 2023

Taught a graduate course on EU institutions' communication on enlargement policy and crisis response and supervised master's theses in the European politics program.

PH.D. CANDIDATE, POLITICAL SCIENCE / EUROPEAN UNION POLITICS

University of Liège (Belgium) - European Studies Unit, Faculty of Law and Political Science

Jan. 2017 - Jul. 2021

Managed my research project on EU institutions' communication on enlargement policy, wrote a book-length manuscript and scientific papers, spoke at academic conferences and outreach events.

JUNIOR EXECUTIVE & COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

Interparking, Brussels (Belgium)

Jan. - Dec. 2016

Supported the CEO and the Marketing-Communications Manager with various administrative (agenda, meetings organization) and communication (digital platforms, translations, activity news).

SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATOR

University of Liège (Belgium) - European Studies Unit, Faculty of Law and Political Science

Sept. - Dec. 2015

Write a book chapter on the British political parties' discourse on Brexit for an academic publication on EU institutions and policy.

COMMUNICATIONS INTERN – Aug. 2014 - Oct. 2014

Wallonia-Brussels Delegation, Embassy of Belgium, The Hague (Netherlands)

Managed digital and printed communication (newsletter, creation of a brochure, press reviews) and outreach events organization and follow-up, represented the Delegation at diplomatic events.

EDUCATION

PhD POLITICAL SCIENCE

University of Liège (Belgium)

2021 (PhD viva: July 1st, 2021)

Dissertation Title: A Tale of Europe(anness): Interpretations of the "European State" in the Discourse of the Political Institutions of the European Union

MA GOVERNMENT, specialization in SECURITY STUDIES (+ CERTIFICATE IN INTELLIGENCE)

Johns Hopkins University (USA, remote, asynchronous)

Expected 2025 (part-time), Current GPA: 4.0

Dissertation Topic: Institutions' Legitimacy and Citizen Engagement in the United States and the European Union

MA COMMUNICATION, specialization in INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

University of Liège (Belgium)

2015, Summa Cum Laude, Valedictorian

Dissertation Title: Bidding farewell? On the assessment of the structural or situational nature of the current crisis surrounding David Cameron's prospective referendum on Britain's continued membership of the EU

ERASMUS EXCHANGE, English language and culture

University of Leeds (UK)

Sept. 2012 – Jan. 2013, Magna Cum Laude

BA GERMANIC LANGUAGES, specialization in ENGLISH and DUTCH

University of Liège (Belgium)

2013, Cum Laude

VISITING POSITIONS

AS A RESEARCHER

- **University of Pittsburgh** (USA) – June 2022 (one month)
- **Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe** (Switzerland) – Jan. 2020 (one month)
- **University of Amsterdam** (Netherlands) – Sept.-Nov. 2018 (three months)
- **European University Institute** (Italy) – Nov.-Dec. 2017 (two months)

AS A GUEST SPEAKER

- **Bertelsmann Foundation** (July 2023)
- **University of Liège** (March 2023)
- **Harvard University** (May 2022)
- **Princeton University** (March 2022)
- **Sofia University** (April 2019)
- **University of Amsterdam** (Sept. and Nov. 2018)

ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATIONS & SCIENTIFIC VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

SCIENTIFIC REVIEWER – *Journal of Common Market Studies* (2023), *Politique Européenne* (2023)

SPECIAL ISSUE CO-COORDINATOR – *De Europa: European and Global Studies Journal* – “Multilingualism and the EU” (2023)

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER – Interdisciplinary scientific journal *Normes* published at the Presses Universitaires de Liège (2020-present)

CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF – Political science scientific journal *Cahiers de Science politique de l'Université de Liège* (2019-2021)

MEMBER JURY for “Aux encre citoyens” (contest of philosophical essays for high school students) organized by Mnema and Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (2022)

COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENT MANAGER (& FOUNDING MEMBER) – *Polidoc*, research association for young political scientists (2018-2020): organized research workshops, webinars and social events, managed digital communication, designed printed materials (flyers, posters), events follow-up (surveys, photos dissemination)

COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENT OFFICER – *PhD candidates' network of the University of Liège* (2017-2019): organized and coordinated outreach events, managed digital communication and event promotion, designed printed materials (flyers, posters), events follow-up (surveys)

ELECTED STUDENT/RESEARCHER REPRESENTATIVE AT UNIVERSITY COUNCILS (University of Liège): Council of the Scientific Staff of the Political Science Department (2019-2020); Council for the Staff in Law and Political Science (2018-2020); Bureau of Doctoral Affairs (2018-2019); Senate for the Studies in Multilingual Communication (2013-2014); Council of the Department of Modern languages and literatures (2011-2012); Senate of the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts (2011-2012)

EVENT VOLUNTEER for *EU Open House*, Embassy of Belgium in the US (2023); *Ribbon Campaign*, Think Pink Belgium (2019); *Annual Charity Gala*, Liège aide Haïti (2010)

AWARDS and FUNDING

APSA Centennial Center Grant – 2022

American Political Science Association (USD 2,500)

Jean Monnet EUCE Summer Research Scholar Grant – 2022

University of Pittsburgh (USD 2,500)

Julie Dehay Award – 2022

Dehay Foundation (EUR 3,000)

B.A.E.F. Postdoctoral Fellowship – 2021

Belgian American Educational Foundation (USD 50,000)

Doctor Europaeus (“European PhD”, in addition to PhD title) – 2021

European University Association

Jean Gol Award – 2019

Jean Gol Foundation (EUR 2,500)

Henri Rieben research grant – 2019

Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe (CHF 3,000)

Vibeke Sørensen research grant – 2017

European University Institute, with the support of the European Commission (EUR 1,300)

Various travel grants and sponsorship for conference organization – 2017-2023

Doctoral fellowship – 2017

University of Liège (EUR 100,000)

Valedictorian – 2015

MA Communication – University of Liège

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

The European Union's Interpretations of Europe-anness: Discourse, Enlargement, and Legitimation (Book, forthcoming 2023)

Ideas and Legitimation: The European Central Bank's Discourse During the Eurozone and Covid-19 Crises (forthcoming Dec. 2023)

Legitimacy and Soft Power: The EU Leaders' Legitimation Discourse on Twitter during the Russo-Ukrainian and Covid-19 Crises (*Journal of Cross-Regional Dialogues*, forthcoming Dec. 2023)

Researching the Institutions' and International Organizations' Discourse: A Methodology for Grey Literature and Archives, In: *Conducting Scientific Research: Instruments and Processes*, Presses Universitaires de Liège (book chapter, 2023)

La communication de la Commission sur l'identité européenne dans le cadre des demandes d'adhésion et des élargissements (*Communication & Organisation*, 2020)
Le paradoxe anglais (*Le labyrinthe européen - Eléments et principes de l'Union européenne*, in Michel and Habran, 2016)

JOURNALISTIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Quelle place pour les valeurs politiques au sein de l'UE ? (The Conversation France, 2021)
L'Etat européen sous toutes ses coutures (MT180 3-minute PhD thesis presentation, 2021)
L'identité européenne : un concept malléable ? (Podcast series "A contre-courant" UR Cité, 2021)
The Bill of Obligations, Richard Haass (2023) ; *L'incroyable histoire de la géographie*, Simmat, Pitte & Bercovici ; *Culottées*, Pénélope Bagieu (2020) ; Olympe de Gouges, Catel & Bocquet (2021) – Book reviews for University of Liège's Summer Reading Lists

WORKING PAPERS

Democratic Legitimacy Across the Pond: Input Legitimacy and Citizen Participation in the United States and the European Union
Threat or Opportunity: The EU Commission's Discourse on Artificial Intelligence (co-authored paper)
Communicating in Crisis: A Comparison of the EU Institutions' Argumentative Discourse during Political, Economic, and Health Crises

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association (Quebec, 2022), **Midwest Political Science Association** (Chicago, 2022), **European Union Studies Association** (Pittsburgh, 2023; Miami, 2022; Denver, 2019), **Southern Political Science Association** (San Antonio, 2022), **International Political Science Association** (Online, 2021; Brisbane, 2018), **Council for European Studies** (Online, 2021), **UACES** (Online, 2020), **European Consortium for Political Research** (Online, 2020), **Hebrew University of Jerusalem** (2018), **University of Amsterdam** (2018), **University of Liège** (2018), **Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences** (Brussels, poster, 2018), **Euroacademia** (Florence, 2017)

PANEL CHAIR AND DISCUSSANT ROLES

American Political Science Association (Quebec, 2022), **European Union Studies Association** (Pittsburgh, 2023; Miami, 2022), **Midwest Political Science Association** (Chicago, 2022), **International Political Science Association** (Online, 2021); **University of Liège** (2020, 2018)

ORGANIZED AND COORDINATED EVENTS

"Working at the European Parliament" workshop (online, 2022), **"The Blue Blook Traineeship at the European Commission" workshop** (online, 2022), **Polidoc's teambuilding day** (Aubel, 2019, 2021), **"How to write a scientific paper in social sciences" workshop** (Liège, 2020), **"Médias, Émotions et Politiques" symposium** (Liège, 2019), **"Discourse Analysis" workshop** (2019), **Polidoc's monthly events** (2018-2020), **"How to conduct interviews" workshop** (2018), **ULiège PhD network's three annual events** (2017-2019), **12th Research Afternoon of the Department of Political Science** (Liège, 2018), **"Sit down and write!" workshop** (Liège, 2018)

LANGUAGES & COMPUTER LITERACY

French (native) – **English** (fluent – TOEFL-iBT 2022: 108/120) – **Dutch** (intermediate) – **Spanish** (beginner) – **German** (beginner)

Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, SharePoint) – **Zoom** – **Teams** – **Canva** – **Photoshop**