



Panel discussions on career development in Europe after a PhD

8 June 2020

OBJECTIVES:

This online networking event will help participants to:

- broaden their professional options
- get information and advice to boost their career development
- better understand recruiters' expectations in the recruitment process outside academia

PROGRAMME

2 panel discussions with 8 panelists (see biography and linkedin profiles in the part below) on sharing their experience and presenting their current position, on sharing their experience of recruiting PhDs; Q/A time with the participants (2x1,5 hrs)

- **Panel discussion 1 (2:00 – 3:30pm) – focus: Humanities and social sciences**
 - Which career options after a PhD in Humanities and social sciences outside academia (ex. company, international organization...)?
 - How to ace job interviews and market your profile as an international researcher?

Panelists:

- Dr Aziza Akhmouch, PhD in geopolitics, Head of Division at OCDE (France)
- Dr Niagale Bagayoko, PhD in international relations, Senior SSR expert and chair at African Security Sector Network (France)
- Dr Annamaria Donnarumma, PhD in astronomy, Senior consultant at Siris Academic, with recruiting responsibilities (Spain)
- Dr Sabine Plaud, PhD in philosophy, Senior consultant at Siris Academic, with recruiting responsibilities (Spain)

▪ **Panel discussion 2 (4:00 – 5:30 pm) – focus: STEM**

- Which career options after a PhD in STEM outside academia (ex. large and small companies, R&D, editing, sales...)
- How to ace job interviews and market your profile as an international researcher?

Panelists:

- Dr Julia Sepulveda Diaz, PhD in molecular biology, International Partnership Leader at Elvesys, with recruiting responsibilities (France)
- Dr Alexandre Gatto, PhD in optics, Head of MicroOptics at Zeiss (Germany)
- Dr Mariana L. Ferrari, PhD in Cell Biology, freelance Managing Editor and Project Manager (France)
- Dr Clarissa Hilzendegeer, PhD in biology, QC specialist at MaSTherCell (Belgium)

SPEAKERS (BY ALPHABETICAL ORDER)



Dr Aziza Akhmouch, PhD in geopolitics, Head of Division at OCDE (France)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/akhmouch/>

Aziza Akhmouch is the Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development division within the Centre for entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities of the OECD. She oversees a team of 30+ experts providing governments with new data, evidence, analysis and guidance in a wide range of urban policies to foster smart, inclusive, competitive and sustainable cities. Amongst others, she oversees the OECD metropolitan and National Urban Policy Reviews, and a broad range of thematic work related to housing, transport, cities and inclusive growth, cities and environment, metropolitan productivity and governance, and localising the Sustainable Development Goals. Aziza Akhmouch spearheaded the OECD Principles on Urban Policy and the OECD Water Governance Initiative. She also manages the OECD Champion Mayors Initiative for Inclusive Growth, the OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers, and the OECD-UN Habitat-Cities Alliance National Urban Policy Platform. She holds a PhD and Ms Degree in Geography, specialised in Geopolitics from the University of Paris 8-Vincennes, and a Master's degree in international relations.



Dr Niagale Bagayoko, PhD in international relations, Senior SSR expert and chair at African Security Sector Network (France)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-niagal%C3%A9-bagayoko-62684557/>

Niagalé Bagayoko (PhD) is a political scientist. Her dissertation completed at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Science Po) in Paris was awarded the first prize of the French Institut des Hautes Etudes de la Défense Nationale (IHEDN). She since has done extensive field research on security systems in African Francophone countries, Western security policies in Africa (France, United States, European Union) and African conflict-management mechanisms, focusing on the interface between security and development. A Post-doc Research Fellow at the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD, France) and then at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) of the University of Sussex (2007-2010), she

also taught at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Science Po) in Paris. From 2010 to 2015, she headed the "peacekeeping and peacebuilding programme" at the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF). She is now the Chair of the African Security Sector Network (ASSN).



Dr Annamaria Donnarumma, PhD in astronomy, Senior consultant at Siris Academic, with recruiting responsibilities (Spain)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/adonnarumma/>

I hold a PhD in Astronomy from the University of Bologna, Italy. In SIRIS Academic I work on consultancy projects for higher education, research and public institutions, combining evidence-based and qualitative approaches; in particular, I have worked on projects to support the implementation of regional strategies for the HERI sector. My professional background includes experiences in academic research and in technical consulting.



Dr Sabine Plaud, PhD in philosophy, Senior consultant at Siris Academic, with recruiting responsibilities (Spain)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sabine-plaud-b9627b84/>

I am a consultant in Higher education, research and innovation policies. My expertise covers in particular institutional academic strategies, academic rankings and their methodology, new trends in higher education. I have an extended experience of the French and Italian sectors. I have in-depth knowledge of French regulations regarding public procurement. I am an expert of quality processes, and I am in charge of managing the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System at SIRIS Academic. I hold a PhD in philosophy from Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.



Dr Julia Sepulveda Diaz, PhD in molecular biology, International Partnership Leader at Elvsys, with recruiting responsibilities (France)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/juliasepulveda>

Dr. Julia Sepulveda Diaz is Head of the Innovation Unit at Elvsys. She obtained a Chemical Engineer degree, followed by a MSc in Biochemistry and then a PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology. She did a 4-year postdoctoral appointment at the Brain and Spine Institute in Paris, France. Her areas of expertise are chemical engineering, cell biology, and biochemistry. She is currently in charge of innovative projects at Elvsys.



Dr Alexandre Gatto, PhD in optics, MBA, Head of ZEISS Venture MicroOptics, with recruiting responsibilities (Germany)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/alexandre-gatto-604ab722/>

Alexandre graduated from Ecole Centrale de Marseille and obtained his PhD in Optics from Aix-Marseille University in 1999. He stepped in

the Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Optics and Precision Engineering (IOF) in 1999 in Jena as a Post Doc, promoted as project manager and group leader (UV-VUV). After completing his MBA (Bradford University) in 2004, Alexandre joined the ZEISS group in 2005, as Manager New Technology Generation in the central R&D until 2007, then as Director R&D for IOLs at ZEISS Meditec until 2009. He leads the profit center Microstructured Optics since 2009 and the ZEISS New Venture MicroOptics since 2019.



Dr Mariana L. Ferrari, PhD in Cell Biology, Freelance Managing Editor and Project Manager (France)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mariana-lucia-ferrari>

Mariana L. Ferrari is a passionate life scientist with extensive international and multicultural experience in managing microbiology and cell biology projects. After her studies and PhD research project in Argentina, she moved to France and spent six years doing exciting research as a part of an international team at Pasteur Institute.

Currently, Mariana is involved in two projects: one as Managing Editor for Springer Nature's journal Current Microbiology; and the other as Project Manager for IAG-Microbiome Program. Both projects require a deep knowledge of microbiology, scientific research and publishing, as well as innovation and project management. Because of the nature of her work, Mariana deals daily with a wide array of science topics and is in contact with a variety of scientific approaches.



Dr Clarissa Hilzendeger, PhD in biology, QC specialist at MaSTherCell (Belgium)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/clarissa-hilzendeger-97952254/>

During school, I was a very curious girl, interested in biology, animals and humans. My friends used to say I should become a scientist and find the cure for cancer. I think it inspired me in some way, because now, quite some years later, I followed my passion and really became a scientist!

My basis is veterinary medicine (another passion I nurtured since childhood), that I studied at the University of Santa Catarina State (UDESC) in Brazil. From there, I went for masters (in Brazil, and in collaboration with ULiège) and then PhD at the University of Liège involving cell culture, molecular biology and immune cells in respiratory diseases. After my thesis, I had the opportunity to live my childhood dream and work as a scientist in cancer research. I started working in pre-clinical development of anti-cancer drugs (drug substances and drug products).

Lately, I have discovered the Quality Control area inside Cell & Gene Therapy field, and I am passionate about it! One has to be precise and attentive to details, because peoples' lives depend on it. This is where my motivation comes from.