

## Glendon POLS 4400 The Netherlands and Europeanization – Guest Speakers



**[Jeremy Bierbach](#)** (“Dutch and EU Immigration: Reflections during a Pandemic”), originally from Pittsburgh, immigrated to the Netherlands in 2001 and in 2015 defended his PhD thesis in European constitutional law at the University of Amsterdam. His specialty and focus of interest is in invoking norms of international law, EU law in particular, as a source of protection for members of minority groups who are unrepresented or underrepresented in the democratic process: in particular EU citizens, their non-EU citizen family members, and other non-EU citizen immigrants to the Netherlands. He represented two non-EU citizens, P. and S., in challenging the Dutch state on its laws providing for a fine to be imposed on immigrants who do not pass the civic integration exam (*inburgeringsexamen*) by a set deadline. The underlying questions of EU law were ultimately referred to and [decided on by the Court of Justice of the European Union in 2015](#), establishing important limits on the extent to which immigrants can be penalized without a complete examination of their personal circumstances and needs. Read Bierbach’s [immigration advice](#); a [recent story](#) in a series on “Europe’s dreamers”. Re-read topics 8-10 and 21. Optional: browse Dr. Bierbach’s [PhD dissertation](#) (one may even [watch the PhD defence](#)) or the resulting [book](#).



**[Michael O. Sharpe](#)** (“Race and Nationalism in the European and Caribbean Netherlands”) is Associate Professor at York College, City University of New York. His areas of specialization are comparative politics and international relations and his research interests include looking comparatively at globalization, the politics of international migration, immigrant political incorporation, and political transnationalism. His current research analyzes the factors that propel migrations of postcolonial citizen and coethnic immigrants and what limits or facilitates their political incorporation and political transnationalism in liberal democratic host societies. Dr. Sharpe’s book [Postcolonial Citizens and Ethnic Migration: the Netherlands and Japan in the Age of Globalization](#) cross-regionally examines the role of legal citizenship and ethnicity in migration. Dr. Sharpe teaches classes that include comparative politics, international relations, US politics and government, American foreign policy, comparative politics of migration, Caribbean Politics, Asian Politics, and African Politics. Dr. Sharpe is first US born child of immigrant parents from Aruba and the Dominican Republic and holds both US and Dutch citizenship. He has lived and studied in the Netherlands and worked in Japan. Re-read Sharpe’s commentary in topic 9 as well as topics 7, 10, and 11; also read Sharpe, “Race, Color, and Nationalism in Aruban and Curaçaoan Political Identities”



**[Salima Belhaj MP](#)** is a Member of the House of Representatives since 26 January 2016. Before that, she served eight years as party leader for D66 in the Rotterdam city council, where she still lives. She serves on the [Defence committee](#) and also chairs parliament’s [art commission](#). “Freedom is what drives me. In the arts, this is important to ensure that artists have and keep the mental freedom to create. After 15 years of working in the cultural sector, I now dedicate myself to the creativity and intrinsic value of art. At the same time, the Netherlands cannot do without security. Defense protects our physical freedom and that of others around the world. Defense, in addition to diplomacy and development cooperation, is of crucial importance in order to act internationally. Ensuring peace and freedom is what women and men who work for Defense strive for every day. They deserve our support and the right to work in an organization of our time. I want everyone, regardless of origin or background, to feel the freedom to be themselves in the Netherlands.” Browse this [older profile](#) and story about [making the Dutch military more environmentally friendly](#). Optional: view Belhaj’s argument for [why a European army is inevitable and necessary](#) (starts around 14:00 in the video) or browse more on “Initiatiefnota van het lid Belhaj over een Europese krijgsmacht van en voor Europeanen” (in Dutch). Re-read topics 4, 5, 6, and 20.



**[Samira Rafaela MEP](#)** is a Dutch Member of the European Parliament for the social-liberal political party D66 and as such she is part of the [Renew Europe Group](#). Rafaela ran on the promise to fight for a strong, social and secure Europe. She strongly believes that the EU is at its best when we work together to diminish inequality and celebrate our diversity. Samira brings a unique mix of background and life experiences to that end. To be “United in Diversity”, as the EU’s official motto goes. Born the daughter of a Jewish Curaçaoan-Dutch mother, and a Ghanaian-Nigerian muslim father, Samira carries in her a wide range of backgrounds that has inspired her to have an open-minded view of the world. In her Parliamentary work she applies this open-mindedness every day. Whether it is to strive for a fairer, more sustainable trade policy or a more inclusive European labour market. Browse the [videos on Rafaela’s website](#); her [17 Jun 2020 plenary speech on anti-racism protests](#) following the death of George Floyd; the description of her special focus on [women’s rights, international trade, employment and social affairs, and overseas countries and territories](#). Re-read topics 2, 3, 14, and 19.



**Laurel Baig** (“Reflections on International Law and the Netherlands”) is a Canadian litigator with nearly two decades of international criminal law experience. She is currently a Senior Appeals Counsel in the Office of the Prosecutor of the United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. She worked for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia as a prosecutor for 10 years and was an active contributor to the ICTY legacy project evaluating the OTP’s role in the prosecution of sexual violence crimes. Laurel has also worked in Chambers at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Before joining the United Nations, Laurel practiced law in Canada and served as a law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada. She is a member of the Justice Rapid Response Sexual and Gender Based Violence Investigations Roster and a member of the Editorial Committee of the Journal of International Criminal Justice. Laurel is the co-focal point for knowledge exchange of the Prosecuting Conflict-Related Sexual violence (PSV) Network of the International Association of Prosecutors. Re-read topics 4, 19, and 21 and the Canon piece about [Srebrenica](#); browse [IRMCT Remembers Srebrenica 25](#); read “Netherlands Was 10 Percent Liable in Srebrenica Deaths, Top Dutch Court Finds”; read “Inventing Peace: What Can Vermeer teach us about Bosnia”; read press reports of the 25+26 Aug trial of [Ratko Mladić](#).

A limited number of guests may attend the Zoom sessions; first priority for questions will be given to students enrolled in GL/POLS 4400. The sessions will not be recorded.

*All times Toronto time (10am in Toronto = 4pm CEST)*

18 August 10am-11am **Jeremy Bierbach** (discussion leaders Matthew and Reid)

19 August 11am-noon **Michael O. Sharpe** (discussion leaders Sara and Mary)

20 August 10am-11am **Salima Belhaj MP** (discussion leaders Abdirazak, Elyana, and Sydney)

27 August 10am-11am **Samira Rafaela MEP** (discussion leaders Stacey and Leah)

28 August 10am-11am **Laurel Baig** (discussion leaders Winny and Emily)

Questions or to request guest attendance? email professor Maas: [maas@yorku.ca](mailto:maas@yorku.ca)