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 Prof. Pierre Tercier, Fribourg (Switzerland)
1995–1997	(Junior and Senior) Research Assistant, Chair of Contract Law (Prof. 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

2008

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 <i>first class honours</i> M.Jur. degree
1996	Prix Frilex awarded by the Faculty of Law of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) for the best <i>summa cum laude</i> degree

	the best summa cum laude degree
Scholarships,	Fellowships and Research Projects
2022-2025	SNF Research Project (Project Funding) – Four-year Swiss National Science Foundation research project, 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 Divide in International Law)
2017	Institute for Advanced Study, Nantes – Research Fellowship – Three-month research fellowship (<i>qua</i> 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)

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 (<i>Professeure boursière</i>) – 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

2020	The Hague Academy of International Law, The Hague (Netherlands), Visiting Professor, Special Course ("La <i>Due Diligence</i> en droit international"), Winter Session in Public International Law, French section (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 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 Public International Law (Autumn Semester)
2009	Duke Law School (USA) , Visiting Professor, teaching 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 Zürich (Switzerland) , Visiting Professor, MAS in Applied Ethics (ASAE), teaching Human Rights Theory
2004–2010	University of Fribourg and IUKB (Switzerland), Visiting Professor and Tutor, MAS in Children's Rights (MCR), teaching various topics in Children's Rights

Academic Committees, Boards and Associations

2022-present	SSDI – Member of the Board of the Swiss Society of International Law (Switzerland)
2021-present	IDI – Associate Member of the Institute of International Law
2021-2024	ILA Study Group - Co-Chair of the International Law Association Study Group on The International Law of Regional International Organizations
2019-2022	GESDA – Member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation <i>Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator</i> (Switzerland)

2017-present	ASSH – Member of the Board of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bern (Switzerland)
2017-2019	HR-UP Doctoral Programme – Member of the International Advisory Board of the Joint Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme in Law, Ethics and Politics, <i>Human Rights under Pressure</i> , Freie Universität Berlin & Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Germany and Israel)
2015-2019	CUSO Doctoral Programme in Law – Member of the Scientific Board (Director of the Programme 2015-2016) of the Doctoral Programme in Law of the <i>Conférence universitaire de Suisse occidentale</i> (Switzerland)
2013-2014	IUKB – Member of the Scientific Board of the International Institute for Children's Rights, Sierre (Switzerland)
2012-2021	IAS – Member of the Academic Advisory Board and of the Strategic Board of the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), Nantes (France)
2012-2020	SICL – Member of the Scientific Board of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, Lausanne (Switzerland)
2011-present	PEP – Member of the Scientific Board of the Master in Political and Economic Philosophy, University of Bern (Switzerland)
2010-2015	ASSH – Member of the Commission for the Annual "Relève" Prize of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bern (Switzerland)
2008-2016	Tampere Club – Member by invitation of the Tampere Club Democracy and its Future (Finland)
2008-2021	ECSA – 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 – Member of the Scientific Committee of the Academic Platform Switzerland-United Nations (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)

Academic Administration

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 <i>Droit, Idée et Politique de l'Europe/Recht, Idee und Politik Europas</i> , 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-present	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

2010-present	Editor – Co-editor with Nicolas Levrat of the Book series <i>Fondements du droit européen</i> (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 <i>Hart Publishing</i> , <i>CUP</i> and <i>OUP</i>

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 Counselling

2007-present

2013-present	Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs (Directorate for International Law and Directorate for European Affairs), Good opinions and Counselling, Bern (Switzerland)
2013-2016	Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, Human Rights Delegate, Bern (Switzerland)
2008-2011	Federal Commission against Racism, Member (in a non-representative capacity) of the Commission, Bern (Switzerland)

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

Courses Taught

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

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

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)