



**Master of Advanced Studies in  
Children's Rights (2009 – 2010)**

**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*

9 February 2009

## Module 1 – Children's Rights in Context

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

Monday 16 February	Tuesday 17 February	Wednesday 18 February	Thursday 19 February	Friday 20 February	Saturday 21 February
	<b>Introduction</b> Presentation of the MCR Study design and information resources (K. Hanson & S. Sahli)	<b>Lecture</b> -Children's rights : A view from anthropology (O. Nieuwenhuys)	<b>Lecture</b> - Childhood sociology (D. Stoecklin)	<b>Fare of ideas</b> - Presentation of the work of the participants	<b>Lecture</b> Children's rights in context (J. Doek)
	<b>Lecture</b> - Schools of thought in children's rights (K. Hanson)	<b>Working groups</b>	<b>Lecture</b> -Development psychology (A. Flammer)	<b>Lecture</b> - History and impact of the CRC (N. Cantwell)	<b>Evaluation by the students</b>  <b>Preparation for Module 2</b>
<b>Welcome address</b> <b>Presentation of the MCR</b>	<b>Reading groups</b> "Why children should/shouldn't have equal rights"	<b>Working groups (continued)</b>	<b>Interdisciplinary case study</b>	<b>Lecture</b> - The work of the CRC Committee (N. Vuckovic-Sahovic)	
<b>Presentation of teachers and participants</b>	<b>Lecture</b> - Children's rights and moral philosophy (D. Archard)	<b>Documentary film and workshop</b> - The Living Rights documentary film series (D. Tellegen)	<b>Methodology workshops:</b> A. Childhood research (D. Stoecklin) B. Psychological research (A. Flammer)	<b>Fare of ideas (continued)</b>	
<b>Opening Lecture</b> - Background, motivation and main themes of the CRC (E. Verhellen) <b>Documentary film</b> - Living Rights: Toti					
<b>Welcome reception</b>					

## ► 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. 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 16 February 2009*

#### **14.00 Welcome addresses**

MIS Saal Jäggi

- 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

#### **14.15 Overall presentation of the Master of Advanced Studies**

MIS Saal Jäggi

#### **14.30 Presentation of the participants**

MIS Saal Jäggi

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**

MIS Saal Jäggi

*Title:* Children's rights: Background, motivation and main themes of the CRC

*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.

#### **18.00 Documentary film**

MIS Saal Jäggi

*Title:* Living Rights: *Toti – Kenya*

*Abstract:* The Maasai father of Toti (14) wanted to marry her off. Toti ran away and her twin sister was married of instead. After three years without contact, Toti tries to reunite with her sister and her family.

This documentary film by Duco Tellegen forms part of the "Living Rights" documentary series on the rights of the child seen from the perspective of everyday life.

#### **18.30 MCR Welcome reception**

## **Tuesday 17 February 2009**

### **9.00 Introduction**

MIS Saal Jäggi

Presentation of the MCR Study Design and information resources

### **10.30 Coffee break**

### **11.00 Lecture**

MIS Saal Jäggi

**Title:** Schools of thoughts in children's rights

**Abstract:** The lecture aims reflecting on the differences amongst conceptions of children's rights by proposing a heuristic structure which presents the various approaches as 'schools of thought' in children's rights, taking into account key issues on which opinions diverge.

**Lecturer:** Karl Hanson is Associate Professor at the Children's Rights Unit of the Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch in Sion (Switzerland). He is programme coordinator of the Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights. His publications and main research interests include children's rights as human rights, juvenile justice and the debate on working children/child labour.

### **12.30 Lunch**

### **14.00 Reading Groups**

MIS Saal Jäggi

**Title:** "Why children should/shouldn't have 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.

Please prepare one or two specific questions pertaining to the content of the articles that can serve as a basis for these small group discussions.

### **15.30 Coffee break**

### **16.00 Lecture**

MIS Saal Jäggi

**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. From John Locke's children to the modern conception of childhood. Children's liberation versus the caretaker thesis.

**Lecturer:** David Archard is Professor of Philosophy and Public Policy at Lancaster University (UK). His major publications in the field of children's rights include *Sexual Consent* (Oxford: Westview, 1998), *Children: Rights and Childhood* (2nd edition, London/New-York: Routledge, 2004), *Children, Family, and State* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2003) and *The Moral and Political Status of Children: New Essays* (co-edited with Colin Macleod, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

### **17.30 Closure**

## **Wednesday 18 February 2009**

### **09.00 Lecture**

MIS Salon des Profs.

*Title:* Children's rights: A view from anthropology

*Abstract:* From an anthropological view on children's rights, the lecturer will critically review the tensions between the emancipatory features of the CRC, a human rights document, and its use for 'imperialistic' purposes. Also, how do children in the developing world engage with the organizations and the personnel that seek to help them from a rights perspective? How do these organizations deal with the objections raised by children about the ways their rights are construed for them?

*Lecturer:* Olga Nieuwenhuys, a social anthropologist, is a senior research fellow at the Department of Geography, Planning and International Development Studies, University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands). She has published widely on childhood, child labour and children's rights in the developing world and is co-editor of *Childhood – A Global Journal of Child Research*.

### **10.30 Coffee break**

### **11.00 Working groups**

MIS Salon des Profs.

Working groups on anthropology and children's rights, directed by Olga Nieuwenhuys

### **12.30 Lunch**

### **14.00 Working groups**

MIS Salon des Profs.

Continued

### **15.30 Coffee break**

### **16.00 Documentary film and workshop**

MIS Salon des Profs.

*Documentary film:* Living Rights: *Yoshi - Japan*

*Abstract:* Yoshinori Takeuchi (16) has Asperger Syndrome, a disorder related to autism. Recently he was transferred from a regular to a special school for the severely handicapped. Yoshi feels lost between two worlds. He dreams of a solution to become normal.

*Lecturer:* Duco Tellegen (The Netherlands, 1967) started filmmaking at a School of Art in Utrecht. Besides directing and producing his own documentary films on different social issues, he worked as production- and director assistant, researcher and sound engineer for many film productions worldwide. Among his films are: *Who needs us*, portrait of the inhabitants of an apartment building in Moscow on the verge of collapsing, while the city celebrates its anniversary; *Woat et Aule Es*, about Bolivian Mennonites and their conflict with the modern world; *Behind Closed Eyes* on war-children from Liberia, Kosovo, Cambodia and Rwanda who try to build a future despite their past; and *Living Rights*, a six part documentary series on the rights of the child seen from the perspective of everyday life. His films won several international awards.

### **18.30 Closure**

## ***Thursday 19 February 2009***

### **09.00 Lecture**

MIS Saal Jäggi

*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:* Daniel Stoecklin is Associate Professor at the Children's Rights Unit of the Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch in Sion (Switzerland), and Scientific collaborator at the International institute for the Rights of the Child (IDE) in Sion His publications and main research interests include childhood sociology, children in street situations and children's participation.

### **10.30 Coffee break**

### **11.00 Lecture**

MIS Saal Jäggi

*Title:* Development psychology

*Abstract:* The lecture will discuss 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 Interdisciplinary case study**

MIS Saal Jäggi

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

*Participants:* Daniel Stoecklin and August Flammer

### **15.30. Coffee break**

### **16.00 Methodology workshops**

MIS Saal Jäggi

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 Daniel Stoecklin and August Flammer (2 parallel sessions of 1 hour each).

### **18.00 Closure**

## ***Friday 20 February 2009***

### **09.00 Fare of ideas**

**Room Laure Dupraz (Kinderstube)**

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.

### **10.30 Coffee break**

### **11.00 Lecture**

**Room Laure Dupraz (Kinderstube)**

*Title:* 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.

### **12.30 Lunch**

### **14.00 Lecture**

**Room Laure Dupraz (Kinderstube)**

*Title:* The work of the CRC Committee

*Abstract:* The lecturer will present the actual work of the CRC Committee, based on her experience as a member of that Committee, and will discuss the relative strengths and weaknesses of the CRC and the CRC Committee in comparison to the general international human rights framework.

*Lecturer:* Nevena Vuckovic-Sahovic is a member of the Committee on Rights of the Child since February 2003. She holds a Ph.D. in Law from Belgrade University Law School and is founder and head of the Child Rights Centre – Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro.

### **15.30 Coffee break**

### **16.00 Fare of ideas (continued)**

**Room Laure Dupraz (Kinderstube)**

### **18.00 Closure**

## ***Saturday 17 February 2007***

### **09.00 Lecture**

**Espace Güggi (Continuing Education Centre)**

*Title:* Children's rights in context

*Abstract:* The lecturer will present his viewpoints on how the impact of the CRC and the broader children's rights framework might be evolving during the next years. What evolutions are expected for the coming years? What kinds of actions are needed, both on the national and on the international level, in order to strengthen the implementation of the CRC?

*Lecturer:* Jaap Doek is Emeritus Professor of juvenile and family law at the Free University of Amsterdam (VU), where he also chaired the law faculty board from 1988 to 1992. Professor Doek is a deputy judge at the Amsterdam Court of Appeal and used to be a children's judge at the district courts of Alkmaar and The Hague. He chaired the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which oversees compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, from 2001 to 2007 and currently works in an advisory capacity for the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. Professor Doek was cofounder and chair of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN). He was also involved in setting up the African Network for Prevention and Protection of Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) and Defence for Children International (DCI).

### **10.30 Coffee break**

### **11.00 Evaluation by the students**

**Espace Güggi (Continuing Education Centre)**

Evaluation of format, content and practical matters.

### **11.30 Preparation for Module 2**

**Espace Güggi (Continuing Education Centre)**

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

### **12.00 Closure**

## ► Venue

Lectures will take place in different buildings of the University of Fribourg:

<b>Faculty of Law</b>	Site Miséricorde, Avenue de l'Europe 20, Fribourg
<b>Kinderstube</b>	Rue de l'Hôpital 4, Fribourg
<b>Espace Guggi</b>	Centre de Formation Continue, Route de Rome, Fribourg

All Buildings are in very short walking distance to each other.

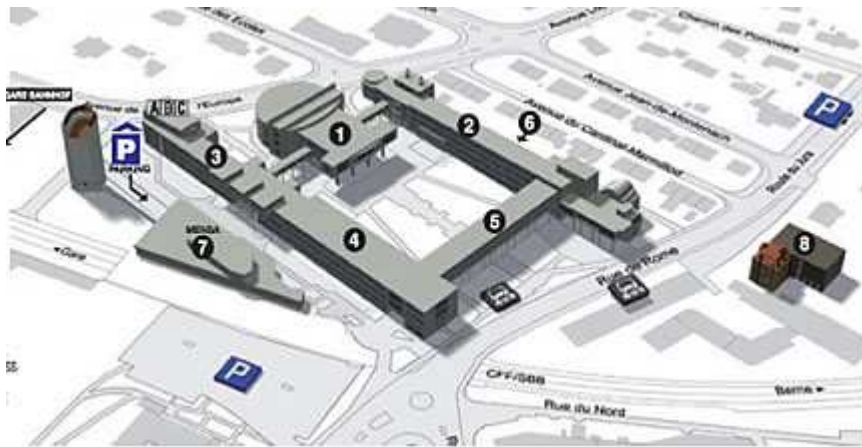
### UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG

#### SITE MISÉRICORDE

Avenue de l'Europe 20

#### Faculty of Law

(Yellow building on the second plan below)



MIS Saal Jäggi (4112):

MIS Salon des Professeurs (2113):

Espace Guggi:

Building 4 of the Faculty of Law, 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Building 2 of the Faculty of Law, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Building 8 (Continuing Education Centre)

Kinderstube (Room Laure Dupraz):

Rue de l'Hôpital 4

