

Robert Kluijver Resume – March 2023

Profile

Doctor associated with the Centre for International Research (CERI) of Sciences Po/CNRS. Main research interest: how international interventions shape state-society relations in developing countries. Culturally sensitive analyst of international relations with twenty-five years of experience in conflict or post-conflict development settings, including three in Central Asia, seven in Afghanistan, seven in various countries of the Middle East and seven in the Horn of Africa. Worked for many different institutions including the UN (DPA), the EU (EEAS & CSDP), The World Bank, NGOs (MSF, INSO), donor organisations (Soros, Hivos, Mondriaan) and private sector. Curator of contemporary art specializing in the Arab world. Lecturer at Sciences Po. Polyglot. Shifting from a life in the field to academia.

Personal Information

Date/Place of Birth 1 February 1968 in Nicosia, Cyprus
Current Address 45 Rue Paul Lauters, 1050 Ixelles, Brussels
Contact details +32 471 425 311 / robertkluijver@gmail.com
Nationality Netherlands
Marital status Married with children

Highlights of Professional Experience

- 04/2018 – now **Researcher, Centre for International Studies (CERI), Paris & Addis Ababa**
Guest lectures at universities (Zurich, Mogadishu, Puntland and online).
Participation in international conferences/online academic presentations. PhD field research, interviews and articles on current issues in the Horn of Africa.
- 01/2010 – 06/2022 **Lecturer, Sciences Po, Paris & Le Havre**
Courses taught: 'Introduction to Political Theory', 'Lessons Not Learnt in Afghanistan' and 'Contemporary Art & Geopolitics in the Arab World'. Altogether 6 BA & 9 MA full courses taught, plus several guest lectures.
- 12/2022 – 01/2023 **Lead Writer, Counterpart International, USA**
Coordinate the input from staff on a complex proposal for a civil society activity in Iraq, applying for a 25 M\$ USAID grant. Write the final proposal
- 05/2022 – 06/2022 **Final Editing and Process Management, European External Action Service**
Complete a conflict analysis of Somalia prepared by a senior Somali researcher, exploring options for engaging Al Shabaab in dialogue. Hired by Particip GmbH
- 01/2022 – 05/2022 **Lead consultant, Cultural Relations Platform, Sudan**
Culture and creative industries sector mapping for the European Union Delegation in Sudan. Desk research, survey design, interviews & focus group discussions in Khartoum, database analysis, report writing.
- 09/2020 – 10/2021 **Lead consultant, Aleph Strategies, Horn of Africa**

- Culture sector mapping in Somali-speaking regions for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Desk research; travels through Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia; interviews with civil society, donors and officials; reporting.
- 04/2016 – 04/2018 **Deputy Director Research and Analysis, International NGO Safety Organisation, Nairobi and Hargeisa, Somaliland**
Analyse the evolving safety and access context for NGOs in Somalia and publish regular and topical reports about it; many field visits meeting local authorities & making assessments; data analysis, chart making, GIS; train Somali analysts; provide tailored advice to NGOs upon demand.
- 07/2010 – 03/2016 **Consultant in post-conflict development based in The Hague and Nairobi**
Advise donor organizations and other institutions about post-conflict program set-up and development; political-economic analysis; strategic forecasts; assessment of existing programs. These activities were performed in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Egypt and Somalia for, among other, Hivos, NDI, FEFA, DOEN & Altai Consulting.
- 04/2007 – 06/2015 **Curator of Contemporary Art based in The Hague and Dubai**
Curate exhibitions with mostly Middle Eastern contemporary artists, in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, Paris, Berlin and India. Grant application & management. Scholarly research (with NYU Abu Dhabi & Mondriaan). Many publications. Member of Fonds BKVB/Mondriaan grant evaluation committees.
- 09/2012 – 06/2013 **Senior Expert, EU Technical Assistance Mission to the Ministry of Interior in Yemen**
Cooperate with Yemeni counterparts at the Ministry of Interior on security sector reform plans; involve Yemeni civil society; coordinate with EU member states and the international community; report on the process.
- 03/2010 – 07/2010 **Programme Design in Iraq for Dutch development aid organization Hivos**
Travel in Baghdad, As-Sulaymaniyyah and Erbil to meet actors of the creative and cultural sector, to set up an arts & culture program (now functioning).
- 01/2004 – 03/2006 **Country Director Afghanistan, Open Society Institute (now OSF)**
1.5 M\$/year grants allocation and -management in the fields of judicial reform, media and culture; shape OSI strategy and presence in Afghanistan.
- 06/2003 – 03/2006 **Executive Director, Foundation for Culture and Civil Society, Kabul**
Develop the premier cultural hub in Afghanistan, including 75 staff, a cultural centre with production and performance facilities, regional centres and a nationwide small grants program funded by the EC. Set up first Afghan Pavilion in the Venice Biennale.
- 01/2003 – 12/2003 **Consultancies for The World Bank, Afghanistan**
Investigate local public administrative structures in view of subsequent reform; establish a cultural foundation in Afghanistan with seed funding from the WB.
- 07/2001 – 01/2003 **Civil and Political Affairs Officer, UN Assistance Mission Afghanistan**
Report on social and political developments in and around Afghanistan; set up and manage UN field offices; support Human Rights and Civil Service Commissions and other Afghan state organs; and organize the first electoral process (Loya Jirga).
- 03/2000 – 11/2000 **Programme Coordinator, SPACH, Afghanistan**
Set up an office in Taliban Afghanistan, liaise with the authorities and work with Afghan professionals on cultural preservation activities and mapping.
- 03/1999 – 08/1999 **Researcher, Observatoire Géopolitique des Drogues, Paris/Central Asia**

Perform field research on drug use in Uzbekistan, Kirghizstan & Tajikistan, and published about it in the organization's newsletter.

03/1997 – 09/1997 **Logistician/Administrator, Médecins Sans Frontières, Tajikistan**

Manage a small mission of MSF France in the mountainous region of Gorno-Badakhshan, in a post-conflict setting, with four international and sixteen local staff.

Educational Background

- PhD degree in Political Science/International Relations from Sciences Po Paris, 2023. Subject of dissertation: "The State in Somalia. Between Self-Governance and International Order".
- Master's degree in Post-soviet Studies at Sciences Po, Paris, 1999. Subject of thesis: "L'Historiographie Tadjike dans son Contexte Contemporain".
- Master's degree in International Political Economy at the University of Amsterdam, 1996. Subject of thesis: "Awakening from the Mexican Dream. The EZLN and Mexico's Integration into the First World".

Languages

Fluent in *English, French, Dutch, Spanish*; fully conversant and able to read in *Russian* and *Farsi/Dari*; basic to intermediate level (also reading) in *Arabic, Swahili & Somali*; ability to get along in some related languages (Urdu/Hindi, Italian, Portuguese, Ukrainian etc).

Additional Qualifications

Hostile Environment training: 2014 (one week of EU-certified training with Parachutists in Livorno, Italy) and 2017 (4 days with International NGO Safety Organisation in Hargeisa, Somaliland). Participated in preparing and giving Hostile Environment Safety Training courses in Kenya, Somalia and Somaliland.

List of Publications (selected). I have not included papers and reports that I am not free to distribute, articles or book chapters posted by me on my own website (<https://robertk.space>), other publishing sites I have had (tumblr, weebly) or non-peer reviewed research posted on sites such as Academia.edu and ResearchGate; also not included are reposts between media, appearances on TV, radio or internet livestreams, and articles I wrote in the past without online links.

- « Somalie : État défaillant ou État-aubaine ? » in Kienle, Klöck, Estève et Dieckhoff (editors) « *L'Enjeu mondial : Un monde en crises* », Presses de Sciences Po, 2023 forthcoming.
- Emmanuel Al Miah, Robert Kluijver & Dércio Tsandzana : « Regards croisés d'enquêtes menées en Somalie, en Irak et au Mozambique » in Calmels, Colomba-Petteng, Dreyfus & Estève : « *L'enquête en terrain 'sensible'. Bricolages méthodologiques et enjeux des recherches sur l'international* », Presses du Septentrion, 2023 forthcoming.
- « Le Somaliland, la démocratie africaine aux 30 ans d'isolement », 17 January, 2022, The Conversation (French edition). [Link](#)
- "Culture Sector Mapping in the Horn of Africa, 2020-2021", Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, 2021. [Link](#)
- "Why did Somaliland just suspend cooperation with the UN?", 9 November 2020, African Arguments. [Link](#)
- "Al-Shabab Governance", 10 July 2019, Zomia. [Link](#)

- "The Artist Giving Stateless Syrians a Voice", December 2015, The Art Newspaper, London. [Link](#)
- "Arte y Poder Blando en el Golfo", Issue #47 October 2015, Afkar/Ideas. [Link](#)
- "Afghan Perceptions on Democracy and Elections", Free and Fair Elections Forum of Afghanistan, Kabul, 2014 (142p). [Link](#)
- "Contemporary Art in the Gulf: Contexts and Perspectives", The Farook Printing Press, Dubai, 2013 (146p). [Link](#)
- "I am Anything, I am Everything: Ayman Yossri Daydban and the Jeddah Art Scene", Athr Gallery/Al Mohtaraf publishing, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 2012 (63p). [Link](#)
- "Borders: Contemporary Middle Eastern Art and Discourse", Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, 2010 (140p). [Link](#)