

**Call for applications – PhD Grant (2018-2021)
« Pyramids & Progress » Project**

The research project “Pyramids and Progress: Belgian expansionism and the making of Egyptology, 1830-1952” invites applications for a 4-year PhD grant (2018-2021).

Bringing contemporary historians and Egyptologists from the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL), the Universiteit Gent (UGent), the Royal Museums of Art and History and the Musée royal de Mariemont, the project “Pyramids & Progress” is funded by the Excellence of Science program of the Belgian F.R.S.-FNRS and FWO. It investigates the formation of Egyptology as a scientific discipline, in the context of the industrial and political expansionism which marks, from its birth and until the first half of the 20th century, the development of the Kingdom of Belgium. The project is based on the study of unpublished archives kept in many institutions in Belgium and abroad.

In the era preceding Egyptology as an institutionalised discipline in Belgium, royals, diplomats and industrialists responded to the demands of the local power, with the Ottoman pashas mobilising European specialists in their pursuit of technological innovation and modernisation of Egypt. Making use of a digital collaborative research platform, the proposed PhD thesis will study the dynamics of the cultural brokerage by Belgian diplomatic representatives in Egypt before WW1, the collections of antiquities they contributed to gather and the encounters and exchanges they facilitated.

The candidates will hold a Master degree in History or History of Art and Archaeology from a Belgian university, or the equivalent from a foreign university.

The PhD thesis will be prepared under the co-direction of ULB (Prof. Eugène Warmenbol) and Universiteit Gent (Prof. Christophe Verbruggen and Dr. Jan Vandersmissen). The main registration will be in ULB. The dissertation will be presented either in French or in English.

Conditions: PhD grant of 4 years, starting on October 1, 2018. Amount of the grant is 1964,92 € netto per month; the grant is exempted from tax and the beneficiary is subject to Belgian social security.

The applications, comprising a cover letter and a detailed CV, must be sent to lbavay@ulb.ac.be and christophe.verbruggen@ugent.be by **September 16, 2018**.