



XIIIth INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 'manufactured' child: What are the challenges for children's rights, identity and origins?

29 and 30 november,
01 decembre 2023

Sierre

HESTS - Haute Ecole et Ecole
Supérieure de Travail Social -
Bâtiment Bellevue Rte de la Plaine 2



CHILD
IDENTITY
PROTECTION
knowing origins is a right



CANTON DU VALAIS
KANTON WALLIS



Swiss National
Science Foundation

SOCIÉTÉ ACADÉMIQUE DU VALAIS
AKADEMISCHE GESELLSCHAFT WALLIS



INSTITUT
INTERNATIONAL
DES DROITS
DE L'ENFANT

The 'manufactured' child: What are the challenges for children's rights, identity and origins?

29 and 30 November,
1st December 2023

Arguments

This international symposium aims to provide an overview of the various practices and legislation that regulate the field of assisted reproductive technology (ART), ranging from the most restrictive to the most liberal, alongside related issues. The symposium will ask several questions. What identity issues may arise for children conceived through ART? How can we ensure respect for their rights as outlined in the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol? What are the real consequences for parents who circumvent the prohibitions outlined in the Convention, especially with regard to surrogacy? What are the rules governing these practices in countries where such reproductive technologies are permitted or tolerated? What lessons can be learned from adoption law to regulate the use of ART? What are the experiences and feelings of children conceived through ART and how do they fit in with their families? How can professionals who work with these children and their families best support them? The focus will be on children's rights, their experiences and those of their families and the role of professionals in countries like Switzerland, where legislation is somewhat restrictive. Finally, examples of international practices will be presented to highlight the complexity and diversity of such practices.

Objectives

This event aims :

- to hold a proactive interdisciplinary dialogue between stakeholders (children who are now adults as a result of ART, professionals, parents who have recourse to ART, politicians, academia) that will meet to discuss children's rights and the new ART techniques;
- to highlight good practices as well as the abuses that allow or compromise the respect of the rights of the children concerning both their identity and their family life;
- to deepen the scientific and legal knowledge in this field;
- to give concrete tools to the professionals who work with these children and their families.

Target audience

This conference is intended for political decision-makers and professionals working with and for children and young people (social workers, psychologists, teachers, doctors, mediators, lawyers, and any other professional concerned with children's issues), as well as representatives of the academic and scientific community.

Presentations will take place in French (F), German (D) or English (E) and benefit from simultaneous interpretation in the two other languages.

Wednesday 29 November

	Public conference	
18:30	Vers un droit pour toute personne de connaître ses origines	Arthur et Audrey Kermalvezen

Thursday 30 November

9:00	Reception of participants	
9:15	OPENING Nicole Langenegger-Roux Head of HESTS, HES-SO // Valais-Wallis Marianne Maret State Councillor Ann Skelton Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child	
	1st MODULE Establishing parentage: Swiss and international legislation	Christian Nanchen Chair
9:30	La filiation des enfants né.e.s d'une PMA: les débats actuels en droit suisse	Michelle Cottier
10:00	Surrogacy in Europe: Focus on Child's Right to Identity	Olga Khazova
10:30	Discussion with the audience	
10:45	Break	
11:00	Children's right to Access to Information on their Origins: A case for South Africa to review its legal framework	Karabo Ozah
11:30	Law, Technology and the unbundling of traditional children's rights	Elizabeth Pangalangan
12:00	Discussion with the audience	
12:30	Lunch	
	2nd MODULE Children's experiences	Philip D. Jaffé Chair
13:45	Perspective des personnes conçues par PMA avec donneur/euse en Espagne: Premiers résultats d'une recherche multidisciplinaire	Raquel Medina Plana
14:10	Children born through surrogacy: What are the challenges for children's rights, identity and origins?	Katherine Wade
14:35	Réflexions autour du droit fondamental à la connaissance de ses origines	Géraldine Mathieu
15:00	The fundamental right to know	Ankie Vandekerckhove
15:25	Discussion with the audience	
15:45	Break	
16:00	Roundtable discussion : Identity and the search for origins. With : Arthur and Audrey Kermalvezen, Muriel Crettol (Sur terre via donneur/euse), Sarah Ramani Ineichen (Back to the Roots)	Mia Dambach Chair
17:00	End of the day	

29 and 30
november
2023

*With simultaneous
interpretation in
English, French &
German*

Friday 1st December

	3rd MODULE Techniques and ethics	Mia Dambach Chair
9:00	Reception of participants	
9:15	Fortpflanzungsmedizin und Leihmutterschaft: aktuelle gesetzgeberische Entwicklungen und Überlegungen in der Schweiz	Philipp Weber et Karin Hostettler
9:40	Assisted reproductive Technologies in 2023	Nicolas Vulliemoz
10:05	Soutenir dans le processus de recherche d'origines	Macarena Fatio
10:30	Break	
10:50	Children not for sale	Maud de Boer-Buquicchio
11:15	Surrogacy, Intermediaries, and the Rights of the Child	David Smolin
11:40	Psychological and Relational complexities: building families through Donor Conception and/or Surrogacy - meeting the longer terms needs of all involved	Sharon Pettle
12:05	Discussion with the audience	
12:30	Lunch	
	4th MODULE Role of professionals	Gaëlle Aeby Chair
13:45	(TBD)	(TBD)
14:15	Roundtable discussion : Professional and legal practices in Switzerland With: Christian Nanchen, Mia Dambach, Philippe Weber and Karin Hostettler, TBD and Nicolas Vulliemoz	Zoe Moody et Özlem Lakatos Chair
15:30	Conference summary	Nicole Langenegger Roux Head of HESTS, HES-SO // Valais-Wallis and Maude Louviot
15:45	End of Symposium	

1^{er}
décembre
2023

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