

Samantha Besson

Professor of Public International Law and European law
Co-director of the European Law Institute
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University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

Born in Beirut on 30th March, 1973
Swiss and British National

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Curriculum Vitae

Professional experience

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| 2005–present | Tenured (Ordinaria) Professor of Law and Chair of Public International Law and European Law , Law Faculty, University of Fribourg (Switzerland) |
| 2014 | Jeremiah Smith, Jr. Visiting Professor , Harvard Law School (USA), teaching EU Constitutional Law (Winter Term) |
| 2013 | Director of Studies (French section) , The Hague Academy of International Law, The Hague (Netherlands) (Summer Session) |
| 2013 | Visiting Professor , EHESS, Paris (France), teaching Human Rights Theory (declined) |
| 2010–present | Visiting Professor , LL.M. Law in a European and Global Context, University Católica's Global Law School, Lisbon (Portugal), teaching Human Rights Law |
| 2010 | Visiting Professor , University of Lausanne (Switzerland), teaching Public International Law (Autumn Semester) |
| 2010–2012 | Visiting Professor , University of Paris II-Panthéon Assas Law School (France), teaching International Human Rights Law (declined) |
| 2009 | Visiting Professor , Duke Law School (USA), teaching EU Law and Human Rights Theory (Fall Term) |
| 2008–2013 | Programme Coordinator, Seminar of Advanced Studies for Practitioners , The Hague Academy of International Law, The Hague (Netherlands) |
| 2007–2010 | Visiting Professor , MAS in Applied Ethics (ASAE), University of Zürich (Switzerland), teaching Human Rights Theory |
| 2004–2010 | Visiting Professor and Tutor , MAS in Children's Rights (MCR), University of Fribourg and IUKB (Switzerland), teaching various topics in Children's Rights |
| 2004–2005 | Associate Professor , Law Faculty, University of Fribourg (Switzerland), with the support of a SNF research professorship, teaching various topics in EU Law |
| 2002–2005 | Senior Lecturer , University of Geneva European Institute (Switzerland), |

- teaching EU Law Theory
- 2001-2002 **Lecturer**, 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**, Research and Documentation Service & Cabinets Mancini and La Pergola, European Court of Justice (Luxembourg)
- 1998-1999 **Arbitration clerk**, Arbitration office of Prof. Pierre Tercier, Fribourg (Switzerland)
- 1995-1997 **Research Assistant**, Chair of Contract Law (Prof. Pierre Tercier), Law Faculty, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)
- 1991 **Stagiaire**, United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestinian Refugees, Jerusalem (Palestine)

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 in 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)
- 1991-1996 **Degree in Law with *mention* in European Law**, University of Fribourg (Switzerland) (*summa cum laude*)
- 1994 **Erasmus semester and certificate**, University of Vienna (Austria)

Prizes and Awards

- 1999-2000 **Prix Vigener** awarded by the Law Faculty of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) for the best PhD thesis
- 1999-2000 **Prix Walther Hug** awarded by the Foundation Walther Hug (Switzerland) for the best PhD thesis in Switzerland
- 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 1997/1998
- 1996 **Prix Frilex** awarded by the Law Faculty of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) for the best *summa cum laude* degree at the March 1996 exam session

Scholarships and Research Positions

- 2012-2015 **SNF Research Project “Free Research”** - Three-year Swiss National Science Foundation research project (research project: Restrictions to Human Rights in the EU)
- 2011-2012 **Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin – Fellowship** - One-year research fellowship by invitation at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (Germany) (research project: A Legal Theory of Human Rights)
- 2008-2015 **SNF Research Projects “MF ProDoc” and “MR ProDoc”** - Swiss National Science Foundation research projects (*ProDoc Training Module: Foundations of International and European Law* 2008-2011-2014-2015 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* 2012-2015), University of Fribourg (Switzerland)
- 2008 **Adam Smith Research Fellowship** - Two-month Visiting Research Fellowship at the Adam Smith Research Foundation, School of Law, University of Glasgow (Scotland), supported by a 2008 European Visiting Research Fellowship from the Caledonian Research Foundation
- 2004-2008 **SNF Research Project “Professeur boursier”**- Swiss National Science Foundation research project (*PEOPEL - Project for a European Philosophy of European Law*), University of Fribourg (Switzerland)
- 2001-2004 **Junior Research Fellowship** - Three-year post-doctoral research allowance and position, The Queen’s College, Oxford (United Kingdom)
- 2000-2001 **Senior Research Associateship** - One-year post-doctoral research position, Balliol College, Oxford (United Kingdom)
- 1999-2000 **Visiting Research Fellowship** - One-year post-doctoral research position, Columbia Law School, NY (USA)
- 1999-2002 **SNF Scholarship “Post-Doctoral Researcher”** - Three-year post-doctoral research scholarship, Swiss National Science Foundation (Columbia Law School, NY and Oxford University)
- 1997-1998 **SNF Scholarship “Doctoral Researcher”** - One-year doctoral scholarship, Swiss National Science Foundation (Balliol College, Oxford University)

Committees, Boards and Associations

- 2013-present **IEA** - Member of the Scientific Board of the Institute for Advanced Studies (IEA), Nantes (France)
- 2013-present **Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences** - Human Rights Delegate, Swiss

	Academies of Arts and Sciences, Bern (Switzerland)
2013-2014	IUKB - Member of the Scientific Board of the International Institute for Children's Rights, Sierre (Switzerland)
2012-present	ISDC - Member of the Scientific Board of the Swiss Institute for Comparative Law, Lausanne (Switzerland)
2011-present	PEP - Member of the Scientific Board of the Master in Political and Economic Philosophy (Switzerland)
2010-present	European Studies Institute - Member of the Scientific Board of the European Studies Institute of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland)
2010-present	ASSH - Member of the Commission for the Annual "Relève" Prize of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bern (Switzerland)
2008-present	Tampere Club - Member by invitation of the Tampere Club <i>Democracy and its Future</i> (Finland)
2008-present	ECSA - Member of the Board of the Swiss Section of the European Community Study Association (Switzerland)
2007-present	APSUN - Member of the Scientific Committee of the Academic Platform Switzerland-United Nations (Switzerland)
2005-2013	Equality Commission - President of the Equality between Men and Women Commission of the 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, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)
2004-present	Board of ICJ-CH - Member of the Board of the Swiss Section of the International Commission of Jurists (Switzerland) and Vice-president from 2007 to 2010
2009-2012	Center for Migration Law –Member of the Board of Advisors of the Center for Migration Law of the Universities of Bern, Fribourg and Neuchâtel, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)
2008-2011	Federal Commission against Racism - Member of the Federal Commission against Racism (Switzerland)
2007-2009	MLCBP - Member of the Founding Board of Directors, Masters of Law in Cross-Cultural Business Practice (MLCBP), University of Fribourg (Switzerland)
2004-2007	SVRSP - Member of the Board of the Swiss Association of Social and Legal Philosophy (Switzerland)
2002-2004	Legal Theory Committee - Member of the Legal Theory Committee of the British Branch of the International Law Association (United Kingdom)
2001-2003	Oxford JDG - Co-chair of the Oxford Jurisprudence Discussion Group, University of Oxford (United Kingdom).
1999-2000	Tutor , International House Harlem Tutorial Program, New York (USA)
1996-1997	Assistants' Representative - Member of the Assistants' Representatives Committee, Law Faculty Council, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)
1996-1997	Legal Aid Service - President of the University of Fribourg's Students' Free Legal Aid Service (Switzerland)

Editorial and Referee Activity

- 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 *International Legal Theory* (Book series; CUP); *Law and Practical Reason Series* (Book series; Hart); *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).
- 2010-present **Scientific boards** - Member of the scientific board of *DicoPo*.
- 2006-present **Referee activity for journals and publishers** - Referee for various journals of legal and political theory, European and international law, and for *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* and the *Volkswagenstiftung*.

Taught Courses

- 2013-present **International Responsibility** (Master) (English) (University of Fribourg)
- 2013-present **European and International Human Rights Law** (Master) (French) (University of Fribourg)
- 2008-present **Human Rights Theory** (Master) (English and French) (University of Fribourg; Duke Law School)
- 2008-2013 **International Dispute Settlement** (Master) (French) (University of Fribourg)
- 2007-2012 **European Judicial Remedies** (EU and ECHR) (Master) (French) (University of Fribourg)
- 2005-present **European Institutions: Theory and Practice** (including a trip to European institutions in Strasbourg, Brussels and Luxembourg) (Master) (French) (University of Fribourg)
- 2005-2007 **EU Internal Market Law** (Bachelor) (French) (University of Fribourg)
- 2005-present **Public International Law** (Bachelor) (French) (University of Fribourg; University of Lausanne)
- 2005-present **EU Constitutional Law** (Bachelor) (English and French) (University of Fribourg; Duke Law School; Harvard Law School)
- 2004-present **European Human Rights Law** (EU and ECHR) (Master) (English and French) (University of Fribourg; Catolica Global Law School, Lisbon)
- 2003-2005 **EU Law Theory** (Master) (French) (University of Geneva)
- 2002 **Comparative Constitutional Law** (including Comparative Human Rights) (Bachelor) (French) (University of Geneva)

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

Doctoral Supervision

2014-present **Gaelle Mieli** : Les droits de l'enfant-fille (tbc)

2013-present **Odile Ammann** : L'interprétation du droit international par les tribunaux suisses

2013-present **Aurélie Galetto** : Les immunités des organisations internationales : Etude en droit suisse et international

2012-present **Denise Wohlwend**: The International Rule of Law in the context of International Adjudication

2012-present **Sofia Papoutsis**: Transnational Precedent in European Private Law

2012-present **Alexandre Biedermann** : La responsabilité internationale des mouvements de libération

2012-present **Stéphanie U. Colella (Murenzi)** : La restriction des droits fondamentaux européens

2011-present **Johan Rochel**: The Normative Foundations of European Migration Law

2010-2013 **Alain Zysset**: The Normative Foundations of the European Convention of Human Rights

2009-present **Eleonor Kleber Gallego** : La discrimination multiple en droit suisse, européen et international

2008-present **Beata Jastrzebska** : Intégration européenne et démocratie nationale dans les Etats d'Europe centrale et de l'Est – Le cas de la Pologne

2008-present **Thierry Leibzig** : La responsabilité pénale de l'enfant-soldat

2008-present **Sarra Magri** : Le droit international de l'occupation

2008-2013 **Sevrine Knuchel**: The Concept of *Jus Cogens*

Languages

French (native), English (fluent), German (good), Spanish (basic), Italian (basic)