

CV

Selected Professional Experience

09/2020 – Present	American University – Professorial Lecturer - Teaching ‘Comparative Administrative Systems’, part of American University’s Master in Public Administration program
02/2019 – Present	World Bank Governance Global Practice – Consultant - Wage bill analysis and public administration productivity in Croatia - Civil service recruitment reform project in Italy - Tax reform and capacity building projects in Kyrgyzstan and Belarus - Research synthesis on public service pay reform and civil service recruitment
11/2018 – 02/2019	World Bank Independent Evaluation Group – Consultant - Desk research for a thematic evaluation on aging. - Analysis of Country Partnership Frameworks using NVivo.
09/2017 – 02/2018	University of Leuven Public Governance Institute – Senior Researcher - Investigating the usage of policy labs, nudging and RCTs in public policy.
04/2014 – 09/2017	University of Leuven Public Governance Institute – Researcher/PhD Student - Providing policy advice improving municipal governance and decentralization - Preparation, collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data - Writing scientific and policy papers for policy makers and politicians - Presenting at international conferences, colloquia and panels

Education

2014 - 2017	PhD in Public Management & Policy School: University of Leuven ¹ (KU Leuven), Belgium Thesis: The Sustainability of Public Sector Innovations Award: Nominated for the ‘Jaarprijs Politicologie’. Best six dissertations in political science and public management of 2017 from The Netherlands and Belgium.
2012 - 2013	Master in Public Management & Policy – Cum Laude School: University of Leuven (KU Leuven), Belgium Thesis: Policy Transfer of Human Rights Through Development Aid
2011 – 2012	Master in International and Comparative Politics – Cum Laude School: University of Leuven (KU Leuven), Belgium Thesis: Tribes in Development Aid from the EU to Afghanistan
2007 – 2011	Bachelor in Political Science School: Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands

Skills

General	Project management; Presentation skills; Audience-targeted writing
Qualitative Research	Open and semi-structured interviews; Process tracing; Focus groups; NVivo
Quantitative Research	Survey methodology; Differences of mean testing; Multi linear regression; Binary linear regression; Factor analysis; SPSS; Stata

Selected Publications

Peer reviewed:

- Van Acker, W. (2019). [Right-Wing Populist Attitudes Among European Public Servants – A Cross Country Comparison](#). *Public Policy and Administration*, DOI: 10.1177/0952076719869789.
- Van Acker, W. & Bouckaert, G. (2018). [The Impact of Supreme Audit Office and Ombudsman Processes in Belgium and The Netherlands](#). *Financial Accountability & Management*, DOI: 10.1111/faam.1218

¹ University of Leuven, Faculty of Social Sciences - Times Higher Education: # 46, Shanghai Ranking: # 32 worldwide.

- Van Acker, W. & Bouckaert, G. (2018). [What makes public sector innovations survive? An exploratory study to feedback, accountability and learning as explaining factors.](#) *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, Vol. 84 (2), pp. 249–268.
- Van Acker, W., Wynen, J. & Op de Beeck, S. (2017). [Illuminating the Gender Divide in Public Sector Innovation: Evidence from the Australian Public Service.](#) *Public Personnel Management*, DOI: 10.1177/0091026017747299.
- Marx A., Soares J. & Van Acker, W. (2015). The protection of international labour rights: a longitudinal analysis of the protection of the rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining over 30 years in 73 countries. In Marx A., Wouters J., Beke L., Rayp G. (Eds.): [Global governance of labour rights](#), pp. 13-41. Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham, UK.
- Van Acker, W. (Under Review). The dark side of accountability: The influence of accountability mechanisms on rigidity and the use of instruments.
- Van Acker, W. & Bouckaert, G. (Under Review). The Termination of Public Sector Innovations: Logic of Appropriateness or Logic of Consequence?

Working Papers:

- Van Acker, W. (2018). [An Introduction into Public Sector Innovation - Definitions, Typologies, and an Overview of the Literature.](#) SSRN Working Paper Series.

Policy Briefs:

- Hasnain, C., Sobjak, A. & Van Acker, W. (forthcoming) Wage Bill management during COVID-19.
- Van Acker, W. (2020). [Civil Service Recruitment: Recruiting the Right Persons the Right Way.](#)
- Van Acker, W. & Hasnain, Z. (2019). [Wage Bill and Pay Reform: A First Glance and a Look Forward.](#)
- Van Acker, W. & Bouckaert, G. (2016). [Creating Sustainable Public Sector Innovations.](#)
- Van Acker, W. & Bouckaert, G. (2015). [Mapping and Analysing the Recommendations of Ombudsmen, Audit Offices and Emerging Accountability Mechanisms.](#)

Blogs:

- World Bank: [Combatting racism and discrimination in the public sector](#)
- World Bank: [Overcoming bureaucratic hurdles to health care surge capacity](#)
- World Bank: [Is COVID-19 a chance to build sustainable surge capacity across the civil service?](#)
- World Bank: [What do we know about Public Service Motivation in the developing world?](#)
- OECD: [Innovation vs. Time – How to make public sector innovations survive \(OECD\)](#)
- European Commission: [Stability and Innovation – A balancing act](#)
- European Commission: [How Ombudsmen and Audit Offices affect Public Innovation](#)

Peer reviewer for: Public Personnel Management, Public Management Review, International Review of Administrative Sciences, Public Performance & Management Review, Policy & Politics.

Skills

Languages	Dutch (native speaker) English (fluent) German, French (basic)
ICT skills	Software: SPSS, NVivo, Stata, Word, PowerPoint, Excel