

Appendix IV: Student notes.

(S7)

I am student of Civil Engineering (ingenierie civil des constructions).

My thesis is about: "Ouvrages d'art".

It is composed of four parts: hydraulics, geotechnic, management and structures.

In the first part I had to design a lock door. In the geotechnical part I verified the parameters of the ground. In the structural part I design a bridge in prestressed concrete. In the management part I tried to organise the worksite.

(S6)

The main purpose of the Master Thesis, is to define a multi-object tracking system to track the behaviour of plant roots. This way we can define the path/trajectory of each root until the plant is completely developed.

To do so, we count with a big image dataset that described the growth of a certain plant, which has been provided by Professor Xavier Draye (Earth and Life Institute - Agronomy Université Catholique de Louvain). To ease the tracking of the roots, during the growth process, in which the images have been taken, the plants have been sprayed with water with the objective that water drops are accumulated on the tip of each root making it localization easier. Furthermore, the position of several drops through images have been provided in the dataset.

The multi-object tracking system is based on a detection-based system built in two main phases:

1. Object detection (drops/roots). This is a pre-processing phase, where our main objective is to extract as much information as we can from the set of images and data provided (image thresholding, definition of a graph based on the pixels of the image and perform the Dijkstra algorithm to find the shortest paths, local maxima ...)

2. Graph-based tracking formalism. In this second phase we have to find the best algorithm suited to our problem to describe the trajectory of each root by linking them, once the position of each root has been established. Some of the algorithms under study are: Iterative Hypothesis Testing (IHT), Label Propagation, Shortest Path, ...

To develop this system, the tool selected to implement it is Matlab.

(S3)

Populism is one of the most important political phenomenon of our decade. Developed all around the world, populism has express the peak of his potential in 2016, with the victory of Trump in the US and with Brexit. In my master Thesis I am studing the effects of Populism in Wallonia. In particular my analysis claims to understand why in the dutch speaking part of Belgium, Flanders, Populism is so well developed as the results over the decades of Vlaams Belang shows, while in the french speaking one, Wallonia, populism has ever gained good results. After a recostruction of the framework of the extreme right wing parties in Wallonia during last century, this work focuese on a small party called Parti populaire, a right wing party that present itself as a "populist". My research want to decover if this small party is really a populist one or just a right wing one, and through of it, undertstand which is the future of populism in Wallonia.

(S5)

I am currently doing my Master in international relations with a focus on resolution of conflict. I chose to do my thesis on "The integration of Woman refugees", I wanted to analyse in depth the politics and initiatives that were put in place in order to integrate (politically, economically as well as socially) the refugees but more particularly the women. By trying to understand the various underlying mechanisms that are involved in their migration process, I will try to focus more on how and why did they migrate. Indeed, on the one hand (most of them) are coming from a predominantly patriarchal society, have to deal with a completely different system of beliefs and values, but also in the way of life (in most cases it is the the man who supported the family) and now they are confronted with more responsibilities but also more freedom that they often don't have the necessary tools to deal with. For this I will do a comparative analysis of Belgium and the Netherlands to try to assess the problematic of how these two countries are dealing with the issue.

(S15)

For my second semester, here at Université Catholique de Louvain, I have to write an essay (maximum 2000 words) for my External Action of the European Union module. For this particular project, we have a choice between two topics: EU-Russia Relations and the crisis in the Ukraine or the developments in the Arab World. In conjunction with this essay, we had to attend a presentation session delivered by some members of the External Action sector in the European Union. I have decided to write about the Russia relations with the EU and in particular, focus on how several sanctions imposed on Russia and the European Involvement in Russian issues have impacted the deteriorating relationship. I plan on also critically analysing not only Russia's response but also the world's (in particular the rise in fake news etc.) and perhaps shedding a light on what the future may hold for both parties.

(S1)

The continuous tensions in the Middle East that ended up in armed conflicts and warfare concerning the control of the Syrian territory have created an irreparable destruction of the country and a humanitarian tragedy, which is mainly reflected in the waves of impoverished people heading for the West and especially on the European continent.

Europe has experienced the greatest mass movement of people since the Second World War. More than 1 million refugees and migrants have arrived in the European Union, the large majority of them fleeing from war and terror in Syria and other troubled countries.¹ The refugee issue has highlighted gaps and inadequacies in the legal framework and policies of the European Union, resulting in several issues in the Union's internal cohesion. It is undeniable that the EU is in the middle of one of the most difficult periods since it was created. It faces a multidimensional crisis which has provoked many challenges and has put the whole future of the European Union in question. From the beginning of the financial crisis and especially since the outbreak of the refugee crisis the European Union was called to show its real face. Unfortunately nowadays every ideal that defines the European Union and is the core of its unity since its creation 60 years ago today is more or less undermined. However the European Union is known as a crisis manager which means that a crisis leads to further integration and as a result a stronger European Union. This is actually a neo – functional logic but on the other hand a crisis can also result in the member states taking back the control. This is an intergovernmental approach. As we can see these two theories actually more or less oppose to each other. The topic of this thesis is the impact of the refugee crisis in the European Union. In order to understand the impact we will refer to the policies and then we will study thoroughly the results of the crisis and the result of the policies. More specifically the research questions are:

1) How can we explain the situation that occurred after the refugee crisis according to neo-functionalism and intergovernmentalism?

2) Did the refugee crisis lead to a stronger or weaker European Union?

The thesis is going to be focused in the European Union. It investigates the impact of refugee crisis in the European Union in the period of the beginning of the crisis in 2014 to the end of 2016. Finally the thesis is going to be focused in the policies and mainly the policies – outcomes. The conceptual framework that is going to be used is neo-functionalism and intergovernmentalism.

(S4)

As a humanitarian disaster, the Burundian crisis from 1962 to 1998 needed a new type of legal answer in order for the Burundian people to be able to keep on living together. In 2000, the Arusha Agreement was signed by various parties of the Burundian society with representatives of the International Community as witnesses. Many elements such as impunity, justice, reparation, security, etc. were underlined. As a result of the compromise between a majority of the parties it became a cornerstone in Burundian history. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission appeared as a solution to bring back unity among the people; however, the government's understanding of this particular mechanism may be going to bring more hindrances than deliverance.

(S2)

Present research aims to examine radical Islamic ideology coming from the Middle East, Pakistan and Afghanistan in three Central Asian post-Soviet countries: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. Specifically, the research considers extremist Islamic ideology as a threat to national security of the given countries. Also, it encompasses a number of contemporary problems and obstacles that the newly independent states have to deal with in order to maintain national stability and prevent mass radicalisation and further spread of Wahhabist and Salafist teachings in the given countries. Therefore, present research considers dissemination of radical Islamic ideology and modern economic burdens, and non democratic rule as the reasons of radicalisation of Central Asian citizens, which in turn undermine stability and prosperity of the countries concerned. Hence, it is assumed that the fact of existing and ongoing radicalisation, explained by a number of reasons, implies national insecurity.