



**Master of Advanced Studies in
Children's Rights (2007 – 2008)**

INSTITUT UNIVERSITAIRE KURT BOSCH – UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG

MODULE 1

Children's Rights in Context

*An interdisciplinary introduction to the background,
sources and development of children's rights*

12 February 2007

Module 1 – Children's Rights in Context

An interdisciplinary introduction to the background, sources and development of children's rights

Monday 12 February	Tuesday 13 February	Wednesday 14 February	Thursday 15 February	Friday 16 February	Saturday 17 February
	<i>Taking children's rights for a walk</i>	<i>Lecture</i> - A critical review of children's rights in context (V. Pupavac)	<i>Lecture</i> - Childhood sociology (A. James)	<i>Fare of ideas</i> - Presentation of the work of the participants	<i>Lecture</i> Children's rights in context (I. Rizzini)
	<i>Lecture</i> - Children's rights and moral philosophy (F. Mortier)	<i>Childhood images</i> - Excursion to Sion	<i>Lecture</i> -Development psychology (A. Flammer)	<i>Lecture</i> - Background, motivation and main themes of the CRC (E. Verhellen)	<i>Evaluation by the students</i> <i>Module 2: Homework</i>
<i>Welcome address</i> <i>Presentation of the MCR</i> <i>Presentation of the participants</i>	<i>Reading groups</i> – The debate on children's equal rights	<i>Group discussions I & II</i>	<i>Round table</i> Interdisciplinary case studies	<i>Lecture</i> - History and impact of the CRC (N. Cantwell)	
	<i>Lecture</i> - A historical approach to the legal status of children (M. Bors)	<i>Lecture</i> - Childhood studies and children's rights in Latin-America and the Caribbean (I. Rizzini)	<i>Methodology</i> - Introduction (K. Hanson)	<i>Group discussions I & II</i>	
<i>Opening lecture</i> - Children's rights and child development (Y. Lee)	<i>Praxis groups</i> - Introduction	<i>Round table</i> Childhood images	<i>Methodology workshops:</i> A. Childhood research (A. James) B. Psychological research (A. Flammer)	<i>Simulation game</i>	
<i>Welcome reception</i>		<i>MCR Film: Pixote</i>		<i>MCR Dinner</i>	

► General

The first module introduces the major subject matters that will be discussed during the Master, emphasising both theoretical and interdisciplinary aspects of children's rights studies. Philosophical and global views on children and children's rights will be examined, as well as sociological, psychological and legal points of view from various regional perspectives. A major importance is given to the background and historical origins of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which runs as a thread throughout the Master.

► Chronological overview of the sessions

Monday 12 February 2007

14.00 Welcome addresses

S 12

- Claude Roch, President of the Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch; Minister of Education of the Canton of Valais (to be confirmed)
- Jean Zermatten, President of the MCR Scientific Committee; Director of the International Institute for the Rights of the Child; Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
- Prof. Eva Maria Belser, MCR Programme Director; Professor at the Law Faculty of Fribourg.

14.15 Overall presentation of the Master of Advanced Studies

S 12

Introduction to the pedagogical and organisational matters and presentation of the MCR Student Handbook (Karl Hanson and Joanna Bourke-Martignoni)

14.45 Presentation of the participants

S 12

Students are invited to concisely introduce their professional experience regarding children's rights as well as their expectations regarding the Master, illustrated by a particular CRC Article.

16.00 Coffee break

16.30 Opening lecture

S 12

Title: Children's rights and child development

Abstract: The lecturer will present her views, as a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, on the broad interdisciplinary context of children's rights. What issues are at stake when studying children's rights? Are particular issues of importance for studying children's rights from a development psychology and from an Asian perspective? What are the major themes for research and practice in children's rights?

Lecturer: Yanghee Lee is a Professor at the Department of Child Psychology and Education of Sungkyunkwan University, Republic of Korea, where she is also Dean and Director of Graduate Studies at the School of Human Life Sciences. Ms. Lee is a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child since February 2003.

18.00 MCR Welcome reception

Tuesday 13 February 2007

09.00 Taking children's rights for a walk

A morning walk in groups along the "Children's rights trail", an educational path that starts of just at the IUKB Campus and wishes to learn young children the content of the CRC. Pairs of students will be given a particular philosophical question on children's rights around which they are invited to engage in a form of a "Socratic Dialogue".

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 Lecture

S 12

Title: Children's rights and moral philosophy

Abstract: The lecture will present, from a moral philosopher's point of view, arguments for and against granting rights to children. Furthermore, he will also develop his insights in the debate on children's competence, which plays a central role in children's rights discourse and practices.

Lecturer: Freddy Mortier is a Professor of Moral Philosophy and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy at Ghent University, Belgium. Recent publications on children's rights issues include: "Minors and Euthanasia", in: M. Freeman (ed.), *Children's Health and Children's Rights*, Leiden/Boston: Martinus Nijhoff, 2006 (together with D. Mannaerts); "The meaning of individualisation for children's citizenship", in: J. Qvortrup and F. Mouritsen (eds.), *Childhood and Children's Culture*, University Press of Southern Denmark, 2003; "Rationality and competence to decide in children", in: E. Verhellen (ed.), *Understanding Children's Rights. Collected papers presented at the sixth international interdisciplinary course on children's rights*, Gent University: Children's Rights Centre, 2004

12.30 Lunch

14.00 Reading Groups

S 12 & S11

Title: The debate on children's equal rights

Reading: Please read carefully the articles distributed via MCR Reader No 1 (A):

- Purdy, L.M. 1994. Why children shouldn't have equal rights. *The International Journal of Children's Rights*, 2, pp. 223-241.
- McGillivray, A., 1994. Why Children do have equal rights: in reply to Laura Purdy. *The International Journal of Children's Rights*, 2, pp. 243-258.
- Campbell, T.D., 1994. Really equal rights? Some philosophical comments on 'Why children shouldn't have equal rights' by Laura M. Purdy. *The International Journal of Children's Rights*, 2, pp. 259-263.
- Purdy, L.M., 1994. Why children still shouldn't have equal rights. *The International Journal of Children's Rights*, 2, pp. 395-398.

Also, think of one or two specific questions pertaining to the content of the articles that can serve as a basis for these small group discussions (it is unnecessary to send these questions on beforehand).

15.30 Coffee break

16.00 Lecture**S 12**

Title: A historical approach to the legal status of children

Abstract: The lecture will give details on legal evolutions that considered the child merely as an object, a father's property, to a full legal subject with rights to autonomy and personal freedoms.

Lecturer: Marc Bors is a professor at the Law Faculty of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland), where he holds the chair of Roman Law.

17.30 Praxis Groups**S 12 & S 11**

Introduction of the Praxis groups sessions, whose aim is to reflect throughout the training on how to link academic theories to international practice in the field of children's rights via the presentation of observations from the student's workplace and the discussion of case studies.

19.00 Closure

Wednesday 14 February 2007

09.00 Lecture

S 12

Title: A critical review of children's rights in context

Abstract: The lecture will provide a critical analysis of how children's rights and human rights-based development thinking are conceptualised. To what extent does the contemporary notion of children's rights transcend a paternalistic model? How does human rights-based development thinking relates to (or circumvents) substantial economic advancement?

Lecturer: Vanessa Pupavac is a Lecturer at the School of Politics and International Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, Law and Education, University of Nottingham, UK. Her research encompasses international human rights, children's rights, linguistic rights, humanitarian and development politics. Her publications on children's rights issues include: "The politics of emergency and the demise of the developing state: problems for humanitarian advocacy", *Development in Practice*, 16(3-4), 255-269, 2006; "Misanthropy without borders: The international children's rights regime", *Disasters*, 25(2), 95-112, 2001; "Children's rights and the new culture of paternalism", Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield, UK, 1999; "The infantilisation of the South and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child", *Human Rights Law Review*, 3(2), 1-6, 1998.

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 Childhood images: Excursion to the city of Sion

Exploration and observation in small groups of childhood images in the city of Sion. We invite you to visit several places in town that have links with children and childhood: railway station, toy shop, museum, library, shopping mall, ... What childhood image(s) can you observe?

15.30 Feedback and discussion of the excursion

16.00 Lecture

S 12

Title: Childhood studies and children's rights in Latin-America

Abstract: The lecture will give an account of childhood experiences and specific situations regarding children's rights in Latin America. In what way do the particularities of being young in Latin America affect the study of childhood? In addition, the lecturer will develop her views on the intersection(s) between the study of the conditions and agency of childhood in Latin America and children's rights

Lecturer: Irene Rizzini is a Professor in the Department of Social Work at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC), Brazil. She is also the director of the International Centre for Research and Policy on Childhood at PUC and is the board President of Childwatch International, a consortium of children's research centres in over 40 countries. She is author and editor of a number of books and articles, published in several countries, including: "Street Children: An excluded generation in Latin America", *Childhood*, Vol. 3, no. 2, 1996, pp. 215-233.

17.30 Round table: Childhood images

S 12

Theme: Discussion on differences and resemblances between childhood images in various regions of the world.

Participants: Vanessa Pupavac and Irene Rizzini.

18.30 Closure

20.00 MCR Film – Pixote: The law of the weakest (*Pixote: A lei do mais fraco*)

Directed by Hector Babenco (Brazil, 1981)

A drama film on the life of Pixote, a 10-year-old runaway boy, in the streets of Sao Paulo, involved with violence, prostitution, drugs and crimes.

Thursday 15 February 2007

09.00 Lecture

S 12

Title: Childhood sociology

Abstract: The lecture will introduce the field of childhood sociology, or the “new” social studies of childhood, a paradigmatic stance that calls for children to be understood as social actors shaping as well as shaped by their circumstances. Special attention will be given to the intersection between childhood sociology and children's rights.

Lecturer: Allison James is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Sheffield (UK). Her main research interest is in the sociology and anthropology of childhood. Publications include: *Childhood identities: Self and social relationships in the experience of the child*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1993; *Constructing and reconstructing childhood*, London: Falmer Press, 1997 (Joint edited volume with Alan Prout), *Theorizing childhood*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 1998 (Joint authored book with Chris Jenks and Alan Prout) and *Constructing childhood: Theory, policy and social practice*, London: Palgrave, 2004 (Joint authored with Adrian L. James).

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 Lecture

S 12

Title: Development psychology

Abstract: The lecture will discuss some recent trends in developmental psychology and relate them to the children's rights field. Insights from life span studies that address the shifting patterns of participation and dependency from birth to old age will particularly be explored.

Lecturer: August Flammer is a Doctor of psychology and an emeritus Professor at the University of Bern, Switzerland. He has published numerous works in the field of developmental psychology, in particular in relation to adolescence, culture and gender.

12.30 Lunch

14.00 Round table discussion

S 12-13

Theme: An interdisciplinary dialogue on children's rights, confronting psychological and sociological perspectives on particular cases.

Participants: Allison James and August Flammer

15.30. Coffee break

16.00 Methodology

S 12

Introduction of the general requirements for the research and MCR Thesis; sources on children's rights (Karl Hanson)

16.30 Methodology workshops

S 12 & S 11

Two repeated parallel workshops on basic methodological tools on childhood and psychological research methods, including good examples of empirical research. The workshops are introduced and directed by Allison James and August Flammer (2 parallel sessions of 1 hour each).

18.30 Closure

Friday 16 February 2007

09.00 Fare of ideas

S 12

Students are invited to present their work on children's rights during this fare of ideas via a poster or a small information stand. The information stands will be accessible throughout the day.

11.00 Lecture

S 12

Title: Children's rights: Background, motivation, strategies and main themes

Abstract: The relationship between legal and social norms regarding children is taken as a starting point to further elaborate the changing child-images and the human rights project. Central points that will be discussed include the competence debate, strategies of the children's rights movement and monitoring the CRC.

Lecturer: Eugeen Verhellen is emeritus professor at the Educational Science Faculty and at the Law Faculty of Ghent University, Belgium. He was also Director of Ghent University's Children's Rights Centre between 1978 and 2005. He is the author of *Convention on the Rights of the Child: Background, motivation, strategies, main themes*, Leuven, Garant, 2000. He is also the editor of several readers on children's rights, including *Monitoring Children's Rights*, The Hague, Martinus Nijhoff, 1996 and *Understanding Children's Rights*, Ghent University, Children's Rights Centre, 2004.

12.30 Lunch

14.00 Lecture

S 12

Title: Background to the history and impact of the CRC

Abstract: The lecture will concentrate on the "international children's rights movement" and on the events that took place during and around the drafting process of the CRC, emphasising the unique role played therein by children's rights' NGOs. In looking at the impact of the CRC, the lecture will also concentrate on the change from a "needs-based" to a "rights-based" approach that the CRC requires.

Lecturer: Nigel Cantwell is a children's rights consultant based in Geneva, Switzerland, working on children's rights and child protection issues, including juvenile justice, alternative care and inter-country adoption. He founded DCI in 1979 and co-ordinated the NGO Group's input into the drafting of the CRC. He has previously worked with Defence for Children International (DCI), UNICEF's Regional Office for Europe and UNICEF's Innocenti Research Centre.

15.30 Coffee break

16.00 Group discussions I & II

S 12 & S11

Two repeated parallel group discussions, introduced and directed by Nigel Cantwell and Eugeen Verhellen (2 parallel sessions of 45 minutes each)

17.30 Simulation game

S 12 & S 11

Simulation game on cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspectives

19.00 Closure

20.00 MCR Dinner

Saturday 17 February 2007

09.00 Lecture

S 12

Title: Children's rights in context

Abstract: The lecturer will present her views on the broad interdisciplinary context of children's rights: What issues are at stake when studying children's rights? Are childhoods and children rights universal? What are the major themes for research and practice in children's rights?

Lecturer: Irene Rizzini

10.30 Preparation for the second module

S 12

Assignment of the work to be accomplished by the students between the first and second module; preparation for the examination on Module 1.

11.00 Evaluation by the students

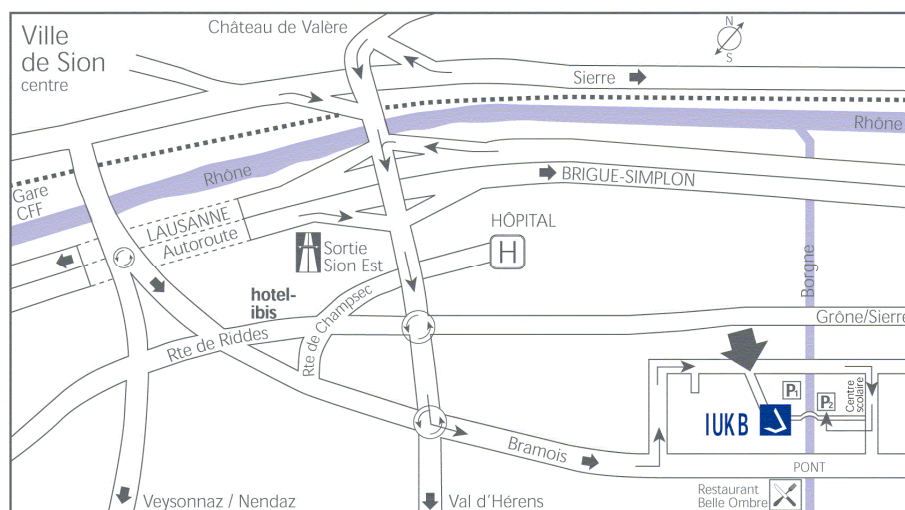
S 12

Evaluation of format, content and practical matters.

12.00 Closure

► **Venue**

All lectures will take place at the IUKB campus, which is situated in Bramois, a village at the outskirts of Sion.



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