

Dr. Blansefloer Coudenys

Critical Education Scholar

Belgium & US-based | bcoudenys@nyu.edu or blansefloer.coudenys@gmail.com | BE: +32 456 305 174 or
US: +1 347 907 8982

Critical education scholar researching educational inequality, community-based educational spaces, and education for social justice. My work centres on participatory research with migrant and minoritised communities and examines how community-organised education can help address structural inequalities in and through education systems. Methodologically, I work with participatory and engaged research approaches that foreground knowledge production with, rather than about, communities. Theoretically, my research draws on critical, decolonial, and anti-racist traditions, with a particular focus on race, racism, and power in education, and on education as a site for critical reflection, emancipation, and social change.

Education

Doctor of Education

University of Antwerp, Belgium

Defended: November 5, 2025

- 4-year PhD research funded by the Flemish Government (FWO Funding)
- Visiting scholar at New York University (November - December 2024)
- PhD Thesis: *“Where Silenced Spaces Speak. The Role of Community-Based Educational Initiatives in Addressing Educational Inequality.”*

Master of Education (International Education Policy)

Harvard University, Graduate school of education, US

Graduated: May 2021

- Fully funded through Frank Boas & Fulbright Scholarships (Fellow 2020-2021)
- Internship at the Sirius Policy Network for Migrant Education (January - May 2021)
- Master thesis: *“An Early Analysis of Taiwan’s 12-Year Basic Education Reform.”*

Bachelor of Education (Secondary education)

Vives University-college, Belgium

Graduated: June 2017

- Majored in European history and Christian religion.
- Graduated Cum Laude
- Bachelor thesis: *“Educational tools and practices for teaching highly gifted students in the formal secondary education system in Belgium.”*

Academic Positions & Research experience

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

New York University, USA

December 2025 – (provisional) September 2026

- Independent postdoctoral research project funded by the Belgium American Educational Foundation (BAEF).
- Research project examining collaborations between mainstream education systems and community-based educational initiatives as incubators for innovative and equity-oriented educational practices.
- Empirical focus on migrant and minoritised communities across school–community contexts.
- Methodological approach combining qualitative inquiry and participatory action research.

Research collaborations at NYU include:

- Various projects at the NYU Metro Centre for Research on Equity and the Transformation of schools, including an equity audit of a doctoral programme (NYC university), evaluation of a community-school STEM partnership, large-scale mixed-methods project on transitions to higher education and minoritized students' navigation of college pathways.
- Collaboration with Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP) on educational programming for underserved youth, including summer programmes.
- Developing collaboration with the NYU Visiting lab of Lenapehoking, including work with Prof. Dr. Eve tuck on decolonial, land-based and relationals approaches to education.

PhD Researcher

University of Antwerp, Belgium

September 2021 – November 2025

- Doctoral dissertation: *“Where Silenced Spaces Speak: The role of community-based educational initiatives in addressing educational inequality.”*
- Dissertation grounded in qualitative and participatory research methodologies.
- Research situated at the intersection of education research, and critical social theory.
- Funded through FWO (Research foundation Flanders).

Director Teachers for Vietnam

Teachers for Vietnam, USA

June 2021 – present

- Director of Teachers for Vietnam, US-based non-profit organization working with various universities in the Mekong Delta (Vietnam) to appoint volunteer teachers as volunteer English lectures.
- Coordination of partnerships and appointment of English lectures
- Strategic leadership in international education and university-community collaboration

Educational consultant

Sirius Policy Network for Migrant Education, Belgium

January 2021– December 2023

- Researcher and trainer/facilitator on EU-funded project addressing migrant education and inclusion
- Contributor to Eu policy reports (e.g. Young Migrant can achieve Change, 2023)

Volunteer English lecturer

Can Tho University, Vietnam

December 2018 – January 2020

- Teaching and professional development for pre-service and in-service teachers
- Lead professional development activities for teachers funded by the Vietnamese government through the MOE-Project 2025.
- Instruction of underprivileged students through U.S. Department of State programmes.

Teaching experience

University level

Teaching assistant, NY

- Undergraduate Course: Multilingualism in Early Childhood
- Prof. Dr. Fabienne Doucet

Teaching Assistant, University of Antwerp

- Graduate courses in the department of Education & Training Sciences
- Student coaching across various courses
- Supervision of master's theses (5 completed projects)

Guest Lectures (selection, University of Antwerp and NYU Settings)

- Participatory Action Research
- Community-based education
- Internationalisation of education
- Qualitative research methods
- Anti-racist and decolonial research practices

Professional Teaching Practice (secondary school level)

Certified Secondary-School Teacher, Belgium

- Teaching experience in secondary education across a wide range of topics including:
- European and world history
- Religion and philosophy
- Citizenship-related and ethical topics

Experience teaching in diverse classroom contexts, including students from migrant and socio-economically minoritised backgrounds. Practice-based engagement with inclusive pedagogy, critical reflection, and differentiation within formal schooling systems.

Current theoretical and methodological collaborations

Ongoing international collaboration on an academic handbook on Teaching and Learning Arabic in the European Diaspora (in preparation), bringing together interdisciplinary perspectives on language, migration, education, and minority communities, in collaboration with scholars from Michigan State University, Dalarna University, Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences, Antwerp University, and the University of Helsinki.

Commissioned academic handbook proposal on Out-of-School Learning (in preparation), developed in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Noel Clycq at Antwerp University following an invitation from an academic publishing house.

Scholarly collaboration on race, racism, and critical social theory in education, developed through advanced doctoral-level seminars at NYU and ongoing collaborative writing, with Prof. Dr. R. L’Heureux Lewis-McCoy (Sociology of Education, NYU) and Prof. Dr. Mercy Agyepong (Sociology of Education, NYU) with a focus on race, racism, whiteness, epistemic justice and critical social theories.

YERUN Research Mobility Project (funded): comparative research on supplementary education in London (UK), in collaboration with colleagues at University College London. Development of a larger international research project on supplementary education in the UK, in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Petros Karatsareas and colleagues, examining language, education, migration, and inequality in diaspora contexts.

Grants & Fellowships

- Belgium American Education Foundation: Postdoctoral Fellowship at NYU (2025–2026)
- YERUN Research Mobility Award: Supplementary Education (UK – UCL Collaboration 2025)
- Flemish Government OJO Fund (support fund for young researchers): Organisation of a workshop and training on decolonising research (2023)
- Flemish Government OJO Fund (support fund for young researchers): Organisation of a workshop and training on anti-racist research practices (2022)
- Flemish Government (FWO): PhD Fellowship (2021)
- Fulbright & Frank Boas Scholarships: Graduate studies at Harvard University (2020–2021)

Service and leadership

Co-founder PhD support group, University of Antwerp (2021-2024)
Co-organiser & Secretary, Edubron Research group (2021-2025)
Voting member, Faculty Doctoral Commission, University of Antwerp (2023-2025)
Voting member, Council of the Antwerp Doctoral school (2023-2025)
Voting member, Bureau of the Antwerp Doctoral School (2023 - 2025)
Various volunteering positions with community-based educational initiatives

Publications

Coudenys, B., Dekeyser, G., Clycq, N., & Agirdag, O. (2025). The impact of part-time community education on the academic achievement of minoritised pupils: evidence from Flanders. *Oxford Review of Education*, 1-18.

Coudenys, B., Dekeyser, G., Agirdag, O. & Clycq, N. (2024). The invisible support of community schools in a highly unequal education system: Exploring the experiences of minority pupils and teachers. *British Educational Research Journal*, 00, 1–20.

Coudenys, B., Strohbach, G., Tang, T., Udabe, R. (2022). On the Path Toward Lifelong Learning: An Early Analysis of Taiwan's 12-Year Basic Education Reform. In: Reimers, F.M., Amaechi, U., Banerji, A., Wang, M. (eds) *Education to Build Back Better*. Springer, Cham.

In review:

Vlaamse onderwijsraad (2026). Strategisch verkenning: recht op leren in onderwijs. Politeia. (Policy report Ministry of Education)

Coudenys, B., Clycq, N., & Agirdag, O. (in review, 2025). Supporting minoritized youth, The social fabric of community-based educational initiatives.

Coudenys, B., Clycq, N., & Agirdag, O. (in review, 2025). Cultivating Cultural Capital, The invaluable work of Community-Based Educational Initiatives in Flanders.