

Born in Beirut (Lebanon) in 1973, of Swiss and British nationality, Samantha Besson is a professor at the Collège de France in Paris, where she has held the Chair *International Law of Institutions* since 2019. She has also been Professor of Public International Law and European Law at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) since 2005.

Samantha Besson studied law in Switzerland, Austria and the UK between 1991 and 1999. After completing her doctorate, she held the positions of Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow at Columbia Law School in New York (1999-2000) and Junior Research Fellow at The Queen's College, Oxford University (2001-2004). Since then, she has also been a visiting professor at the Universities of Zurich (2007-2010), Lausanne (2010) and Lisbon (2010-2019), as well as at Duke (2009), Harvard (2014), Pennsylvania University (2019) and Columbia (2024) Law Schools. Samantha Besson has also taught in various capacities at The Hague Academy of International Law since 2009. She was invited to teach a special course there in January 2020 and the general course in July 2027. She was a resident of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin in 2011-12 and a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Institut d'études avancées de Nantes from 2013 to 2021. In 2021, she became a Chevalière de la Légion d'honneur in France, and in 2024 received an Honorary Doctorate from the Catholic University of Louvain.

Samantha Besson was elected Associate Member of the Institute of International Law in 2021 and is currently the co-chair of the International Law Association (ILA) Working Group on the International Law of Regional Organizations (2021-2024). She has been on the Committee of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences since 2017 and was the first Human Rights Delegate of the Swiss Academies of Sciences (2013-2016). Samantha Besson regularly advises the Swiss government on various issues relating to its foreign, European and security policies, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human right to access and participate in science. Between 2008 and 2011, she was an independent member of the Swiss Federal Commission against Racism.

Samantha Besson's research interests lie at the crossroads of general international law, European institutional law and legal philosophy. Her areas of specialization are international, European and comparative human rights law and theory, and international and European democracy law and theory.