

RESEARCH INTERESTS

global climate governance, international environmental politics,
the Paris Agreement, methodology, spatial regression, content analysis

ACADEMIA

Ghent University, Department of Political Science 2025-2026
Post-doctoral assistant – Ghent Institute for International and
European Studies

Ghent University, Department of Political Science 2021-2025
PhD fellow with full funding from Research Foundation -
Flanders.
Project: “Pledge and Review: Understanding the Drivers and
Constraints of Climate Ambition”

Norwegian Institute for International Affairs (NUPI) 2024
Visiting researcher (4 months) under the tutelage of prof.
Kacper Szulecki

Ghent University, Department of Political Science 2020-2021
Teaching assistant – Ghent Institute for International Studies

Ghent University, Department of Political Science 2020
Academic intern (6 months) for Prof. dr. Hendrik Vos, Centre
for EU-Studies

Ghent University, Department of Political Science 2019-2020
MSc EU-Studies – Graduated Summa cum laude
Winner of Marthe Versichelen Prijs - recognition of the best
master dissertation for the master EU-studies

Ghent University, Department of Political Science 2016-2019
BSc Political Science – Graduated Cum laude

TEACHING

Co-Lecturer: Content Analysis 2021-2024
Ghent University, BSc Political science (3rd year)
Class: Methods of Political Science, Prof. dr. Ferdi De Ville
9 lectures independently taught and developed, student
assessment based on 4 tasks
Taught in Dutch

Guest lecture: global climate governance 2020-
present
Ghent University, MSc International Politics
Class: Globalisation and Global Governance, Prof. dr. Dries
Lesage, lecture of 3hrs
Taught in English

Educational support: Ghent University, MSc International Politics and BSc Political science 2020-2025
 Supervising groups of students (feedback sessions + paper and debate evaluation)
 Class: Current Issues in International Politics, Prof. dr. Thijs Van de Graaf
 Chairing Model United Nations sessions for 1st year students international politics
 Class: Current Political Problems, Prof. dr. Tim Haesebrouck
 Organising and hosting an interactive En-ROADS climate simulation session
 Class: Global Energy Politics, Prof. dr. Thijs Van de Graaf
 Grading and evaluating bachelor papers and master dissertations (80 in total)
 Think & Talk honours Seminar (supervision with dr. Moniek de Jong)

PEER-
REVIEWED
PUBLICATIONS

Van Coppenolle, H. (2025). The Power of Peers: A spatial analysis of nationally determined contributions. *Climate Policy*, 1–14.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2025.2489738>
 Won ECPR Research Network on Energy Politics, Policy, and Governance Best Paper Prize 2024

Bertram, C., & Van Coppenolle, H. (2024). Strengthening the Paris Agreement through trade? The potential and limitations of EU preferential trade agreements for climate governance. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics*, 24, 589–610.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10784-024-09653-x>

Van Coppenolle, H., Blondeel, M., & Van de Graaf, T. (2023). Reframing the climate debate: The origins and diffusion of net zero pledges. *Global Policy*, 14(1), 48-60. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.13161>

EDITED
VOLUMES

Van Coppenolle, H., Taghon, S., Bougrea, A., & Haesebrouck, T. (Eds.). (2023). The Global Energy Crisis. GIES Occasional Paper (Vol. 2).
<https://biblio.ugent.be/publication/01GSQ13TWEXF9G4E54N9G2BVR8>

Haesebrouck, T., Taghon, S., & Van Coppenolle, H. (Eds.). (2022). *The War in Ukraine*. GIES Occasional Paper (Vol. 1).
<https://biblio.ugent.be/publication/8751754>.

BOOK
REVIEWS

Van Coppenolle, H. (2023). Edith Brown Weiss: Establishing Norms in a Kaleidoscopic World. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics*, 23(1), 99-101. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10784-022-09590-7>

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Under review:

“Coding data in Qualitative Content Analysis and Grounded Theory” – Chapter in the Handbook of Qualitative Content Analysis (Elgar), co-authored with Peter Stevens (Ghent University) and Jasper Praet (Universität Bremen)

In preparation:

Ambition in Climate Governance

co-authored with Manjana Milkoreit, Kacper Szulecki, and Malin Øren Aldal (NUPI)

Evaluating geopolitical gas supply chain security in the EU: A literature-based index and a clustering analysis

co-authored with Moniek de Jong (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität)

Enforcement Pathways under EU Preferential Trade Agreements to Uphold the Paris Agreement

co-authored with Caroline Bertram and Harro Van Asselt (University of Cambridge)

The Institutionalisation of Net Zero – Chapter in Edward Elgar “Handbook on The Politics of Net Zero”, co-authored with Mathieu Blondeel (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) and Thijs Van de Graaf (Ghent University)

Beyond Economics: Understanding the Political Contestation of the EU’s Unilateral Trade-Environmental Policies, co-authored with Caroline Bertram (University of Cambridge) and Laurie Durel, University of Bern

The Soft Touch: A Review Of Soft Governance and Soft Law Literature in Environmental and Climate Governance, single-authored

Review essay for Global Environmental Politics: Circular Ecologies by Amy Zhang, 2024 (Stanford); Recycling Class by Manisha Anantharaman, 2024 (MIT Press); and Trash and Limits in Latin American Culture by Micah McKay, 2024 (University Press of Florida)

CODE AND DATASETS

Van Coppenolle, H. (2025). *Corresponding scripts and data to ‘The Power of Peers: A Spatial Analysis of Nationally Determined Contributions’*. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14767426>

Van Coppenolle, H., Blondeel, M., & Van de Graaf, T. (2022). *National Net Zero (or adjacent) Targets*. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6644989>

AWARDS AND GRANTS

ECPR Research Network on Energy Politics, Policy, and Governance Best Paper Prize 2024 2024
For the paper ‘Does the Paris Agreement’s Pledge-And-Review Process Ratchet Up Climate Ambition? A Peer Group Spatial Analysis of Nationally Determined Contributions’, published in 2025 in Climate Policy as ‘The Power of Peers’

Flanders Research Foundation (FWO), Flemish Government, Full Doctoral Scholarship (2021-2025) 2021

	Marthe Versichelen Prijs - recognition of the best master dissertation for the master EU-studies at the faculty of social and political sciences (Ghent University) - €500	2020
SERVICES	Co-founder and editor of the GIES Editorial Board Tasks: main editor, responsible for reviews, final lay-out, and publication.	2022-2025
	GIES website management (Plone Content Management System)	2021-2025
	Representative for Research- and Assisting Personnel in Faculty Council of the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences (Ghent University)	2021-2024
CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS	ECPR General Conference in Dublin, Ireland - panel co-chair and paper presenter Paper: 'Does the Paris Agreement's Pledge and Review Process Ratchet up Climate Ambition? A Peer Group Spatial Analysis of Nationally Determined Contributions' Panel: 'Understanding ambition in global climate governance: Commitments, transparency, and implementation' (link)	Aug 2024
	Invited to participate in a 2-day PULLP project workshop at the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs (NUPI) – Oslo, Norway Paper: 'Peer Pressure and Climate Ambition: A Study of Pledge-And-Review Through Peer Analysis'	April 2024
	ECPR General Conference in Prague – paper presenter Paper: 'The Drivers and Constraints of Global Climate Ambition: an Analysis of Nationally Determined Contributions' Panel: 'Scrutinizing national pledges and changes in climate policy ambition on the international forum' (link)	Sep 2023
	Participant in a research exchange day organised by BECEN (Belgian Energy, Climate, and Environment Research Network) – hosted at the Brussels School of Governance	Mar 2023
	ECPR General Conference in Innsbruck Paper presenter: 'Soft governance literature and what it can teach us about the functions and misfunctions of the Paris Agreement.' Panel: 'Public Policy Perspectives - Constructing and contesting norms' (link)	Sep 2022
	ISA Annual Conference	Mar 2022

Paper presenter: Virtual Paper: 'Dynamics of a 'Net zero Norm: Origins, Diffusion and Contestation'
 Virtual Panel: 'Fossil fuel supply and the climate crisis'

ECPR General Conference (virtual conference) Aug 2021
 Virtual Paper: 'Dynamics of a Net zero Norm: Origins, Diffusion and Contestation'
 Virtual Panel: 'Contested Discourses of Sustainable Energy Transitions' ([link](#))

Antwerp University – Summer School: International relations in a post-hegemonic world Jul 2021

SOCIETAL
 IMPACT AND
 MEDIA
 Invited to comment on the evolution of net zero for NRC Handelsblad (article in Dutch):
<https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2024/08/08/dankzij-slim-netwerken-streeft-een-groot-deel-van-de-wereld-naar-een-uitstoot-van-netto-niks-a4862162> Aug 2024

Invited to act as expert at the second meeting of 'The Citizens' Agora on the Just transition - 2024
<https://www.justtransition.be/en/citizens-agora> (full report in Dutch and French)

SKILLS
 Languages: Dutch (native), English (C2), French (B1), German (A2)
 IT: Microsoft Office, Obsidian, R, NVivo, SPSS, Python