

# MARION NELLY PAYET

PhD Candidate in Political Science – International Relations · Sciences Po Paris, CERI

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## RESEARCH PROFILE

PhD Candidate in Political Science – International Relations at Sciences Po Paris (CERI), under the supervision of Carola Klöck (September 2026). Research examines how non-sovereign substate entities in centralised states construct international agency, with Reunion Island as the primary case study, using an abductive mixed-methods design (NLP, social network analysis, and qualitative fieldwork) within a rooted interpretivist framework. MRes thesis—awarded 18/20 and the highest mark of the cohort—examined Reunion Island’s actorness in the governance architecture of the Southern Indian Ocean, drawing on over twenty semi-structured interviews across Parisian ministries and field institutions.

**Research interests:** Paradiplomacy and substate agency · Postcolonial and decolonial IR · Ocean and maritime governance · French overseas territories · Indian Ocean regionalism · Computational methods in IR · Sociology of international relations

## EDUCATION

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| 2026–     | <p><b>PhD in Political Science — International Relations</b><br/><i>Sciences Po Paris, School of Research – CERI</i><br/><b>Supervisor:</b> Carola Klöck (Sciences Po – CERI)<br/><b>Project:</b> “<i>Constructing Agency Beyond Statehood: Reunion Island and the Security–Development–Environment Nexus in the Indian Ocean</i>”</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2023–2025 | <p><b>MRes in Political Science — Major in International Relations   Cum Laude</b><br/><i>Sciences Po Paris, School of Research</i><br/><b>Thesis:</b> “<i>Uncharted Waters? Navigating Reunion Island’s Actorness in the Governance Architecture of the Southern Indian Ocean</i>”<br/><b>Supervisor:</b> Carola Klöck (Sciences Po – CERI)<br/><b>Jury:</b> Pr. Chiara Ruffa (president), Pr. Frédéric Ramel, Assoc. Pr. Carola Klöck<br/>Grade: 18/20 — Highest awarded score in the cohort · Publication proposal following defence<br/>Training: Quantitative Methods I &amp; II; Computational Social Sciences workshop; semi-structured interviewing; archival research; thematic analysis<br/>Class Representative<br/><b>Core seminars (groupwork, both awarded highest grade):</b><br/>“<i>The Women, Peace, and Security Agenda: Multilateralism and Normativity in Complex Systems</i>” — with Edgar Paysant &amp; Stefania Santillo<br/>“<i>Of Frames and Attention: Constructing an Internationalised Intrastate Armed Conflict at the United Nations</i>” — with Elias Brigidou &amp; Stefania Santillo</p> |
| 2021–2023 | <p><b>“Ambition” Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Programme — Valedictorian (2023)   Highest Distinction</b><br/><i>Université de La Réunion, Faculté de Droit et d’Économie</i><br/>Selective interdisciplinary diploma combining political science, social science, and public speaking, in partnership with Sciences Po Paris<br/>Completed four Sciences Po Paris online courses</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2020–2023 | <p><b>Bachelor’s Degree in Law (LLB) — Public Law Major   With Honours</b><br/><i>Université de La Réunion, Faculté de Droit et d’Économie</i><br/><b>Final-year thesis (IR):</b> “<i>La matérialisation de la puissance américaine sur la scène internationale: Le processus de renouvellement de légitimité à travers l’Alliance transatlantique</i>” — Grade: 19/20<br/><b>Supervisor:</b> Pr. Olivier Provini (Agrégé 2025, CRJ, Université de La Réunion)<br/>Salutatorian of the final-year class · Finalist, ‘Diagonale des Juristes’ public speaking competition<br/>Class Representative</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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| 2025–2026 | <p><b>Gap Year — Mauritius</b><br/>Attended the Regional SIDS Climate Finance Event<br/>Immersion within a local NGO providing exposure to cross-border cooperation frameworks, visa regimes, and civil society-state relations in the Indian Ocean region</p>                                                                                                         |
| 2024–2025 | <p><b>Research Intern — GENERISK Programme</b><br/><i>Centre de Recherche Juridique (CRJ), Université de La Réunion (Dec. 2024 – Feb. 2025)</i><br/>Qualitative fieldwork in public policy sociology on shark risk governance in Reunion Island<br/>Semi-structured interviews and thematic document analysis on the 2011 shark crisis and agenda-setting dynamics</p> |
| 2024–2025 | <p><b>MRes Thesis Fieldwork</b><br/><i>Parisian Ministries &amp; Reunion Island (Oct. 2024 – Feb. 2025)</i><br/>20+ semi-structured interviews with policymakers, regional officials, and institutional actors across Paris and Reunion Island</p>                                                                                                                     |

Examined how Reunion Island constructs and enacts international presence within constrained institutional settings

2021–2022

**Intern — General Secretariat of the French State in Reunion Island**

*Dec. 2021 – Jan. 2022*

Research and drafting of briefing notes on disciplinary procedures in the civil service

Administrative support in managing civil servant mobility

## PUBLICATIONS & WORKS IN PROGRESS

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In preparation

**Payet, M. & Klöck, C. “A Seat at the Table: Reunion Island’s International Action in the Indian Ocean”**

Target journal TBD — to be submitted

Based on MRes thesis research (Sciences Po – CERI, 2025). Publication proposal made following thesis defence.

2026

**Payet, M. (2026)**

*Journal du multilatéralisme*, ISSN 2825-6107 [en ligne]

*“Penser les actions multilatérales depuis l’Océan Indien. Comment La Réunion, territoire infra-étatique français, se situe-t-elle dans les dynamiques multilatérales régionales dans l’océan Indien ?”*

Available at: <https://observatoire-multilateralisme.fr/publications/penser-les-actions-multilaterales-depuis-locean-indien/>

2025

**Student Research Feature — APOLIMER Network (CNRS)**

*apolimer.cnrs.fr (website to be updated)*

*“Governing the Commons from the Overseas Territories: Sketching the Contours of Reunion Island’s Engagement in the International Governance of Marine Biodiversity”*

## ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

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April 2025

**Invited Discussant**

*Sciences Po – CERI Seminar: “Environment and International Relations” (Paris & online)*

Discussant for PhD presentation by Rudy Oh-Seng, in the seminar led by Carola Klöck, Sarah Tegas, and Matthew Winkler

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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2023

**Academic Tutor — “Ambassadeur de La Réussite” Programme**

*Université de La Réunion (Jan.–May 2023)*

Methodological support and peer mentoring for second-year undergraduates

## ASSOCIATIVE ENGAGEMENT

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Jul.–Dec. 2024

**Co-Head, Partnership Pole — Sciences Po Environment**

*Sciences Po Paris*

Co-led the partnership strategy of Sciences Po’s student environmental association, managing external institutional relations

## SKILLS & LANGUAGES

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### Languages

- French — Native (incl. Reunionese Creole)
- English — Fluent (TOEFL 105/120, C1, May 2025)
- Spanish & Italian — A2
- Live interpretation (French/English)
- Juvenes Translatores — European Commission translation competition, selected representative (English–French, 2020)

### Technical

- R / RStudio (intermediate) — statistical analysis, NLP
- QualCoder (intermediate) — qualitative data analysis
- LaTeX (beginner)
- Zotero — bibliographic management
- Microsoft / Apple / Google Suite

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*References and full thesis text available upon request*