

Semblanza Nyala Nauwelaers

Nyala Nauwelaers graduated from the Master's program in History at the *Vrije Universiteit Brussel* in 2023. During her studies, she spent a semester at the *Universidad Autónoma de Madrid* (BA3, 2021-2022) and the *CY Cergy Paris Université* (MA, 2022-2023). In addition to her history degree, she completed the Flemish interuniversity Master's program in Gender and Diversity in February 2025. Her latest dissertation, *The Women of the Socialist Freethinkers' Association of Ghent (Late 19th – Early 20th Century)*, examined the philosophical agency of twelve working-class and lower-middle-class women affiliated with the freethinkers' movement in the predominantly Catholic society of Belgium.

Since the academic year 2024-2025, Nyala is affiliated as a PhD researcher with SSAB (Secular Studies Association Brussels, a research group within the history department of the *Vrije Universiteit Brussel*, <https://ssab.paddlecms.net/home>) and its sister research group *Centre Interdisciplinaire d'Étude des Religions et de la Laïcité* (CIERL) at the *Université Libre de Bruxelles* (ULB) under a joint-PhD, further developing her research on secular women in 19th-century Belgium.

Her first peer-reviewed publication "*Liberale vrouwen en genderquota in Vlaanderen en Brussel (1980-2025)*" recently appeared in the Flemish-Dutch journal for gender history *Historica*. (<https://ugp.rug.nl/historica/article/view/42775>)