

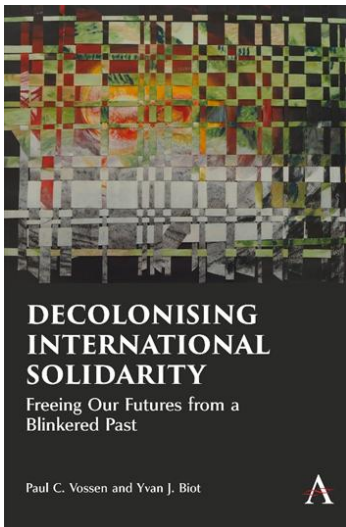


## Book Launch

### DECOLONISING INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

**30 June 2026, 18:30**

Paleis der Academiën / Palais des Académies  
Hertogstraat / Rue Ducale, 1, 1000 Brussels



*Decolonising International Solidarity* explores how differences in natural resources between Europe, Africa and the Middle East contributed to the failure of the colonialists' attempts at imposing their civilisation onto the colonised. It shows how this colonial attitude persists to this day and argues that a greater understanding and appreciation of diversity will help free our futures from a blinkered past and decolonise international solidarity.

(<https://anthempress.com/books/decolonising-international-solidarity-pb>)

#### The programme:

- 18:30 Welcome address by a representative of the Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences. (<https://www.kaowarsom.be/en>)
- 18:35 *Decolonising international solidarity: why does it still matter today?* (Prof. dr. **Koen VLASSENROOT**, Director of the Conflict Research Group at the Ghent University - <https://www.crg-ghent.be/> )
- 18:50 *Decolonising international solidarity: what does it mean for development?* (**Loïc DE CANNIÈRE**, Founder, Incofin Investment Management - <https://incofin.com/>)
- 19:05 Book overview and highlights (**Paul VOSSEN & Yvan BIOT**)
- 19:20 *A New Spring, a New Sound*  
Panel discussion with the speakers and Mrs **Aline NYIRAHUMURE** of KUUMBA vzw ([www.kuumba.be](http://www.kuumba.be)).  
Moderator: Mr **Moustapha MAGUMU**, Head, Regional Trade Section, European Delegation to Mauritius and Seychelles.
- 19:45 Reception, opportunity to buy the book (at a 20% discount).

Musical accompaniment by **Kaspi and Yodi**.

Presentations in English.

Q&A in Dutch, English and French.

*Decolonising International Solidarity - freeing our futures from a blinkered past* describes how colonialists' misguided assumptions about the nature of the natural environment in Africa and the Middle East hampered the establishment of Nation States modelled on European standards of civilisation in those regions and how this colonial stubbornness persists to this day. It also, and crucially, explains why decolonisation matters to rich countries, what it entails and how it might help them deal with contemporary issues such as cultural and ethnic diversity and the public spaces that celebrate colonial personalities. It makes a strong case for respecting and valuing rather than obliterating civilisational diversity, takes a critical look at Aid and Colonial Reparations and concludes with suggestions for a Decolonised International Solidarity, taking a lead from processes of international collaboration under the climate regime.

“This book addresses issues that are fundamental to analysing the current geopolitical situation and the responsibility associated with colonisation.” — **Patrick Spirlet**, former EU Ambassador to Togo and Burundi.

“The book deserves a lot of attention as it applies a completely new angle to analyse present-day societal issues of African society inherited from the colonial past. This is the book's big merit. In addition, it includes ideas for a future-oriented global solidarity system based on universal principles of fair compensation. Thanks to these ideas, the book goes beyond analysing the past and becomes an inspiring roadmap for more global justice and fairness.”— **Loïc De Cannière**, Founder, Incofin Investment Management.

“*Decolonising International Solidarity* dares to ask uncomfortable questions: what explains persistent poverty in many formerly colonized countries and what is our responsibility? Whether you drink a cup of coffee, or pick up your smartphone, the resources used are the product of unequal economic and political relations, heavily tainted by colonial legacies. The authors help us to understand that our western development models are but one option, local ownership and homegrown solutions are often better. Warmly recommended, essential reading!”— **Bart Ouvry**, Director of the Belgian Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium.

#### About the authors:

**Paul C.Vossen**, PhD, is a tropical agronomist and also holds a MSc in Conflict and Development. He lived and worked for over 30 years in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, Botswana and Burundi. The driving force behind authoring this book is trying to understand why "decolonisation" remains relevant to this day.

**Yvan J. Biot**, PhD (tropical soil science and international development), supports communities in Scotland on place making, green energy and nature friendly land use. He lived and worked for over 30 years overseas in development cooperation, research and policy.