Curriculum vitae

Personal details

Surname, names	**Besson, Samantha Anne**
Birthdate/place	30th March, 1973 in Beirut (Lebanon)
Nationality	Swiss and British
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Education

1999-2004	**Habilitation (with *venia legendi*) in Swiss, Comparative, European and International Constitutional Law and Philosophy of Law**, University of Bern (Switzerland). Thesis topic: "Reasonable Disagreement and the Law" (supervisor: Jörg Paul Müller)
1996-1999	**Doctorate (PhD) in Swiss, Comparative and European Constitutional Law**, University of Fribourg (Switzerland) (*summa cum laude*). Thesis topic: "L'égalité horizontale: l'égalité de traitement entre particuliers – Des fondements théoriques au droit privé suisse" (supervisor: Pierre Tercier)
1997-1998	**Magister Juris in European and Comparative Law**, Balliol College, University of Oxford (*first class honours*) Subjects: European Labour and Social Law, Jurisprudence and Political Theory, Comparative Human Rights. Thesis topic: "The Law and Economics of Anti-Discrimination Law" (supervisor: Christopher McCrudden)
1994	**Erasmus semester and Certificate**, University of Vienna (Austria)
1991–1996	**Degree in Law (Bachelor and Master) *utriusque juris* and with *mention* in European Law**, University of Fribourg (Switzerland) (*summa cum laude*)

Professional Experience

2019-present	**Professor and Holder of the Chair *Droit international des institutions***, Collège de France, Paris (France)
2019-present	**Part-time Professor of International and European Law**, Faculty of Law, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)
2005–2019	**Full Professor of Law and Chair of Public International Law and European Law**, Faculty of Law, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)
2004-2005	**Associate Professor**, Faculty of Law, University of Fribourg (Switzerland), with the support of a SNF Research Professorship (*Professeur boursier FNS*), teaching EU Law
2002-2005	**Senior Lecturer**, University of Geneva European Institute (Switzerland), teaching EU Law Theory
2001-2002	**Lecturer**, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva (Switzerland), teaching Comparative Constitutional Law
2001-2003	**College Lecturer**, The Queen's College, Brasenose College and Exeter College, University of Oxford (United Kingdom), teaching Jurisprudence and Political Theory tutorials
1999	**Stagiaire/Legal Trainee**, Research and Documentation Service & Cabinets Mancini and La Pergola, European Court of Justice (Luxembourg)

1998–1999 **Arbitration Clerk**, International Commercial and Investment Arbitration office of Pierre Tercier, Fribourg (Switzerland)

1995–1997 **(Junior and Senior) Research Assistant**, Chair of Contract Law (Pierre Tercier), Faculty of Law, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

1991 **Stagiaire/Trainee**, United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), Jerusalem (Palestine)

Prizes, Distinctions and Awards

2026 **Honorary Doctorate** awarded by the Université de la Côte d'Azur, Nice (France)

2024 **Honorary Doctorate** awarded by the Université catholique de Louvain's Law Faculty (Belgium)

2021 **Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur** distinction (France)

1999-2000 **Prix Walther Hug** awarded by the Foundation Walther Hug (Switzerland) for the best PhD thesis in Switzerland

1999-2000 **Prix Vigener** awarded by the Faculty of Law of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) for the best PhD thesis at the Faculty of Law

1998-2000 **Prix Peter Jäggi** awarded by the Foundation Peter Jäggi (Switzerland) for the best PhD thesis in Private Law at the University of Fribourg

1998 **Clifford Chance Prize** awarded by the University of Oxford (United Kingdom) for the best *first class honours* M.Jur. degree

1996 **Prix Frilex** awarded by the Faculty of Law of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) for the best *summa cum laude* degree

Research Scholarships, Fellowships and Projects

2024-2026 **CNRS PEPR *Origins: From Planets to Life, Technological, Societal and Epistemic Breakthroughs*** – Two-year research project funded by the French National Centre for Scientific Research, Collège de France (research project: "The Public and Private International Law of Space Science, Exploration and Use") (grant: 132'000 EUR)

2024 **Columbia Law School (USA)** – Visiting Scholarship in Residence (April)

2023 **Tokyo College, University of Tokyo (Japan)** - One-month research fellowship at Tokyo College (June) (research project: The Human Right to Participate in Science)

2022-2025 **SNF Research Project (Project Funding)** – Four-year research project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, University of Fribourg (Switzerland) (research project: "Institutionalizing the Human Right to Science") (grant: 686'403 CHF)

2022 **KFG Berlin-Potsdam Research Group: The International Rule of Law – Rise or Decline?** - One-month research fellowship at the Freie University, Berlin (Germany) (research project: The Public/Private Distinction and International Law)

2017 **Institute for Advanced Study, Nantes – Research Fellowship** – Three-month research fellowship (*qua* member of the Academic Advisory Board and without stipend) at the IAS, Nantes (France) (research project: "The Making of Equality - A Legal Theory of Human Rights")

2014-2017 **SNF Research Project (Free Research)** – Three-year Swiss National Science Foundation research project, University of Fribourg (Switzerland) (research project: "The Sources of International Law") (grant: 207'875 CHF)

2013-2024 **SEFRI Research Cooperation between the Institute for Advanced Study, Nantes and the University of Fribourg** – Three successive periods of funding by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (2013-16, 2017-20 and 2021-24) for various research projects between the two institutions and general funding for the IAS itself (grant: 1'320'000 CHF)

2012-2016 **SNF Research Project (Free Research)** – Three-year Swiss National Science Foundation research project (research project: "Restrictions to Fundamental Rights in the EU") (grant:

191'117 CHF)

2011-2012 **Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin – Research Fellowship** – One-year research fellowship by invitation (research project: "A Legal Theory of Human Rights")

2008-2016 **SNF Research Projects "MF ProDoc" and "MR ProDoc"** – Swiss National Science Foundation research projects, University of Fribourg (Switzerland) (ProDoc Training Module: "Foundations of International and European Law" 2008-2015 and ProDoc Research Modules: "Democratic Foundations of European Law" 2008-2011 & "Philosophical Foundations of European Human Rights and Migration Law" 2010-2013 & "International Rule of Law and Adjudication" 2012-2016), University of Fribourg (Switzerland) (grant: 1'144'176 CHF)

2008 **Glasgow Law School, Adam Smith Research Fellowship** – Two-month Visiting Research Fellowship, supported by a European Visiting Research Fellowship from the Caledonian Research Foundation (research project: "Hannah Arendt's Legal Theory")

2004-2008 **SNF Research Project (*Professeure boursière*)** – Four-year research professorship of the Swiss National Science Foundation (research project: "PEOPEL - Project for a European Philosophy of European Law"), University of Fribourg (Switzerland) (grant: 1'204'038 CHF)

2001-2004 **Junior Research Fellowship** – Three-year post-doctoral research allowance and position, The Queen's College, University of Oxford (United Kingdom)

2000-2001 **Senior Research Associateship** – One-year post-doctoral research position (without stipend), Balliol College, University of Oxford (United Kingdom)

1999-2000 **Visiting Research Fellowship** – One-year post-doctoral research position (without stipend), Columbia Law School, New York (USA)

1999-2002 **SNF Scholarship (Post-Doctoral Researcher)** – Three-year post-doctoral research scholarship from the Swiss National Science Foundation, Columbia Law School, NY (USA) and University of Oxford (United Kingdom) (research project: "Reasonable Disagreement and the Law")

1997-1998 **SNF Scholarship (Doctoral Researcher)** – One-year doctoral scholarship from the Swiss National Science Foundation, Balliol College, University of Oxford (United Kingdom) (research project: "L'égalité horizontale en droit privé suisse, européen et comparé")

Visiting Professorships

2027 **The Hague Academy of International Law, The Hague (Netherlands)**, Visiting Professor, General Course ("Le droit des peoples"), Summer Session in Public International Law (July)

2020 **The Hague Academy of International Law, The Hague (Netherlands)**, Visiting Professor, Special Course ("La *Due Diligence* en droit international"), Winter Session in Public International Law (January)

2019 **University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia (USA**), Bok Visiting International Professor, teaching a course on Due Diligence in International Law (January)

2014 **Harvard Law School (USA)**, Jeremiah Smith, Jr., Visiting Professor, teaching a course on EU Constitutional Law (Winter Term)

2013 **The Hague Academy of International Law, The Hague (Netherlands)**, Director of Studies, Summer Session in Public International Law, French section (July)

2010–2019 **University Catolica's Global Law School, Lisbon (Portugal)**, Visiting Professor, LLM Law in a European and Global Context, teaching a course on Human Rights Law in the EU

2010 **University of Lausanne (Switzerland)**, Visiting Professor, teaching a course on Public International Law (Autumn Semester)

2009 **Duke Law School (USA)**, Visiting Professor, teaching two courses on EU Law and Human Rights Theory (Fall Term)

2008–2013 **The Hague Academy of International Law, The Hague (Netherlands)**, Programme Coordinator, Bilingual (English-French) Seminar of Advanced Studies for Practitioners (January)

2007–2010 **University of Zurich (Switzerland)**, Visiting Professor, MAS in Applied Ethics (ASAE), teaching a course on Human Rights Theory

2004–2010 **University of Fribourg and IUKB (Switzerland)**, Visiting Professor and Tutor, MAS in Children's Rights (MCR), teaching on various topics in Children's Rights

Academic Committees, Boards and Associations

2026-present **APS** – Elected member of the American Philosophical Society (United States)

2022-present **SSIL** – Co-opted Member of the Board of the Swiss Society of International Law (Switzerland)

2021-present **IIL** – Elected member of the Institute of International Law, Co-Rapporteur of the *Distributive Justice and Equity in International Law* Commission (10th Commission)

2021-2024 **ILA Study Group** – Co-Chair of the International Law Association Study Group on *The International Law of Regional Organizations*

2019-2022 **GESDA** – Co-opted member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation *Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator* (Switzerland)

2017-2026 **ASSH** – Co-opted member of the Board of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bern (Switzerland)

2017-2019 **HR-UP Doctoral Programme** – Co-opted member of the International Advisory Board of the Joint Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme in Law, Ethics and Politics, *Human Rights under Pressure*, Freie Universität Berlin & Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Germany and Israel)

2015-2019 **CUSO Doctoral Programme in Law** – Co-opted member of the Scientific Board (Director of the Programme 2015-2016) of the Doctoral Programme in Law of the *Conférence universitaire de Suisse occidentale* (Switzerland)

2013-2014 **IUKB** – Co-opted member of the Scientific Board of the International Institute for Children's Rights, Sierre (Switzerland)

2012-2021 **IAS** – Co-opted member of the Academic Advisory Board and of the Strategic Board of the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), Nantes (France)

2012-2020 **SICL** – Co-opted member of the Scientific Board of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, Lausanne (Switzerland)

2011-2019 **PEP** – Co-opted member of the Scientific Board of the Master in Political and Economic Philosophy, University of Bern (Switzerland)

2010-2015 **ASSH** – Co-opted member of the Commission for the Annual "Relève" Prize of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bern (Switzerland)

2008-2016 **Tampere Club** – Co-opted member by invitation of the Tampere Club *Democracy and its Future* (Finland)

2008-2021 **ECSA** – Co-opted member (Vice-President 2015-16 and President 2017-18) of the Board of the Swiss Section of the European Community Studies Association (Switzerland)

2007-2016 **APSUN** – Co-opted member of the Scientific Committee of the Academic Platform Switzerland-United Nations (Switzerland)

2004-2007 **SVRSP** – Co-opted member of the Board of the Swiss Association of Social and Legal Philosophy (Switzerland)

2002-2004 **Legal Theory Committee** – Co-opted member of the Legal Theory Committee of the British Branch of the International Law Association (United Kingdom)

Academic Administration

2025-present **Collège de France's Sexual and Sexist Violence and Harassment (VHSS) Commitee** – Member of the Committee, Collège de France, Paris (France)

2023-present **Faculty Teaching Commission** – Member of the Faculty of Law Teaching Commission, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

2019-present **Collège de France's Foundation Scientific Orientation Committee** – Member (and

President, 2021-present) of the Scientific Orientation Committee of the Collège de France's Foundation, Paris (France)

2019-present **Recruitment Committee** – Member of the Recruitment Committee, Collège de France, Paris (France)

2017-present **Faculty Research Commission** – Member of the Faculty of Law Research Commission, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

2016-2020 **Islam and Society Centre** – Member of the Scientific Board of the interdisciplinary (theology, sociology and law) centre for the study of Islam and Society, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

2015-2016 **Doctoral Programme *Droit, Idée et Politique de l'Europe/Recht, Idee und Politik Europas*, Swissuniversities** – Director of the Swissuniversities interdisciplinary (law, history and philosophy) and bilingual (French-German) doctoral programme, Universities of Fribourg and Bern (Switzerland)

2014-2020 **Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law** – Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law for two terms (2014-17 and 2017-20), University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

2014-2020 **University International Relations Commission** – Member of the International Relations Commission, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

2010-2020 **Interdisciplinary Institute for Ethics and Human Rights** – Member of the Scientific Board, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

2010-2022 **European Studies Institute** – Member of the Scientific Board (and of the Direction 2014-present) of the European Studies Institute, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

2009-2012 **Centre for Migration Law** – Member of the Board of Advisors of the Centre for Migration Law, Universities of Bern, Fribourg and Neuchâtel (Switzerland)

2008-2015 **Doctoral Programme *Fondements du droit international et européen/Foundations of international and European law*, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF)** – Director of the bilingual (French-English) programme, Universities of Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne and Neuchâtel (2008-11 and 2011-15) (Switzerland)

2007-2019 **Jean and Bluette Nordmann Foundation** – Member of the Foundation for the relations between the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the University of Fribourg, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

2007-2009 **MLCBP** – Founding Member of the Board of Directors, Masters of Law in Cross-Cultural Business Practice (MLCBP), University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

2006-2022 **Faculty International Relations Commission** – Member (President 2014-2020) of the Faculty of Law's International Relations Commission, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

2005-2013 **University Equality Commission** – Member (President 2008-13) of the Commission for the Equality between Men and Women, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

2005-present **Department of International and Commercial Law** – Member of the Department (President 2012-16), University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

2005-present **European Law Institute** – Member of the Board of Directors of the European Law Institute of the Universities of Bern, Fribourg and Neuchâtel (Switzerland)

2001-2003 **Oxford JDG** – Co-chair of the Oxford Jurisprudence and Legal Theory Discussion Group, University of Oxford (United Kingdom)

1999-2000 **Tutor** – International House Harlem Tutorial Programme for children with learning difficulties, New York (USA)

1996-1997 **Assistants' Representative** – Member of the Assistants' Representatives Committee, Faculty of Law Council, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

Editorial and Referee Activity

2024-present **Co-editor** – Co-editor with Lucius Caflisch of the annual *Pratique suisse du droit international public* (Swiss Review of International and European Law)

2010-present **Editor** – Co-editor with Nicolas Levrat of the Book series *Fondements du droit européen* (Schulthess, together with LGDJ)

2007-present **Editorial boards** – Member of the editorial board of *Law and Practical Reason Series* (Book series; Hart); *Jusletter* (Journal; online; 2007-19); *ESIL Reflections* (Journal; online; 2015-18); *Revue de droit suisse/Zeitschrift für schweizerisches Recht* (Journal; Helbing Lichtenhahn; 2016-19); *European Journal of International Law's Book Reviews* (Journal; OUP; 2017-present)

2007-present **Scientific boards** – Member of the scientific board of *International Legal Theory* (Book series; CUP); *Law and Cosmopolitan Values* (Book series; Intersentia); *Legisprudence (International Journal for the Study of Legislation*; Journal; Hart); *Transnational Legal Theory* (Journal; Hart); *Law, Ethics and Philosophy - LEAP* (Journal; Marcial Pons); *Teoria politica* (Journal; Marcial Pons); *The EU and the World – A Law Review* (Journal; UCL Press)

2006-present **Referee activity for journals and publishers** – Referee for various journals of legal and political theory, European and international law, and for publishers like *Hart Publishing*, *CUP* and *OUP*

2007-present **Referee activity for research grants and institutes** – Referee for various research institutions, including the *Swiss National Science Foundation,* the *Belgian National Science Foundation,* the *German Wissenschaftsrat*, the *Volkswagenstiftung,* the *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin* and the *Institute for Advanced Study of Nantes*

Legal Counsel

2024-present **Permanent Court of Arbitration**, member (for Switzerland), The Hague (Netherlands)

2023-present **Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport** (Directorate for Security and Head of the Department of Defence), Commissioning and Counselling, Bern (Switzerland)

2013-present **Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs** (Directorate for International Law; Directorate for European Affairs; and Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs), Good opinions, Commissioning and Counselling, Bern (Switzerland)

2013-2016 **Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences**, Human Rights Delegate, Bern (Switzerland)

2008-2011 **Swiss Federal Commission against Racism**, Member (in an independent and non-representative capacity), Bern (Switzerland)

2004-2015 **International Commission of Jurists, Swiss Section ICJ-CH**, Member of the Board (Vice-President 2007-10), Geneva (Switzerland)

Courses Taught

2022-present **Advanced Public International Law** (Master) (French) (University of Fribourg)

2019-2020 **European Union External Relations Law** (Master) (French) (University of Fribourg)

2013-2019 **International and European Responsibility Law** (Master) (English) (University of Fribourg)

2013-present **International and European Human Rights Law** (Master) (English and French) (University of Fribourg)

2013-2021 **Swiss External Relations Law** (Master) (French) (University of Fribourg)

2008-2019 **Human Rights Theory** (Master) (English and French) (University of Fribourg; Duke Law School; University of Zurich)

2008-2013 **International Dispute Settlement** (Master) (French) (University of Fribourg)

2007-2012 **European Judicial Remedies** (EU and ECHR) (Master) (French) (University of Fribourg)

2005-2018 **European Union Institutional Law: Theory and Practice** (including a trip to European institutions in Strasbourg, Brussels and Luxembourg) (Master) (French) (University of Fribourg)

2005-2007 **European Union Internal Market Law** (Bachelor) (French) (University of Fribourg)

2005-present **Public International Law (general)** (Bachelor) (French) (University of Fribourg; University of Lausanne)

2005-2019 **European Union Constitutional Law** (Bachelor) (French and English) (University of Fribourg; Duke Law School; Harvard Law School)

2004-2019 **European Human Rights Law** (EU and ECHR) (Master) (English and French) (University of Fribourg; Catolica Global Law School, Lisbon)

2003-2005 **European Union Political and Legal Theory** (Master) (French) (University of Geneva)

2002 **Comparative Constitutional Law** (including Comparative [Domestic and International] Human Rights Law) (Bachelor) (French) (University of Geneva)

2001-2004 **Jurisprudence, Legal Philosophy and Political Theory** (tutorials; Bachelor and Master) (English) (University of Oxford)

Doctoral Supervision

2018-2023 **Sofia Balzaretti**: Le sexisme et le droit suisse, européen et international. Pour une approche féministe du droit (*summa cum laude*; Gender Prize 2024) (Schulthess 2023)

2013-2017 **Odile Ammann**: The Interpretation of International Law by Swiss Courts (*summa cum laude*; Walther Hug Prize 2019-20) (Brill/Nijhoff 2019)

2012-2018 **Sofia Papoutsi**: Transnational Precedent in European Private Law (*magna cum laude*) (2019)

2012-2018 **Denise Wohlwend**: The International Rule of Law – Notion, Scope and Subjects (*summa cum laude*) (Elgar 2021)

2012-2018 **Stéphanie U. Colella**: La restriction des droits fondamentaux dans l'UE (*summa cum laude*; Walther Hug Prize 2018-19 and Vigener Prize 2018-19) (Bruylant 2018)

2011-2015 **Johan Rochel**: The Normative Foundations of European Migration Law (*magna cum laude*) (Schulthess 2015)

2010-2013 **Alain Zysset**: The Normative Foundations of the European Convention of Human Rights (*summa cum laude*; Vigener Prize 2016-17) (Routledge 2016)

2009-2014 **Eleonor Kleber Gallego**: La discrimination multiple en droit suisse, européen et international (*summa cum laude*; Walther Hug Prize 2015-16 and Vigener Prize 2015-16) (Schulthess 2015)

2008-2013 **Sevrine Knuchel**: The Concept of *Jus Cogens* (*summa cum laude*) (Schulthess 2015)

Research Areas

(i) Public international law; (ii) European Union constitutional and institutional law; and (iii) Legal and political philosophy, and democratic theory, and in particular:

International, European and comparative human rights law and theory; sources of international and European law; international and European responsibility law; comparative international law; and European and domestic external relations law

Professional Associations' Membership

International Law Association (Swiss branch), European Society of International Law, American Society of International Law, Société suisse du droit international, Société française du droit international, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationales Recht, European Law Institute, European Community Studies Association (Switzerland), Swiss Association of Social and Legal Philosophy, International Commission of Jurists (Swiss section)

Languages

French (native, father tongue), English (mother tongue), German (fluent), Latin (very good), Ancient Greek (good), Spanish (basic), Italian (basic)