INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE

Children’s Rights in a Globalized World: From Principles to Practice

7 TO 19 SEPTEMBER 2008
GHENT-ANTWERP (BELGIUM)

Final Programme
In 1989, the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Today, nearly all states of the world have ratified the Convention expressing their willingness to implement the principles of the CRC. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an important tool for improving the situation of all children in the world.

More than 18 years after the adoption of the CRC and 60 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is time to take stock of the achievements and challenges. In particular, as globalisation expands and deepens, challenges of poverty, environmental degradation, child labour and migration take on a new dimension. Globalisation and the dispersion of power also means that states are only one among many actors.

These developments challenge the concept of children’s rights and ask for critical reflection on children’s rights as leverage for societal change. The reality of children’s rights is much richer than a legal instrument and its implementation. In order to turn principles into practice, a multidisciplinary approach, which allows for multiple interpretations of children’s rights, is needed. A critical reflection therefore strengthens rather than weakens children’s rights.

The International Interdisciplinary Course Children’s Rights in a Globalized World: From Principles to Practice wants to make an active contribution to the proliferation and promotion of the CRC and its underlying values and aims at critical reflection on children’s rights.
THE INTERNATIONAL INTER-DISCIPLINARY COURSE
CHILDREN’S RIGHTS IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD:
FROM PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE

The International Interdisciplinary Course on children’s rights consists of three clusters. In a first cluster, a multidisciplinary introduction to children’s rights is offered. Children’s rights experts from educational sciences, sociology and law will contextualise children’s rights within their respective disciplines. Through this multidisciplinary introduction, some of the challenges children’s rights face, in light of globalisation and the varying contexts children’s rights are mobilised in, will be explored.

A second cluster focuses on implementation strategies and methodologies towards children’s rights, ranging from child rights programming to law reform, advocacy and lobbying, etc. Particular attention will be paid to the issue of participation of children. Based on this introduction, participants will be asked to critically reflect on their own strategies and methodologies through a collective and individual assignment.

In a third cluster, six issues are explored, i.e. education, health, child protection, poverty, child labour and migration. This selection of topics is based on their topicality and their relevance for the implementation of children’s rights in times of globalisation.

While the UN Convention on Children’s Rights and its four general principles is a common thread throughout the course, much attention is equally paid to other children’s rights paradigms and the context in which the realisation of children’s rights takes place. Four horizontal themes will be developed throughout the course: interdisciplinarity, cultural diversity, globalization and fundamental tensions (between protection and autonomy, and between participation and the best interests of the child). The first two themes have been ensured through the selection of participants and speakers in particular. The last two themes have been brought to the attention of speakers as particular foci of attention.

Widely recognised experts from all over the world will facilitate the lectures and workshops. Participants are expected to actively engage in discussions. A collective and an individual assignment are to be completed and presented during the course.
Children’s Rights Centre, Ghent University

The Children’s Rights Centre was set up in 1978 and is linked to the Department of Social Welfare Studies at Ghent University. The Centre organised an annual International Interdisciplinary Course in Children’s Rights between 1996 and 2000, and subsequent editions in 2003, 2004 and 2006. It ran an interdisciplinary research project on ‘Human rights of children. Implementation and monitoring through participation’. This joint study focused in a second phase on participation of children and was a network research project between the Children’s Rights Centre and the Human Rights Centre of the Law Faculty of Ghent University, the Institute of Constitutional Law of the Law Faculty of the Catholic University of Leuven (K.U.Leuven) and the Department of Criminology and Penal Law of the Law Faculty of the Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve (UCL).

The centre’s current research mainly focuses on a socio-political reading of children’s rights.

UNICEF Chair in Children’s Rights, University of Antwerp

The UNICEF Chair in Children’s Rights was established in early 2007. Its research aims at exploring the interaction between, and mutual enrichment of, children’s rights and human rights in the field of economic, social and cultural rights. Particular attention is paid to the mobilization of children’s rights in the Global South. The Chair is attached to the Law Faculty.

University College Ghent

The Faculty of Social Work and Welfare Studies is one of the 13 faculties of the University College Ghent. The faculty offers a Bachelor in Social Work and a Bachelor in Socio-educational Care Work. Research activities in the domain of social work focus on the relation between care and rights, where children’s rights are of particular interest. The social practice of children’s rights education is studied from the perspective of social pedagogy.
The course consists of a mixture of lectures, workshops and round tables. Participants are also expected to participate in group work (week 1) and to work on an individual assignment (week 2). Participants will be asked to present their findings at the end of each week.

Collective Assignment

General Purpose
Participants of the International Interdisciplinary Course on Children’s Rights are expected to prepare an assignment in a collective setting during the first week of the course. The purpose of this assignment for participants is to demonstrate that they understand the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its underlying ideas and concepts. Course members are expected to show they can make use of the framework of children’s rights in social practices. Likewise they are expected to critically reflect on the framework of children’s rights and its meaning in daily practice.

Concrete Design
In small groups of 5 participants, participants explore the course contents of the first week, in particular the multidisciplinary perspectives on children’s rights and the strategies and methodologies for implementation. The purpose of the group work is to create a forum for discussion where participants can share and learn so that the course content can be explored more profoundly. This should result in a presentation that reflects the discussion process (see: Presentation).

Groups choose themselves a particular theme. The self-chosen theme can be diverse:

- The theme can be related to a particular target group, for instance children with disabilities, child offenders, child labourers etc.
- The theme can be related to a specific concept linked to the UNCRC such as “the best interests of the child”.
- The theme can be related to a specific social practice in children’s rights such as advocacy, networking etc.
Throughout the collective assignment, the four horizontal themes of the course ought to be used as a guideline. These are:

- Interdisciplinarity
- Cultural diversity
- Globalization
- Fundamental tensions (between protection and autonomy, and between participation and the best interests of the child)

**Coaching and Practical Arrangements**

Participants are expected to engage in group work and to learn from group interaction. Besides, every day at the end of the day a “lounge” moment is scheduled where participants can consult in an informal way the invited experts of the day. A reader will be available for participants. Finally, the computer classroom is open for participants so internet can be used. Participants will also have access to the library of the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences.

At the end of the first day, participants will be divided in small groups of some 5 persons (via the method of “open space”). Participants are encouraged to form groups across disciplines and geographical backgrounds.

**Presentation**

At the end of the first week (Saturday September 13) a presentation and discussion moment will be organized. Each group will have 10 minutes to present the outcome of their group deliberations. The concrete output of the group assignment can differ. Possible output can be:

- Role play
- Presentation
- Discussion
- Etc.

Experts will respond to the presentations.
Individual Assignment

General Purpose
Participants are expected to critically reflect on their own understanding of children’s rights and the current way of integrating them in their work. They are asked to identify ways in which their understanding and practice could be enriched by insights gained from lectures, discussions and group work during the course. What do they take home from here, and what do they want to do with it?

The course is intended to reach out to trainers and high-level professionals, who can themselves share the insights and knowledge that they have acquired in the course. The individual assignment aims at encouraging critical reflection on one’s own professional work in the field of children’s rights, and at the promulgation of good practices.

Concrete Design
Participants are expected to write an essay of maximum 1,500 words (3 pages) in which they

- explain their current professional activities in the field of children’s rights;
- critically reflect on these activities on the basis of lessons learnt from the course;
- translate these reflections and lessons in specific intentions for their future professional activities

Participants may refer to the expectations they formulated on their application form.

A selection of essays, which is representative of the different expectations, perspectives, intentions, and professional areas will be published afterwards by the course organisers.

Coaching and Practical Arrangements
Participants will be briefed on this assignment on the first day of the course. They are expected to submit the essay at the latest on Thursday 18 September (14.00 pm). A collective feedback workshop will be organised on Friday 19 September. Individual feedback will be provided upon request.
SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

Arrival in Ghent
Meeting and Greeting

16.00 – 18.00
Visit Ghent (meeting point: Poortackere)

18.00 – 21.00
Walking Dinner
Faculty of Music and Drama, University College Ghent
MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

Multidisciplinary
Introduction

Ghent, het Pand
9.30 Departure from Poortackere to Pand

10.00 – 10.45

Opening Session
Welcome Address
» G. De Soete, Dean of the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Ghent University – Belgium
» G. Straetmans, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp – Belgium
» M. Walgraeve, Head of the Faculty of Social Work and Welfare Studies, University College Ghent – Belgium

10.45 – 11.30

Practical Information and Introducing Participants
» K. Vlieghe, Children’s Rights Centre, Ghent University – Belgium

11.30 – 12.15

» W. Vandenhole, UNICEF Chair in Children’s Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp – Belgium

12.15 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 14.45

Philosophical Perspective
» D. Archard, Department of Philosophy, Lancaster University – U.K.

14.45 – 15.30

Educational Perspective
» R. Roose, Department of Social Welfare Studies, Ghent University – Belgium

15.30 – 16.00

Question and Discussion Time

16.00 – 16.30

Break

16.30 – 17.30

Briefing Collective and Individual Assignment
**TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER**

**Multidisciplinary Introduction**

*Ghent, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences*
8.30 Departure from Poortackere to Dunantlaan

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.00 – 10.30</td>
<td><strong>Why are we so interested in Children’s Rights? Historical Perspective.</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Consequences and Reflections on the CRC.</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>» E. Verhellen, Em. Professor and Former Director, Children’s Rights Centre, Ghent University – Belgium</td>
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<td>10.30 – 11.00</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<td>11.00 – 12.30</td>
<td><strong>Legal Perspective</strong></td>
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<td>» P. Lemmens, Professor of Human Rights Law and Director of the Institute for Human Rights, Catholic University of Leuven – Belgium</td>
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<td>12.30 – 14.00</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
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<td>14.00 – 15.30</td>
<td><strong>Anthropological Perspective</strong></td>
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<td>» K. Lieten, University of Amsterdam and Director of the IREWOC Foundation – The Netherlands</td>
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<td>15.30 – 16.30</td>
<td><strong>Break – Lounge – Library Tour</strong></td>
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<td>16.30 – 17.30</td>
<td><strong>Collective Assignment</strong></td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<td>09.00 – 10.00</td>
<td>Four Levels of Implementation of the CRC: Problems and Challenges</td>
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<td>10.00 – 10.30</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>10.30 – 11.30</td>
<td>Legal and Institutional Reform</td>
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<td>12.30 – 14.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>14.00 – 15.00</td>
<td>Collective Assignment</td>
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<td>15.00 – 16.30</td>
<td>Unicef Strategies</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.30 – 17.00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>17.00 – 18.00</td>
<td>Round Table</td>
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THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

Education

Ghent, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

09.00 – 10.30

Introductory Lecture: Access to Education
» M. Blengio Valdes, Chairholder UNESCO Chair in Human Rights University of the Republic – Uruguay

10.30 – 11.00

Break

11.00 – 12.30

Rights in Education
» G. Lansdown, International Children’s Rights Consultant, Vice-Chair UNICEF – UK

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch at Vredeshuis

14.00 – 16.30

Children’s Rights Education Walk followed by discussion

16.30 – 18.00

Collective Assignment
FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER
Health

Ghent, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

09.00 – 10.30
Introductory Lecture: Physical and Mental Health
» S. Janson, Scientific Advisor to the Swedish Academy for the Rights of the Child – Sweden

10.30 – 11.00
Break

11.00 – 12.30
Health and Gender: Female Genital Mutilation
» E. Leye, International Centre for Reproductive Health, Ghent University – Belgium

12.30 – 14.00
Lunch

14.00 – 15.30
Children with Disabilities
» G. Lansdown, International Children’s Rights Consultant, Vice-Chair UNICEF – UK

15.30 – 16.30
Break and Lounge

16.30 – 18.00
Collective Assignment

20.00
Dinner
SaTurday 13 sePTemBer

Poortackere, Ghent

09.00 – 10.30

Presentation Collective Assignments
Plenary

10.30 – 11.00

Break

11.00 – 12.30

Presentation Collective Assignments
Plenary

12.30 – 14.00

Closing Reception

Free Time
SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

11.00 – 13.00  Bus trip from Ghent to Antwerp
13.30 – 14.30 Welcome Drink and Sandwich Lunch
16.00 – 18.00 Visit Antwerp (meeting point: Zeemanshuis)
19.00 – 21.00 Welcome Dinner
MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER
Child Protection

Antwerp, Faculty of Law, Building A
8.30 Departure from Zeemanshuis to Prinsstraat

09.00 – 09.45
Institutional Care
» D. Crimmens, Lincoln University – UK

09.45 – 10.30
Family Care
» D. Kabasinskaité, Assistant Professor, Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius – Lithuania

10.30 – 11.00
Question and Discussion Time

11.00 – 11.30
Break

11.30 – 12.30
Children’s Rights vs. Parental Rights
» D. Reynaert, Faculty of Social Work and Welfare Studies, University College Ghent – Belgium
» R. Roose, Department of Social Welfare Studies, Ghent University – Belgium

12.30 – 14.00
Lunch

14.00 – 15.00
Juvenile Justice
» J. Sloth Nielsen, Senior Professor, Faculty of Law, University of the Western Cape – South Africa

15.00 – 16.30
Round Table
D. Crimmens, D. Kabasinskaité, D. Reynaert, R. Roose, J. Sloth Nielsen

16.30 – 17.00
Break – Library Tour

17.00 – 18.00
Individual Assignment
Tuesday 16 September

Child Poverty

Antwerp, Faculty of Law, Building A

09.00 – 10.30

Introduction to Globalization and Poverty
» K. De Feyter, University of Antwerp and Center for Law and Cosmopolitan Values – Belgium

10.30 – 11.00

Break

11.00 – 12.30

Round Table: Globalization and Poverty
» K. De Feyter, University of Antwerp – Belgium
» V. Pupavac, University of Nottingham – UK
» F. Mestrum, Université Libre de Bruxelles – Belgium
» G. Sauri, Director of the Mexican Network on Children’s Rights – Mexico

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

Poverty Dimensions
» H. Van Breen, ATD Fourth World – Belgium

15.30 – 16.30

Break and Lounge

16.30 – 17.30

Critical Reflections
» V. Pupavac, University of Nottingham – UK
### Wednesday 17 September

**Children and Migration**

**Antwerp, Faculty of Law, Building A**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.00 – 10.30</td>
<td>Migration as Phenomenon</td>
<td>R. Budde, European Master in Children’s Rights, Free University Berlin – Germany&lt;br&gt;G. Sauri, Director of the Mexican Network on Children’s Rights – Mexico</td>
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<td>10.30 – 11.00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>11.00 – 12.30</td>
<td>Normative Framework</td>
<td>D. Vanheule, Centre for Migration and Intercultural Studies, University of Antwerp – Belgium</td>
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<td>12.30 – 14.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00 – 15.30</td>
<td>Detention and Treatment of Non-Accompanied Minors</td>
<td>B. Van Keirsbilck, Centre interdisciplinaire des droits de l’enfant – Belgium&lt;br&gt;L. Lommée, University of Antwerp – Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.30 – 15.45</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.45 – 16.45</td>
<td>Round Table</td>
<td>R. Budde, D. Vanheule, B. Van Keirsbilck, L. Lommée, G. Sauri</td>
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<td>16.45 – 17.30</td>
<td>Individual Assignment</td>
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### Child Labour

**Antwerp, Faculty of Law, Building A**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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<tr>
<td>09.00</td>
<td><strong>Child Labour as Phenomenon and Normative Framework</strong>&lt;br&gt;» K. Hanson, Children’s Rights Unit, Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch (IUKB) – Switzerland&lt;br&gt;» Assefa Bequele, Executive Director African Child Policy Forum – Ethiopia</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>11.00</td>
<td><strong>Working Children’s Movement</strong>&lt;br&gt;» M. Liebel, European Master in Children’s Rights, Free University Berlin – Germany</td>
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<td>11.45</td>
<td><strong>Round Table</strong>&lt;br&gt;» K. Hanson&lt;br&gt;» Assefa Bequele&lt;br&gt;» M. Liebel&lt;br&gt;» G. Sauri</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>14.00</td>
<td><strong>Film on Child Labour, followed by discussion</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Deadline Submission of Individual Assignments</strong></td>
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<td>16.00</td>
<td>Break and Lounge</td>
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FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

Antwerp, Faculty of Law, Building C

09.00 – 10.30
Collective Feedback on Individual Assignments
Brainstorming and Evaluation Session
Workshop

10.30 – 11.00
Break

11.00 – 12.30
Closing Ceremony
Awards of Certificates

12.30 – 14.00
Closing Reception
Departure
Organisation

Executive Committee

Prof. Dr. Wouter Vandenhole,
UNICEF Chair in Children’s Rights, University of Antwerp, Faculty of Law

Dr. Rudi Roose,
Ghent University, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

Kathy Vlieghe,
Ghent University, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

Didier Reynaert,
University College Ghent, Faculty of Social Work and Welfare Studies

Advisory Board

Prof. Dr. Maria Bouverne-De Bie,
Ghent University, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

Prof. Dr. Karl Hanson, Institut Universitaire Kurt Bosch, Master of Advanced Studies in Children’s Rights

Prof. Dr. Manfred Liebel,
Freie Universität Berlin, Department of Educational Science and Psychology

Ms. Marta Santos Pais,
Director of UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Florence, Italy

Dr. Stijn Vandevelde,
University College Ghent, Faculty of Social Work and Welfare Studies

Prof. Em. Eugeen Verhellen,
Ghent University, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

M. Yves Willemot,
Executive Director UNICEF Belgium
**Overall coordination and secretariat**

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With the assistance of Marie Delplace: Marie.Delplace@ugent.be

**Course Venues**

**Ghent**

Het Pand  
Onderbergen 1  
9000 Ghent

Department of Social Welfare Studies  
Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences  
Henri Dunantlaan 2, 9000 Ghent

**Antwerp**

Faculty of Law, Building A/C  
Prinsstraat 13  
2000 Antwerp
Accommodation

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2000 Antwerp
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Fax +32 3 234 26 03
www.zeemanshuis.be

Certificate

Upon completion of the course and satisfactory participation, participants will receive a Certificate of Attendance.

The International Interdisciplinary Course was made possible thanks to the financial support of:

- VLIR-UOS University Development Cooperation
- UNICEF Geneva Regional Office for Europe
- UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
- The Flemish Authorities
- Federal Public Service, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Cooperation