

Climate Litigation Actions by the Internationally Marginalized
CLAIM

UCLouvain

Opening of four new full-time research positions

Start date: 1/10/2025

Application deadline: 25/06/2025

Three doctoral fellowships (one year, renewable up to 3 times)

A one-year postdoctoral scholarship

Research team

Prof. Sylvie Sarolea (UCLouvain, SSH, JUR-I, [CEDIE - EDEM](#))

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Description

The CLAIM project is an ARC (Action de Recherche Concertée) at the crossroads of law, political science and communication science. CLAIM aims to analyze the role and practices of marginalized actors in international disputes linked to climate change.

It draws on three disciplines - law, political science and communication science - to go beyond a purely technical analysis of the law and consider the dynamics of power and how discourses and practices are constructed before, during and after cases.

Climate change particularly affects marginalized stakeholders and climate litigation has been extensively mobilized by these actors. Beyond the litigation itself, these actions are setting in motion diverse and connected strategies in law, politics, and communication.

Recruitment

To carry out this research, several researchers will be recruited from **October 1st 2025**:

- 3 doctoral students with backgrounds in law, political science and communication science for one year, renewable up to three times (a four-year period);
- 1 postdoctoral researcher with a doctorate in legal sciences.

Application requirements

Doctorate in law (on scholarship)

- Master's degree in law with at least one distinction, ideally a magna cum laude (great distinction)
- Interest in human rights, environmental law, climate litigation and strategic litigation
- Interest in decolonial issues and sensitivity to marginalized actors
- interest in legal research: excellent analytical skills, excellent writing skills, openness to interdisciplinarity; interest in conducting field research (observation of international meetings, interviews)
- The ability to work both independently and as part of a team
- Languages: excellent level of English; good level of French is an asset; knowledge of Spanish is a plus
- Meet the conditions set by UCLouvain for the award of doctoral scholarships
- Willingness to come and live in Belgium for the duration of the grant

Post-doctorate in law (on scholarship)

- Doctorate in law in the field of climate and environmental litigation
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team
- Languages: excellent level of English; good level of French is an asset
- Sense of initiative and responsibility
- Excellent organizational and project management skills
- Extensive publications experience, including collective publications and publications linked to databases
- Meet the conditions set by UCLouvain for the award of international postdoctoral mobility grants
- Willingness to come and live in Belgium for the duration of the grant

Doctorate in political science (on scholarship)

- Master's degree in political science or equivalent qualification, obtained with at least one distinction, ideally a magna cum laude (great distinction)
- Interest in analyzing the political dynamics accompanying climate processes, including international environmental negotiations
- interest in research, particularly in the field of political science, with an openness to interdisciplinarity; interest in conducting field research (observation of international meetings, interviews)
- Interest in decolonial issues and sensitivity to marginalized actors
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team
- languages: excellent level of English; good level of French is an asset; knowledge of Spanish is a plus
- in addition, the candidate must meet the conditions set by UCLouvain for the award of doctoral scholarships
- Willingness to come and live in Belgium for the duration of the grant.

Doctorate in Communication Science (on scholarship)

- Master's degree in information and communication sciences or equivalent, obtained with at least one distinction, ideally a magna cum laude (great distinction)
- Interest in the analysis of communication practices related to ecology, environmental issues, social movements and the analysis of the communicational aspects of litigation
- Interest in decolonial issues and sensitivity to marginalized actors
- Interest in research, particularly in the critical approach and analysis of discourse and media; excellent analytical and writing skills, openness to interdisciplinarity, availability and interest in training in the use of software useful for research
- Experience in carrying out field research: observations and interviews
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team
- Excellent level of English and French is an advantage; knowledge of Spanish is a plus
- Meet the conditions set by UCLouvain for the award of doctoral grants
- Willingness to come and live in Belgium for the duration of the scholarship.

How do I apply?

Applications, including a **cover letter**, a **CV** and a list of any publications, should be sent by e-mail to the professors of the disciplines concerned:

- For Law: Prof. Sylvie Sarolea sylvie.sarolea@uclouvain.be ;
- For Political Science: Prof. Amandine Orsini amandine.orsini@uclouvain.be
- For Communication Science
 - Prof. Sophie Del Fa: sophie.delfa@uclouvain.be
 - Prof. Andrea Catellani: andrea.catellani@uclouvain.be