

# Adults & Children in Postmodern Societies

International Family Law Conference  
6 & 7 July 2017  
Brussels - Auditorium Maisin

Organised by the UCL Family Law Centre  
(Centre de droit de la personne, de la famille et de son patrimoine — CeFAP)



## **Project coordinators**

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*Professor at UCL*

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## INTRODUCTION

In our postmodern societies, children are sometimes in the centre of a complex network of links with several adults of both sexes – **donor, surrogate, intended parents, biological parents, step-parents, foster-parents** – and the law is not always clear as to how to **recognise, protect and promote** valuable relationships in such intricate configurations. Given the scale of the changes, it is likely that the traditional concepts underlying legal parenthood and/or parental responsibility must be re-evaluated and, perhaps, reconstructed.

Based on an **international review** of the current state and foreseeable developments of the legal rules and principles in a wide range of jurisdictions in the major legal systems, this two-day conference

will address the following questions :

**Which relationships should be recognised and protected?** Should any factual (biological and/or affective) relationship between an adult and a child be legally protected ?

**Which legal tools should be used to provide recognition and protection?** What should be the respective roles of legislation, case-law and contractual arrangements ?

**Which analytical models may be used to re-think the law?** How could legal scholars create new models to embrace postmodern family relationships ?

## INFORMATION

### Conference in English only

### Targeted audience

Experts / Researchers in family law, children rights and family policies

National and international family law and policy-makers

Family Law Practitioners

Family Sciences Experts / Researchers

### Date

Thursday 6 July 2017 (9h-17h30) and Friday 7 July 2017 (9h-12h30)

### Venue

Auditorium Maisin, 51 Avenue Emmanuel Mounier, 1200 Brussels, Belgium

### Entry Fee Payment

180€ or 100€ for PhD Students

### Proceedings

The papers presented at this conference and the comparative findings will be made available to the public in the form of an edited collection, published by Intersentia.

### Contact

[adults-children-registration@uclouvain.be](mailto:adults-children-registration@uclouvain.be)

### Registration

<https://uclouvain.be/fr/instituts-recherche/juri/cefap/2017-international-conference.html>

# PROGRAM

## 6 JULY

**09h00 Welcome address**

**09h15 “Changes in traditional parenthood”**

Chair : Pr. Jehanne Sosson (UCL)

Pr. Charlotte Declerck – Belgium (UHasselt)

Pr. Tobias Helms – Germany (Philipps-Universität Marburg)

Pr. Nahias Meheddin – Algeria (Université d’Oran)

Pr. Lisa Oshima – Japan (University of Niigata)

Pr. Lisa Young – Australia (Murdoch University)

Comparative insights – Pr. Jehanne Sosson (UCL)

Open discussion

**11h00 Coffee**

**11h15 “Emergence and development of artificial reproductive techniques”**

Chair : Sylvie Cap et Pr. Geneviève Schamps (UCL)

Pr. Josep Ferrer – Spain (Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona)

Pr. Michèle Giroux – Canada (Université d’Ottawa)

Pr. Alexandra Jungo – Switzerland (Universität Freiburg)

Pr. Aida Kemelmajer – Argentina (Universidad de Mendoza)

Pr. Stefania Stefanelli – Italia (Universita di Perugia)

Comparative insights – Sylvie Cap et Pr. Geneviève Schamps (UCL)

Open discussion

**13h00 Lunch**

**14h15 “Social families: adoption, step and foster families”**

Chair : Gwendoline Motte (UCL)

Pr. Florian Emese – Romania (University of Cluj-Napoca)

Pr. Wilbert Kolkman – The Netherlands (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

Pr. Vida Petrylaite – Lithuania (Vilnius University)

Pr. Paul-Robain Namegabe – RDC (Université catholique de Bukavu)

Pr. Brian Tobin – Ireland (NUI Galway)

Comparative insights – Gwendoline Motte (UCL)

Open discussion

**16h00 Coffee**

**16h15 “Interdisciplinary approach – social sciences insights”**

Pr. Nathalie Frogneux – Philosophical insights (UCL)

Pr. Isabelle Roskam – Psychological insights (UCL)

Pr. Jacinthe Mazzocchetti – Anthropological insights (UCL)

## PROGRAM

**7 JULY**

**09h00**

### **“Which relationships / which legal instruments”**

Chair : Pr. Geoffrey Willems (UCL)

Pr. Deborah Forman – USA (Whittier Law School)

Pr. Laurence Francoz-Terminal – France (Université Jean Moulin Lyon III)

Pr. Andrew Hayward – England and Wales (University of Durham)

Pr. Jane Stoll – Sweden (Luleå University of Technology)

Comparative Insights – Pr. Geoffrey Willems (UCL)

Open discussion

**10h45**

### **Coffee**

**11h00**

### **“Reconstructing legal relationships between adults and children”**

Human Rights as a basis for reconstructing legal relationships between adults and children – Laura Cohen (UCL)

Private International Law as a basis for reconstructing legal relationships between adults and children – Pr. Thalia Kruger (Universiteit Antwerpen) and Pr. Jinske Verhelten (Universiteit Gent)

Adults and Children : new models for new relationships?

Pr. Jehanne Sosson, Pr. Geoffrey Willems and Gwendoline Motte (UCL)

Open discussion

**12h45**

### **End of the conference**

# DIRECTIONS

## By train

From Brussels-Central station (all international trains except TGV,Thalys and Eurostar).

Take the metro : line 1, direction Stockel. Get off at Alma metro station, which is in the heart of the university campus.

From Brussels-Midi station (TGV,Thalys and Eurostar). Take the metro : line 2 or 6, direction Simonis (Elisabeth). Change at Arts-Loi station and take line 1, direction Stockel. Get off at Alma metro station, which is in the heart of the university campus.

## By metro

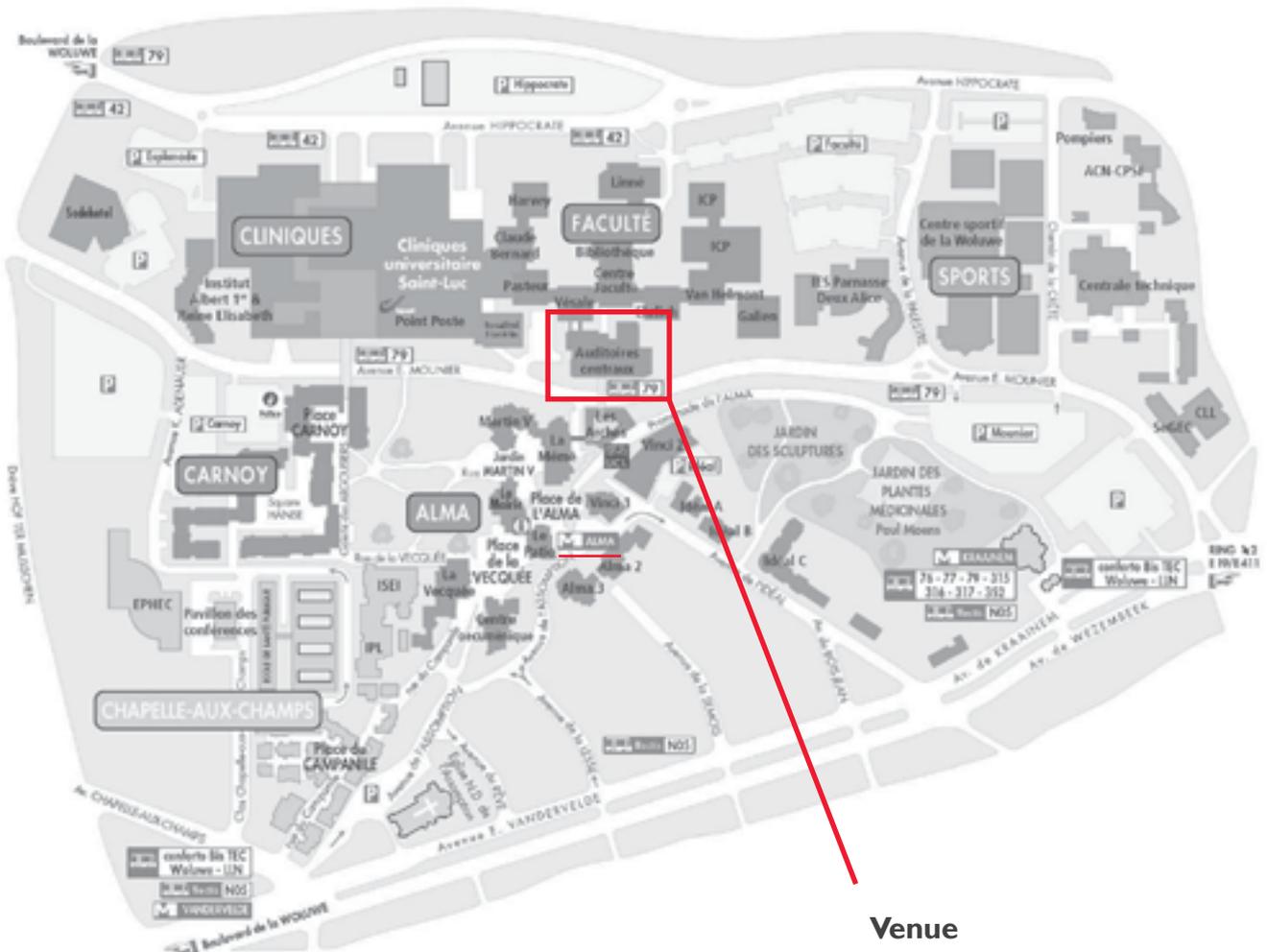
Line 1 – direction Stockel, STOP at Alma.

## By air

From 5:30 am to 11:45 pm, seven days a week, four trains per hour depart Brussels Airport for Brussels Central train station (avoid going to Leuven or Landen). From there, take metro line 1, direction Stockel, to Alma metro station, in the heart of the university campus.

Brussels South Charleroi Airport is served by low-cost airlines. It is located 55 km from the UCL Brussels Woluwe campus. Airport shuttles link the airport to the centre of Brussels.

The A bus runs from the airport to Charleroi South train station in 10 minutes. Two trains per hour (one per hour on weekends).



## Venue

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51 Avenue Emmanuel Mounier,  
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