



Royal Academy for  
Overseas Sciences 

International Conference  
**Climates and Cultures: Perspectives for the Future**  
Brussels, 23-24 May 2018

PROGRAMME

**WEDNESDAY 23 MAY**

**8:30 Welcome**

**9:00 Introduction**

**9:15 Climate Change**

Dirk VERSCHUREN, member of the Academy, Universiteit Gent  
*Ancient versus Modern-day Climate-Human-Ecosystem Interactions in East Africa*

Astrid OGILVIE, Stefansson Arctic Institute, Akureyri (Iceland) & Institute of Arctic and  
Alpine Research (INSTAAR), University of Colorado, Boulder (USA)  
*Climate Changes in Modern History*

Jean-Pascal VAN YPERSELE, Université catholique de Louvain  
*Contemporary Phenomena*

**10:30 BREAK & POSTER SESSION**

**11:00 Health and Nutrition**

Rais AKHTAR, member of the Academy, University of Kashmir (India)  
*Climate Change and Human Health*

Joris DELANGHE, Universiteit Gent  
*Human Migration, a Genetics-driven Story*

**11:50 LUNCH**

### **13:30 Biodiversity and Desertification**

Hans KEUNE, Universiteit Antwerpen & Universiteit Amsterdam (the Netherlands)  
*Climate Change and Biodiversity*

Eline VANUYTRECHT, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven  
*Biodiversity and Environment*

Dirk RAES, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven  
*Desertification and Water*

Han VERSCHURE, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven  
*Quality of Life in Large Cities*

### **15:10 BREAK & POSTER SESSION**

### **15:40 Migration and International Law (part 1)**

Jean BOURGEOIS, Universiteit Gent  
*Historical Migration*

Koen BOSTOEN, member of the Academy, Universiteit Gent  
*The First Bantu Speakers South of the Rainforest: a Cross-disciplinary Approach to Human Migration, Language Spread, Climate Change and Early Farming in Late Holocene Central Africa*

### **16:30 BREAK & POSTER SESSION**

**THURSDAY 24 MAY**

**9:30 Migration and International Law (part 2)**

François GEMENNE, Université de Liège  
*Contemporary Migration*

Laurent WEYERS, Université Libre de Bruxelles  
*Migration and Climate Change: Discussing a Cold Reality in a Warming World*

**10:20 BREAK & POSTER SESSION**

**10:45 Literary and Historical Aspects**

Harko WILLEMS, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven  
*Deserts in Ancient Egypt*

Helge DANIELS, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven  
*Desertification in Arabic Literature*

**11:35 POSTER SESSION**

**12:30 LUNCH**

**14:00 Technology**

Bakari KONE, ABFN

Waterstudio.NL (to be confirmed)

**14:50 BREAK & POSTER SESSION**

**15:20 Debate**

**Moderator:** Gui GORIS, MO\*

**Discussants:**

Alexander DE CROO, Olivier DE SCHUTTER, Johan BRAECKMAN, Bert GABRIELS, Peter VERLINDEN, Koen STUYCK/Sophie RUYSSCHAERT/Isabelle VERTRIEST, PIANC, RIOB, UNESCO

**17:00 Ludo ROCHETTE, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**  
*Closing Address*