



# Intersectional Challenges in Afroeuropean Communities by Elisabeth Bekers

UNICA “UNIVERSITY, CULTURE AND THE CITY” CORE GROUP

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, 29-30 August 2018



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## “University, Culture & the City” for LIST, for example:

- writers in residence
  - (co)sponsored French Embassy, Passa Porta (int’l house of literature in Brussels)
- “Imaginary Europes” (European funding application)
  - non-academic partners: Passa Porta, Cultural Action Europe,...
- Brussels in literature
  - launched @ Passa Porta (livestream: [www.passaporta.be/agenda/brussel-schrijven](http://www.passaporta.be/agenda/brussel-schrijven))
- AfroEuropeans Network Conference 2021

# Ed. Daniel Acke & Elisabeth Bekers (VUB Press, 2016)

with contributions by scholars in  
literary studies and history  
@ VUB and other Brussels institutions  
(incl. Fondation Auschwitz)





**8<sup>th</sup> AfroEuropeans Network Conference 2021**

# **Intersectional Challenges in AfroEuropean Communities**

Preparatory meeting 23 August 2018

hosted by Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Bekers

& Dr. Sophie Withaeckx



# AfroEuropeans Network Conferences

## Previous editions

- 2013 London
- 2015 Münster
- 2017 Tampere
- 2019 Lisbon - Black In/Visibilities Contested  
<http://afropean.com/black-invisibilities-contested-7th-biennial-afro europeans-network-conference-lisbon-04-07-2019-06-07-2019/>
- 2021 Brussels – Intersectional Challenges in AfroEuropean Communities



# AfroEuropeans Network Conferences

## Principles:

- broad – interdisciplinary
- interaction academics – activists
- cultural programme

# AfroEuropeans 2021 Brussels

## General topic: 'intersectional challenges'

- how AfroEuropean communities are shaped by the intersections of
  - 'race' and ethnicity
  - other markers of identification such as gender, class, sexuality, ability, age, citizenship status, language...
- rejection of unidimensional perspectives in activism, policy and research



# AfroEuropeans 2021 Brussels

## Subtopics/streams

- Gender & intersectionality
- Sexuality and queerness
- Religion & ideologies
- Family formation and unification, adoption & fostering
- Work & global care chain
- Decolonial movements, education & knowledge production
- Law & public policy
- Racism & political representation
- International cooperation, globalization and (socio-economic) inequalities
- Cities & migration/arrival infrastructures
- Global and reproductive health and migration
- ...

# AfroEuropeans 2021 Brussels

Timing: February

- class-free week
- Black History Month

# AfroEuropeans 2021 Brussels

## Collaboration with organizations such as

- Royal Africa Museum (co-host?)
- @ VUB: African Students Community (ASCOM), Kultuurkaffee
- Passa Porta (International house of literature in Brussels)
- Mwanamke Collectif Afroféministe Belge; Collectif Mémoire Colonial et Lutte contre les Discriminations; Black Speaks Back
- European Parliament
- ...