

**Prof. dr. Werner (Édouard Joseph) de Saeger**

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**PROFILE**

I am an interdisciplinary academic, with a broad focus on international affairs and geopolitics, particularly the intersections of religion, law, and politics, both from historical and contemporary perspectives. In the recent past, I have focused on politico-religious terrorism and security matters.

I currently teach at PXL University of Applied Sciences & Arts in Hasselt and at the University of Cambridge, with continuous outstanding student evaluations.

I have substantial international research experience, with field research in Italy, Vatican City, Israel, Turkey, and Germany, and research fellowships at the Sorbonne in Paris, Gladstone's Library in the United Kingdom, and twice at Harvard's Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection in Washington DC.

My most recent funding comes from the EU: a ReiRes fellowship in the Spring of 2019 for research in Paris (EPHE) and Bologna (FSCIRE).

My most recent article is peer-reviewed and published by Brill in the Spring of 2019: *Contextualising Malaysia's Islamic Law: a Nuanced Perspective*.

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

2016 – ...	Lecturer at the <b>PXL University of Applied Sciences &amp; Arts</b>
2015 – ...	Part-time professor and tutor at the <b>University of Cambridge</b> (Madingley Hall)
2015 – ...	Founding professor and chairman at the <b>Alviella Institute</b>
2013 – 2017	Lecturer and tutor at the <b>University of Oxford</b> (St Peter's College, Regent's Park College, Kellogg College, Continuing Education)

**MILITARY POSITION**

Since October 15<sup>th</sup> 2018, I am an active member in the Reserve of the Belgian Armed Forces, battalion ISTAR (Heverlee) Chasseurs à Cheval – Jagers te Paard, where I focus on geopolitics and security issues, both local and international (recruited at the military rank of higher officer: major).

**EDUCATION**

<b>University of Brussels</b>	PhD, 2011-2015 (doctoral thesis on Religion in International & Comparative Law: United States Supreme Court jurisprudence on the First Amendment to the Constitution) JD, <i>Cum Laude</i> , 2007-2009 Including Separate Course Unit in Legal Philosophy, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> Bachelor of Laws, <i>Cum Laude</i> , 2004-2007
<b>University of Cambridge</b>	Advanced Diploma in the Study of Religion, <i>First Class</i> , 2010-2011
<b>Harvard University</b>	Master of Theological Studies, 2009-2011 ( <i>full scholarship</i> )
<b>Leiden University</b>	Honours Programme 'Ancient History and Religious Studies', 2008-2009 LLM Jurisprudence and Philosophy of Law, 2008-2009
<b>Hebrew University of Jerusalem</b>	Visiting Graduate Student, Spring 2008 ( <i>European Commission scholar</i> )
<b>Catholic University of Leuven</b>	Master of Law, Religion, and Society, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> , 2007-2008

## **SUMMER PROGRAMMES**

European University Institute (Florence, Italy), 2010

Hague Academy of International Law, 2008

University of Cambridge, 2006

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

2. *Constantine*, Stroud, The History Press, 2016

1. *Spiritual Harvard*, London, Brattle West, 2013

### **Peer-reviewed journal articles**

2. *Constantinian Legal Thought: transferring judicial power in the Roman World of Late Antiquity*, in progress, to be published in 2019

1. *Contextualising Malaysia's Islamic Law: a Nuanced Perspective*, published in LEGAL PLURALISM IN MUSLIM CONTEXTS by Brill in June 2019.

### **Expert reports**

Memorandum: levensbeschouwing in het Gemeenschapsonderwijs. Expert report for the GO! including academic research (project with a value of €25.000) in 2016-17. Including multiple presentations and consultations to the executive board.

### **Opinions in media outlets**

9. Er is nog meer IS-terreur op komst, Knack, April 24, 2019

<https://www.knack.be/nieuws/belgie/er-is-nog-meer-is-terreur-op-komst/article-opinion-1456485.html>

8. Could the Fire of Notre Dame Unite a Deeply Divided France?, Harvard Divinity School, April 19, 2019

<https://hds.harvard.edu/news/2019/04/19/could-fire-notre-dame-unite-deeply-divided-france>

7. Kan de brand van de Notre-Dame een diepverdeeld Frankrijk opnieuw verenigen?, VRT NWS, April 18, 2019

<https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/nl/2019/04/18/de-fransen-zijn-verdeelder-dan-ooit/>

6. Britten moeten knoop durven doorhakken, Het Belang van Limburg, March 30, 2019

[https://www.hbvl.be/cnt/dmf20190329\\_04289919/britten-moeten-knoop-durven-doorhakken](https://www.hbvl.be/cnt/dmf20190329_04289919/britten-moeten-knoop-durven-doorhakken)

5. Stop de subsidiëring van moskeeën (en kerken), De Morgen, February 23, 2019

<https://www.demorgen.be/ opinie/stop-de-subsidiëring-van-moskeeën-en-kerken-b039997d/>

4. Het is tijd om een internationaal tribunaal op te richten voor de berechting van jihadi's, Knack, February 21, 2019

<https://www.knack.be/nieuws/belgie/het-is-tijd-om-een-internationaal-tribunaal-op-te-richten-voor-de-berechting-van-jihadi-s/article-opinion-1432397.html>

3. Alle te bewandelen politieke paden nog mogelijk, Het Belang van Limburg, January 19, 2019

[https://www.hbvl.be/cnt/dmf20190119\\_04113521/alle-te-bewandelen-politieke-paden-nog-mogelijk](https://www.hbvl.be/cnt/dmf20190119_04113521/alle-te-bewandelen-politieke-paden-nog-mogelijk)

2. Tweede Brexit-referendum zou waanzin zijn, Het Belang van Limburg, November 10, 2018

[https://www.hbvl.be/cnt/dmf20181109\\_03929910/tweede-brexit-referendum-zou-waanzin-zijn](https://www.hbvl.be/cnt/dmf20181109_03929910/tweede-brexit-referendum-zou-waanzin-zijn)

1. België is terecht terughoudend wanneer het gaat om het repatriëren van familie van IS-strijders, Knack, November 2, 2018

<https://www.knack.be/nieuws/belgie/belgie-is-terecht-terughoudend-wanneer-het-gaat-om-het-repatriëren-van-familie-van-is-strijders/article-opinion-1388239.html>

### **Interviews**

8. Interview in Het Belang van Limburg on the fire of the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris, April 16, 2019

[https://www.hbvl.be/cnt/dmf20190416\\_04333759/parijs-ontwaakt-immense-verdriet-maar-ook-hoop-voor-de-toekomst](https://www.hbvl.be/cnt/dmf20190416_04333759/parijs-ontwaakt-immense-verdriet-maar-ook-hoop-voor-de-toekomst)

7. Interview in Het Belang van Limburg on the fire of the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris, April 16, 2019  
[https://www.hbvl.be/cnt/dmf20190415\\_04331694/in-het-hart-geraakt](https://www.hbvl.be/cnt/dmf20190415_04331694/in-het-hart-geraakt)
6. Brief statement in Het Belang van Limburg on my invitation of HRH Prince Laurent at PXL, April 5, 2019  
[https://www.hbvl.be/cnt/dmf20190404\\_04302149/prins-laurent-koopt-weer-hond-als-hij-libisch-geld-loskrijgt](https://www.hbvl.be/cnt/dmf20190404_04302149/prins-laurent-koopt-weer-hond-als-hij-libisch-geld-loskrijgt)
5. Interview on TV Limburg on US Ambassador Ron Gidwitz who guest lectured my students at PXL, March 22, 2019  
<https://www.tvl.be/nieuws/amerikaanse-ambassadeur-op-bezoek-bij-pxl-wil-meer-studentenuitwisselingen-met-verenigde-staten-75549>
4. Interview on TV Limburg on Sir Bill Cash who guest lectured my students in the House of Lords in London on Brexit, November 30, 2018  
<https://www.tvl.be/nieuws/britse-parlementsleden-geven-pxl-studenten-in-londen-uitleg-over-brexit-69715>
3. De voorspellingen van professor Werner de Saeger: 'Onze samenleving zal religieuzer, islamitischer en gekleuderder worden', HUMO, October 22, 2018  
<https://www.humo.be/humo-archieef/395387/de-voorspellingen-van-professor-werner-de-saeger-onze-samenleving-zal-religieuzer-islamitischer-en-gekleuderder-worden>
2. Interview on TV Limburg on Carles Puigdemont who guest lectured my students at PXL, September 19, 2018  
<https://www.tvl.be/nieuws/massale-belangstelling-voor-openingscollege-charles-puigdemont-aan-pxl-65597>
1. Belgian national TV: interview on Terzake, September 19, 2012, on a historical discovery and religious question  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-q1UbOK2gl&v>

#### INVITED AS PHD COMMITTEE MEMBER

1. Universidad Católica de Murcia, July 2018

#### LECTURES AND SPEECHES, ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PARTICIPATIONS, DEBATES

26. Harvard Club of Belgium, Islam and Democracy, October 5, 2018
25. Advisory speech on the politico-military conflict in Yemen, for a select audience of diplomats from Yemen and Saudi-Arabia (including the ambassador), November 8, 2017
24. Proximus Business Club Hageland, Religie als uitdaging en opportuniteit in het bedrijfsleven, June 8, 2017
23. Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), L'islam et le droit islamique en Belgique: passé, présent, futur, October 26, 2016
22. Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Legal pluralism and its limits. A polyparadigmatic view on Islamic Law: comparative and historico-theological approaches, October 7, 2016
21. University of Antwerp, Debate on the role of religion in education, March 1, 2016
20. Belgian Senate, Discours sur la liberté de religion, le salafisme et la laïcité, February 23, 2016.  

I predicted the Brussels attacks in a public speech in the Belgian Senate on February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016, exactly one month before the terror in the airport and subway. (Quote: “*Nochtans zal er nog bloed vloeien door onze straten. We zullen de politieke inertie en beleidsmatige naïviteit uit het verleden cash betalen met mensenlevens.*”) [https://www.senate.be/event/20160223\\_grondwet/doc/Colloque\\_constitution.pdf](https://www.senate.be/event/20160223_grondwet/doc/Colloque_constitution.pdf)
19. Université de Mons, Conference on Roman Legal History, La donation de Constantin, October 21, 2015
18. Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Progressive Movements within Islam, October 19, 2015 (moderator)
17. Vrije Universiteit Brussel – UPV, Law and religion in Ancient Rome, October 1, 2015
16. Université catholique de Louvain (UCL), La révolution constantinienne : religion, droit et architecture, April 22, 2015
15. Universidad Católica de Murcia, Conference on Canon Law, Keynote Address for the Legal Session: The Birth of Canon Law, December 16-18, 2013
14. University of Oxford, Kellogg College, Interdisciplinary Symposium: Constantine and the Grandeur that was Rome, Keynote Address: Transcending Parallelism: the Ontology of Constantinian Studies, December 11, 2013.

13. University of Oxford, Architectural History Seminar, November 25, 2013, "Choosing the Basilica: Early Christian Architecture revisited."
12. Cardiff University, Canon Law in the Post-Apostolic Church, November 22, 2013
11. Université Paris-Sorbonne, La Donatio Constantini: contextualiser le faux, November 8, 2013
10. University of Oxford, Kellogg College, When our World became Christian: the Roman Revolution of Emperor Constantine, October 8, 2013
9. Lleida University, International Medieval Meeting, Authority and Architecture in fourth century Rome, June 26-28, 2013
8. Cardiff University, Law and Religion Scholars Conference, Constantine and the Concept of Religious Liberty in fourth century Rome, May 13, 2013
7. University of Reading, Annual Conference of the Classical Association of England and Wales, The Historiography of Constantine's Conversion, April 3-6, 2013
6. University of Alberta, Annual Conference of the Classical Association of the Canadian West: "On the Margins of Antiquity: The Triplicity of Religion, Law, and Architecture in Constantine's Revolution, March 22-24, 2013
5. University of Oxford, Europaeum Classics Colloquium, Leadership in the Ancient World: Constantine, Emperor of Rome, November 16-18, 2012
4. Harvard University, A theory of legal proof in Islam, April 22, 2011
3. Cardiff University, Law and Religion Scholars Conference, Law and religion in Israel: the debate on Jewish identity, May 11, 2010
2. Harvard University, The beard in Islamic Law and custom, May 6, 2010
1. Vrije Universiteit Brussel, The concept of Islamic Law, March 16, 2010

#### **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

10. ReiRes: Research Structure on Religious Studies, European Union Horizon 2020 funding for research stays at FSCIRE Bologna (*Fondazione per le scienze religiose Giovanni XXIII*) and EPHE Paris (*École pratique des hautes études*) in the Spring of 2019.
9. Harvard University, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, research scholarship, twice: May-June 2015 and May-June 2016
8. Gladstone's Library Wales, Canon Symonds Memorial Scholarship, February–March 2015
7. University of Oxford, Kellogg College, travel grants in 2012, 2013, 2014
6. Fondation Biermans-Lapôte, fellowship for research in the Sorbonne libraries, October-December 2011.
5. Harvard University Committee on General Scholarships, Calvin & Lucy Ellis Scholarship, scholarship for graduate study, 2010 – 2011.
4. Harvard Divinity School, scholarship for graduate study, 2009 – 2011.
3. Fernand Lazard Foundation, fellowship for graduate study at Harvard University, 2009 – 2011.
2. Belgian American Educational Foundation (BAEF) & Hoover Foundation Brussels, full scholarship for graduate study at Harvard University, 2009 – 2010.
1. European Commission, Erasmus Mundus exchange programme, full scholarship for graduate study and research at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Spring semester 2008.

#### **MEMBERSHIPS**

International Society for Islamic Legal Studies

International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies

International Society for Military Law and the Law of War

[And various alumni organizations (Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge, Leiden a.o.), military societies, and social clubs]

**THIS VERSION**

April 2019