

OUR SPEAKERS

Pepijn Kennis, *vzw Toestand*



As a young guy, Pepijn quickly discovered that the centre of Brussels faced a big shortage of places where young people could hang out and spend their time together. Looking for a way to convert abandoned property to places with potential for young people and the local neighbourhood, he started volunteering for **Toestand vzw** in 2012. Now, as **coordinator and driving force** behind the non-profit, he continues to reactivate forgotten or abandoned buildings and (public) spaces by means of dialogue, creation, autonomy and action from local (young) residents. Not only in Brussels, but also in Kosovo, Germany, Ukraine and Spain, they realised projects where the youth and vulnerable groups can find a place for art, culture, parties and social projects. *Toestand vzw* recently received **the Ultima** for social cultural work. Pepijn studied sociology at VUB and urban development in Brussels, Vienna, Copenhagen and Madrid.

Julie Foulon, *MolenGeek, Girleek*



Julie Foulon is the **founder of Girleek and co-founder of MolenGeek**. After her master in management and financial markets she worked for *Dexia*, co-founded *facile SOLUTION sprl*, was animator at *Switch Coworking*, managing director at *BetaGroup*, and community leader at *Start it @ KBC*. Currently she is community builder and founder of *Girleek.net*, a platform which talks about new technologies for women. *Girleek* has the ambition to inspire women and to empower them into the ICT sector. *MolenGeek*, which she cofounded with Ibrahim Ouassari, is a coworking space and a coding school created in Molenbeek, Brussels to strengthen social cohesion and to give young early school leavers and unemployed digital skills and a network, and to encourage them to entrepreneurship. Recently branches in Schaarbeek and Italy were opened, last year they received a big grant from Google. In 2017 she received the **Gender Award** from *Good Planet Belgium* and the **Samsung Global Citizenship Award** for *MolenGeek*.

Victoria Anderica, *City of Madrid*



Victoria is the **Director of the Transparency Project** in the *Madrid City Council*, where she promotes the necessary measures to implement a transparency policy in the City of Madrid. The City launched "**Decide Madrid**" which is an online platform to facilitate direct, individual participation in the city's public affairs. Previously, Victoria has worked in the pro-transparency organization *Access Info Europe*, where she coordinated research projects and campaigns on the transparency of public institutions. She has also been a teacher and coordinator of the *Right to Know* module "Legality and Transparency". Victoria is an expert in access to public information, freedom of information and expression, and citizen participation. She holds a master in Journalism research, Data and Visualization.

Michel Pradolini, *City Pirates*



Michel Pradolini is not only a successful and socially committed entrepreneur, but also the **founder and chairman of City Pirates**, a broadly supported social project and football club, active in several districts of Antwerp, which currently numbers about 1200 young people while waiting lists continue to grow. The club wants to highlight the **social role of football**, and today also of **music and dance**. According to Pradolini, these three disciplines constitute a mean of social cohesion in disadvantaged districts of Antwerp where many young people are growing up in relative poverty. Thanks to this project, children and teenagers receive opportunities and perspectives, and develop skills with consideration for equality, respect and commitment. He recently received several awards, among which the **Citizenship Award** from the P&V Foundation and the **Grassroot UEFA Award**.



Anne Muxel, *Center for Political Research, Sciences Po Paris*



Anne Muxel is **Research Director** at CNRS and works at the **CEVIPOF** (Center for Political Research at Sciences Po Paris). She is the author of numerous publications in the field of political science and sociology and has **coordinated various research and international projects**, specifically on **youth and politics**, (old and new forms of) **political participation**, and **intergenerational transmission** of attitudes and practices. Some of her latest publications are “Politiquement jeune” (2018), “La tentation radicale. Enquête auprès des lycéens.” (with Olivier Galland, 2018), “Croire et faire croire. Usages politiques de la croyance” (2017) and “Temps et politique : les recompositions de l'identité” (2016). She is a member of the board of directors of the Department of Political Science in Sciences Po Paris where she has taught since 1989 and has been a visiting professor in North America (NYU) and Japan (Tokyo University). She is a member of the Board of Administrators of the Foundation Jean Jaurès.

Gary Pollock, *Manchester Metropolitan University*



Gary Pollock is **Professor and Head of Sociology** at Manchester Metropolitan University. He has been **involved in youth research for over twenty years** and is interested in using survey data to examine **young people in society in terms of their social and political outlook**, as well as their employment and family trajectories. He was co-editor of “Measuring Youth Wellbeing. How a Pan-European Longitudinal Survey Can Improve Policy” (2018), “Understanding Youth Participation Across Europe: From Survey to Ethnography” (2017) and “Radical Futures? Youth, Politics and Activism in Europe” (2015). He was closely involved in The MYPLACE project, a European Commission funded project, which sought to map the relationship between political heritage, current levels and forms of civic and political engagement of young people in Europe, and their potential receptivity to radical and populist political agendas.

Jacqueline van Stekelenburg, *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*



Jacqueline van Stekelenburg is **Professor of social change and conflict** at the VU University in Amsterdam. She is the **research director of “Participation in Society”** and actively takes part in the **“Mobilise Consortium”** (Determinants of ‘Mobilisation’ at Home and Abroad. Analysing the Micro- Foundations of Out-Migration & Mass Protest). She studies the social psychological dynamics of protest participation with a special interest in group identification, emotions and ideologies as motivators for action. Jacqueline's research interests are **social movements, collective action, online and offline participation and mobilization**. Some of her recent publications are “How does protesting work in the age of social media?” (2018), “In politics we trust...or not? Trusting and distrusting demonstrators compared” (2018, with Bert Klandermans) and “Protesting youth: Collective and connective action participation compared” (2017, with Bert Klandermans).

