

---

# INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF FAMILY LAW



*Published by the International Society of Family Law by Professor Robin Fretwell Wilson, Newsletter Editor, Mildred Van Voorhis Jones Chair in Law and Co-Director, Family Law and Policy Program, University of Illinois College of Law, email: [wils@illinois.edu](mailto:wils@illinois.edu)*

---

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

---

|   |    |
|---|----|
| MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT .....          | 2  |
| TREASURER'S REPORT .....                  | 2  |
| INTERNATIONAL SURVEY EDITORS REPORT ..... | 3  |
| NEWSLETTER EDITOR REPORT .....            | 4  |
| WEBMASTER REPORT .....                    | 5  |
| SAVE THE DATE .....                       | 5  |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS .....                       | 9  |
| MEMBER NEWS.....                          | 13 |
| RECENT AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS ..... | 16 |
| UPDATED ADDRESSES .....                   | 17 |

## **ISELLEADERSHIP**

---

PRESIDENT: MASHA ANTOKOLSKAIA (2020-2023)

VICE PRESIDENTS: PIOTR KONRAD FIEDORCZYK, OLGA KHAZOVA, XIA LI, MARIA DONATA PANFORTI, HAZEL THOMPSON-AHYE, ROBIN FRETWELL WILSON (2020-2023)

SECRETARY GENERAL: URSULA BASSET (2020-2023)

TREASURER: WENDY SCHRAMA (2020-2023)

INTERNATIONAL SURVEY EDITORS: JUNE CARBONE, ROBIN FRETWELL WILSON (2020-2023)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: ROBIN FRETWELL WILSON (2020-2023)

WEBMASTER: AYELET BLECHER-PRIGAT AND MARIANNE HOLDGAARD (2020-2023)

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Masha Antokolskaia

John Asland

Ursula Basset

Christine Bidaud

Ayelet Blecher-Prigat

Margaret Brinig

June Carbone

Johanne Clouet

Nina Dethloff

Olga Dyuzheva

Piotr Konrad Fiedorczyk

Hugues Fulchiron

Marsha Garrison

Federica Giardini

Giselle Groeninga

Marianne Holdgaard

Sanford Katz

Olga Khazova

Zdenka Kralickova

Dongjin Lee

Xia Li

Nigel Lowe

Alexis Mondaca Miranda

Maria Donata Panforti

Patrick Parkinson

Carol Rogerson

Wendy Schrama

Jose Fernando Simao

Fredrik Swennen

Hazel Thompson-Ahye

Fumi Tokotani

Liz Trinder

Bea Verschraegen

Paula Tavora Vitor

Paul Vlaardingerbroek

Robin Fretwell Wilson

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I hope that the difficult COVID-19 period is almost behind us and that the ISFL will now be able to resume its activity in a full scale.

First of all, I want to thank all the Ex-Co members, who have done a great job on behalf of the ISFL during the Covid period: Professor Ursula Basset for organizing the online World Conference in 2020, Professor Robin Wilson for her diligent work on the Newsletter; Professor Robin Wilson and Professor June Carbon for the marvelous work they keep doing for the Survey.

I am happy to announce that the work on developing a new ISFL website is progressing well and we will get a new website throughout the summer. I would like to take an opportunity to one more time thank Patrick Parkinson for keeping our current website going for all these years.

The ISFL is approaching its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary due in 2023. A special commission chaired by Professor Piotr Fiedorczyk is preparing Jubilee festivities. The 2023 Jubilee World Conference will be held in Antwerp from July 12 to 15, 2023. We owe much gratitude to Professor Frederik Swennen, who has at the last minute agreed to convene the Jubilee World Conference in Antwerp.

Due to delays caused by COVID-19 and other circumstances out of her control, Senator Hazel Thompson-Ahye is no longer able to organize the 2023 Jubilee World Conference in Barbados. The ExCo is extremely grateful to her for her extraordinary efforts to organize the 2020 World Conference unfortunately canceled due to COVID-19 and for her continuing efforts to organize the 2023 Jubilee conference at another location.

The ExCo is most grateful to her for all the preparations and investigations she made in this regard. Hazel has graciously agreed to organize a Caribbean Regional conference in Tobago from December 12 to 16, 2022. This way her tremendous efforts will not be in vain, and we all will be able to enjoy her superb Caribbean hospitality on this beautiful island. All the members of the ISFL are invited to attend it.

The ExCo has decided to grant Hazel all privileges, attached by the ISFL Statutes to conveners of the world conferences, including lifelong ExCo membership, as she did an amazing job in preparing for the 2020 World Conference in Barbados.

Masha Antokolskaia  
m.v.antokolskaia@vu.nl

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

I would like to give a short explanation on the financial situation in 2021. You will see that in 2021:

**Income:**

8834 Euros membership fees

6858 Euros increase in value of the investments

**Expenses:**

2690 (banking and financial costs plus newsletter)

**Balance:**

13.000 Euros (positive).

We still have bank savings worth: 113.828 Euros (including the positive 13.000 Euros).

Note: the result is a bit flattered because the Intersentia invoice for the 2021 Survey was sent in 2022. This is 10.300 Euros.

Wendy Schrama  
w.m.schrama@uu.nl

**INTERNATIONAL SURVEY EDITORS REPORT**

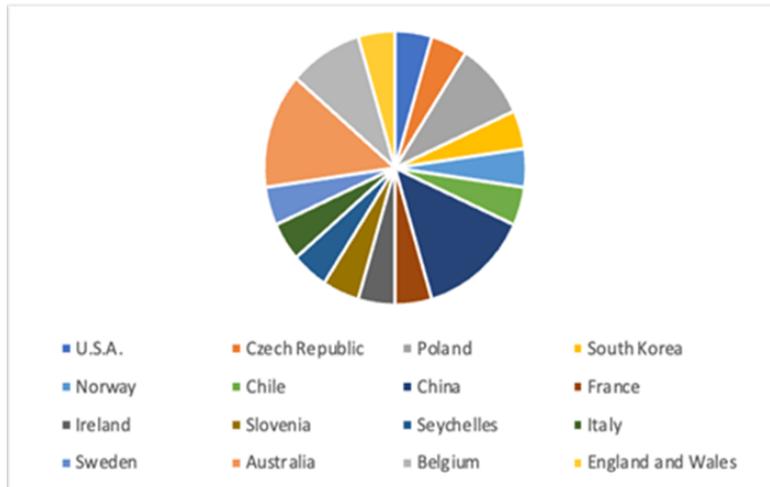
---

This year's major thrust of our work in the International Society of Family Law Survey has been to include countries and authors who have not contributed to the previous years' surveys. We aimed to expand our presence in family law policy all around the world.

Professor Peg Brinig served as a tremendous mentor. We adapted her process. June led an editing team and Robin led a team to manage the invitations and responses.

As highlights,

- We sent 47 invitation emails to our members who did not contribute to the previous year's survey and received 17 positive responses.
- In total we have 20 chapters from 17 countries across the world.
- Australian Judge Justice Grant Riethmuller emailed us to write, and we were delighted to have him.
- Xia (Lisa) Li, one of the Chinese contributors of this year referenced the other Chinese author, Doug Siyuan, and we were pleased to have him as well.
- We have two chapters from Australia and China and one from other countries.



We started extending invitations in December 2021 and continued toward mid-January 2022.

As of May 20, 2022, we sent our first batch of twenty chapters to Intersentia editors for their edits.

- We have already confirmed five contributors for the 2023 volume including authors from Russia and Netherlands.

Robin Fretwell Wilson  
wils@illinois.edu

June Carbone  
jcarbone@umn.edu

## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR REPORT**

I am asking for your contributions related to Family Law. These contributions include country news reports, upcoming publication notices, upcoming symposium, colloquium, or conference announcements, as well as calls for papers and promotions, awards, honors, or other accolades received.

All information should be sent to me at [wils@illinois.edu](mailto:wils@illinois.edu). If possible, please also cc my assistant, Carla Gall, as well, at her home email [carlagall3658@gmail.com](mailto:carlagall3658@gmail.com).

Wishing you all the best in 2022!

Robin Fretwell Wilson  
[wils@illinois.edu](mailto:wils@illinois.edu)

## **WEBMASTER REPORT**

The website is being renewed and some pages, including the members directory, are at the moment under construction.

Ayelet Blecher-Prigat Marianne Holdgaard  
ayeletb@mishpat.ac.il marianne@law.aau.dk

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM DEDICATED TO COMBATTING CHILD MALTREATMENT SEPTEMBER 18 – 22, 2022**

#### **Call for Proposals Application Submission Deadline: July 1, 2022**

The Haruv Institute ([www.haruv.org.il](http://www.haruv.org.il)), in collaboration with The Academic College of Law and Science ([www.mishpat.ac.il](http://www.mishpat.ac.il)), is delighted to launch and host the first international inter-disciplinary colloquium which will be dedicated entirely to combatting child maltreatment. This colloquium will take place in Israel over one week, from September 18 – 22, 2022. The impact of child maltreatment is pervasive: in the classroom, on the healthcare system, on the legal system. To prevent, identify, and treat child maltreatment, a holistic approach is needed, unifying a variety of disciplines, including education, healthcare, law, and social work. Our experience with child maltreatment has taught us that different disciplines and professions use their own unique methodology, terminology, and perspectives. Our goal is to transcend professional boundaries, so that we can combine knowledge and unite our various strengths. The colloquium is intended for mid-career individuals in the fields of law, medicine, education, social work, or treatment, who have gained experience with the challenges of identifying, preventing, and treating child maltreatment, and are dedicated to improving the lives of children. The purpose of this colloquium is to enrich and expand participant understanding of and insight into child maltreatment, and to provide participants with new practical, transferrable tools for use in their respective fields. The overarching goal of the colloquium is to generate improvement in the quality of care for children suffering from maltreatment, across disciplines and across the globe. Utilizing collaborative and interactive teaching methods, this colloquium will facilitate participant exchange of professional experiences and knowledge, offering deeper insight into a range of modern research-based methods for prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse. This colloquium will provide keynote lectures, and the opportunity to participate in guided conversations, role play activities, and in group analysis of case studies.

Keynote Speakers • Prof. Asher Ben-Arieh Director of the Haruv Institute and Dean of the School of Social Work at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem • Prof. Ayelet Blecher-Prigat Dean of the Law School at the Academic College of Law and Science • Atty. Lydia Rabinowitz Head of Child Representation at the Legal Aid Department for the Israeli Ministry of Justice

Application: The cost of participation in this colloquium is \$200 (US Dollars) and participants must

also cover their own travel expenses, including flights and local transportation. The Haruv Institute will cover participant accommodation and meals for the duration of the colloquium, but participants must cover any other expenses outside of this. To apply to participate, individuals are required to submit a CV and a short personal essay; explaining the participant's motivation to participate in the colloquium, highlighting their potential to contribute, and giving information about their background and professional employment (~500 words). Please submit applications in English to Prof. Rhona Schuz via email: [rhona@mishpat.ac.il](mailto:rhona@mishpat.ac.il). Participants also wishing to present a group activity, case study, or guided discussion, should briefly summarise and support these intentions within their short essay. Applications will be reviewed by Prof. Ayelet Blecher-Prigat, Prof. Rhona Schuz, and Prof. Pamela Laufer-Ukeles, of The Academic College of Law and Science, and Prof. Carmit Katz and Atty. Ofra Ben-Meir, of the Haruv Institute.

**Important Dates:**

**Application submission deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022**

**Applicants will find out about the status of their applications: by August 1, 2022**

**Colloquium will commence: September 18 – 22, 2022**

Inquiries If you require any further information about this colloquium, or have any related queries, please contact [rhona@mishpat.ac.il](mailto:rhona@mishpat.ac.il)

Ayelet Blecher-Prigat  
[ayeletb@mishpat.ac.il](mailto:ayeletb@mishpat.ac.il)



## **ISFL 50th-Anniversary *Golden Jubilee* Survey**

### **Call For Papers**

### **The Jubilee Volumes Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the International Society of Family Law**

In 2023, the ISFL celebrates its 50th anniversary. The 2023 & 2024 volumes of the International Survey of Family Law will be dedicated to the ISFL's Jubilee anniversary.

Below you will find a Call for Proposals for the ISFL Jubilee volumes.

ISFL will publish **back-to-back years of surveys** (2023 and 2024) around this Jubilee anniversary. 2023's volume will contain both solicited reflections as well as substantive chapters. We will **use a lottery** to decide which chapters appears in which year's book.

We welcome your chapter proposals:

- Concerning the development of family law in the last 50 years,
- Concerning the ISFL's history, including texts about the involvement of family lawyers from countries in the ISFL,

- Concerning the role of the ISFL in the evolution of family law,
- Concerning the changes in national family laws in the last 50 years.

The proposed abstracts of the chapters should be submitted by **July 31, 2022** to Robin Wilson ([wils@uillinois.edu](mailto:wils@uillinois.edu)).

All manuscripts should be submitted by **October 10th, 2022**. Chapters should be **3,000-9,000 words** in length. We prefer chapter manuscripts to be submitted as word documents in line with Intersentia template and guidelines.

Please send your manuscripts to the Survey editors: June Carbone ([jcarbone@umn.edu](mailto:jcarbone@umn.edu)) and Robin Wilson ([wils@uillinois.edu](mailto:wils@uillinois.edu)).

NOTE: A significant part of the 2023 ISFL World Conference in Antwerp on July 12-15, 2023 will be dedicated to the jubilee. Some authors of the submitted texts will be invited to present their work during the conference. It is acceptable to propose different topics on jubilee issues for the Survey and for the conference.

The conference call for papers will be announced in September 2022.

Robin Fretwell Wilson  
[wils@uillinois.edu](mailto:wils@uillinois.edu)

June Carbone  
[jcarbone@umn.edu](mailto:jcarbone@umn.edu)

### **International Society of Family Law (ISFL) 2020 World Conference / Prospective Presenter at Caribbean Regional Conference: December 13 - 16, 2022**

Dear Presenter, At the ISFL Executive Committee meeting held in Portugal on May 7, 2022, the Committee made certain critical decisions regarding the Jubilee Conference. It was decided that the 17th ISFL World Conference, which had been mandated to convene at Barbados Hilton in 2020 was postponed to 2021 and then to 2023, because of Covid-19. Being our 50th year, it has become our Jubilee Conference. Due to the supervening circumstances of the Barbados environment, it will be held in Antwerp, Belgium in 2023. Then the Executive Committee agreed to my proposal that I could convene a Regional Conference in Tobago in December 2022.

This Regional Conference will be held in Tobago on December 13 - 16, 2022 and the theme will be the same as the 2020 world conference, "Safeguarding the Human Rights of Family Members from the Womb to the Tomb." All papers which were already approved for the 2020 world conference will be transferred to this regional conference. We currently have over one hundred and twenty (120) people from forty-nine (49) countries, whose paper proposals were accepted by the Scientific Committee for presentation at the 17th ISFL World Conference in 2020.

Registration fees which were already paid for the 2020 ISFL World Conference, will be valid payments for the Regional Conference, unless the payee exercised the option for return of fees. People who did not register for that conference will pay the new registration fees, as, by the time of the postponement, they would have been eligible to pay late fees.

ISBN: 978-0-9964805-1-2

Faculty Edited

I was the convener of two previous ISFL Caribbean Regional Conferences in The Bahamas in 2011 and 2014, both of which were well attended by highly esteemed law professors, jurists, social workers, and psychologists. It is expected that this new Regional ISFL Conference will be as exciting as the previous ones with many thought-provoking and educational papers on world-wide cutting-edge family issues which illustrate our all- embracing theme. The Regional Conference will begin with an Opening Ceremony on the evening of December 13, 2022. Pre-conference activities will be held on December 12, 2022 and post conference activities will be held on December 17, 2022. We encourage pre-registration, as arrangements will have to be made for boats, etc. We will be informing you of further requirements. This Caribbean Regional Conference provides a rare opportunity for interaction between jurists, academics, and professionals of related disciplines from the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australasia. and their counterparts from the CARICOM region.

Our key-note speaker is Baroness Brenda Hale, recently- retired President of the United Kingdom Supreme Court. Our national airline, Caribbean Airlines, is pursuing interline partnerships to facilitate seamless travel through multiple connecting gateways. Our website is being updated and will soon become operational again to facilitate registration.

Kindly confirm your intended participation, or otherwise, in the Regional Caribbean Conference. I look forward to welcoming you to the beautiful island of Tobago.

Senator Hazel Thompson-Ahye  
Conference Convener

**18th World Conference (*Golden Jubilee Conference*) of the International Society  
of Family Law  
Rethinking Law's Families & Family Law?  
July 12-15, 2023, Antwerp (Belgium)  
[www.isfl2023.org](http://www.isfl2023.org)**

The 18<sup>th</sup> World Conference of the International Society of Family Law will be held at the **University of Antwerp (Belgium)** from **12 to 15 July 2023**.

Titled "**Rethinking Law's Families\* & Family Law?**", papers on partners, parents & children, and the extended family will be presented in thematic streams addressing international dimensions, interdisciplinary approaches, and conflict handling. As the 18<sup>th</sup> World Conference also marks the ISFL **Golden Jubilee**, a Jubilee stream will cover the past & future of family law.

\* See Alison Diduck, *Law's Families*, Cambridge University Press, 2003.

The conference conveners are **Professor Frederik Swennen**, member of the ISFL Executive Council, and **Professor Elise Goossens** of the University of Antwerp, on behalf of **RETHINKIN.**, a Scientific Research Network funded by the Flanders Research Foundation – [www.rethinkin.eu](http://www.rethinkin.eu).

The **academic committee** of the conference comprises:

- Masha Antokolskaia (President of the ISFL);

- Ursula Basset (Secretary-General of the ISFL);
- June Carbone (ISFL Survey editor);
- Piotr Fiedorczyk (ISFL Jubilee Committee)
- Elise Goossens (Conference convener);
- Frederik Swennen (Conference convener);
- Robin Wilson (ISFL Newsletter and Survey editor).

The Call for Papers will follow in September 2022. All information will be available on [www.isfl2023.org](http://www.isfl2023.org).

Frederik Swennen  
Elise Goossens  
Conference Conveners

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

---



### **CHINA**

#### **Implementation of the Three-Child Policy in China**

The *Civil Code of the People's Republic of China* (the *Civil Code*) was passed in China in May 2020 and came into effect on 1 January 2021. The original *Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China (2001 Amendment)* (the original *Marriage Law*) and the *Adoption Law of the People's Republic of China (1998 Amendment)* were incorporated into the *Civil Code*. The *Civil Code* abolished the provisions that "Birth control shall be practiced" and "Late marriage and late childbirth shall be encouraged" in the original *Marriage Law*. This is an adjustment made in response to aging population and low fertility in China.

On 11 May 2021, the seventh national census data released by the National Bureau of Statistics of China showed that by the end of 2020, the population of China aged 60 and above was 264,018,766, accounting for 18.70%, and the population aged 65 and above was 190,635,280, accounting for 13.50%. *The Decision on Optimizing Birth Policies to Promote Long-term and Balanced Population Development* adopted by the Central Committee of Communist Party of China and the State Council in June 2021 made an important strategic deployment of "implementing the policy that a couple can have three children". This is another major decision based on the new situation of China's population development and changes after the two-child policy was partially introduced in 2013 and fully implemented in 2015. On 20 August 2021, the *Population and Family Planning Law of the People's Republic of China (2021 Amendment)* (the new *Population and Family Planning Law*) formally passed the three-child policy into the law. Article 18 of the new *Population and Family Planning Law* stipulates that "The state advocates marriage and childbearing at appropriate ages as well as healthy birth and child development. One couple may bear three children." And Article 27 of the new *Population and Family Planning Law* clearly states that "The state shall adopt fiscal, taxation, insurance, education, housing, employment, and other measures in support of easing the burden on families in the bearing, upbringing, and education of children." At the same time, in order to effectively implement the three-child policy, the law abolished the restriction measures such as the payment of the social upbringing

charges.

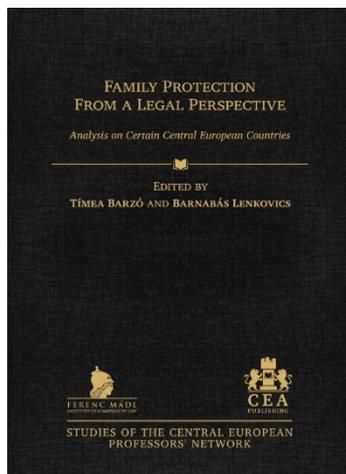
The implementation of the three-child policy is of great significance to the sustainable development of China's economy, society, population and family. This is not only a key measure to alleviate the impact of the declining birthrate and aging population on the economy and society, but also an important step to gradually return reproductive rights to the family and enhance the family's ability to resist risks. The implementation of the three-child policy is conducive to improving China's population structure, implementing the national strategy to actively respond to population aging, and promoting long-term and balanced population development.

Qingmin Guo  
guoqingminchn@gmail.com



## CZECH REPUBLIC

There were not many changes in Czech family law since the new Czech Civil Code was passed in 2012, although there were some significant pending drafts before Parliament election in 2021 aiming to introduce, marriage for all “and establish ombudsman for children”. Details dedicated to both the designed law and mainly to the current legal regulation of the concept of family and family law were published in the book “Family Protection from a Legal perspective” within the newly created framework of the Central European Professors’ Network and the Central European Academy (<http://mfi.gov.hu/en/>). Beside the chapter devoted to the Czech Republic, there were parts on Polish, Hungarian, Slovak, Slovenia, Serbian and Croatian family law in the book followed by concluding comparative remarks. A new study on “Concept of Parental Responsibilities” will be published soon. It will be accompanied by the conferences held in Warsaw (June 2022) and Budapest (November 2022). Besides that, there have been a few online conferences and a webinars for doctoral students organized by the Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic (May 2022) and University of Miskolc, Hungary (March 2022, October 2022). Further information will be available on the web page.



Zdenka Kraklickova  
zdenka.kraklickova@law.muni.cz



### A Turning Point in Italian Jurisprudence

With the judgment No. 9691 of 24/3/2022 of the I Civil Section, the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation has finally decreed the absence of scientific value to the so-called syndrome of parental alienation: "the reference to the syndrome of parental alienation and to any of its obvious, even unconscious, corollary, cannot be said to be legitimate, constituting the pseudoscientific basis of measures seriously affecting the lives of children.... the concept of psychological abuse, which the consultants discussed, appears indeterminate and vague and of uncertain scientific origin, unable to be described according to the diagnostic parameters of medical science and difficult to define even according to the categories of psychological discipline".

This decision is destined to have enormous repercussions on the so-called high-conflict separations and divorces, where mothers who reported stalking and/or domestic violence are often falsely accused of alienating the other parent, because of a despicable obvious trial strategy.

The Italian Supreme Court has recognized the scientific unsoundness of parental alienation syndrome (PAS), also establishing that co-parenting should not be imposed regardless of the best interest of the child in each specific case.

Isabella Ferrari  
[Isabella.ferrari@unimore.it](mailto:Isabella.ferrari@unimore.it)



### Summary of the New Family Law: Lao People's Democratic Republic

In December 2018 the Civil Code (630 provisions)<sup>1</sup> was enacted for the first time in Lao People's Democratic Republic for the purpose of meeting the range of social and economic demands of a globalizing society. Prior to 2018, laws such as the Family Law 1990, the Law on Heritage and Basis of Inheritance 2003, the Land Law 2003, and the Property Law 1990 etc. that related to civil matters had been implemented. Considering the rapid changes facing Lao society, particularly under the open economy policy dating from the mid-1980s, the government decided to undertake the task of drafting a new consolidated Civil Code. In early 2012, the drafting committee adopted the policy of avoiding the imitation of 'advanced' legal ideas typical of the more economically developed countries but would examine and revise existing laws as well as the legal practice that was indigenous to Laos society. They would achieve by considering new knowledge acquired from Western nations alongside that gleaned from neighboring countries, such as Vietnam and Thailand. The government drew up a final draft in 2017 based on well-balanced arrangements of new legal ideas and living law in Lao society. The Civil Code 2018 consists of 9 parts – 1. General provisions, 2. Individual and juristic persons, 3. Family, 4. Assets, ownership and other asset-related rights (rights relating to property/goods and ownership and

---

<sup>1</sup> English version ([https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/issues/governance/portal/laos/ku57pq00002khhw3-att/civil\\_code\\_03.pdf](https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/issues/governance/portal/laos/ku57pq00002khhw3-att/civil_code_03.pdf)).

other rights to property/goods), 5. Contractual obligations (contract etc.), 6. Torts, 7. Secured transactions, 8. Inheritance, 9. Final provisions.

The parts of the draft referring to family (part III) and inheritance (part VIII) contain provisions relating to protection of family life, respect to freedom of family members, equality of both sexes and special consideration to child welfare. They also include some provisions originated from customary law in order to allow the Civil Code to be smoothly implemented and accepted in society. It can be pointed out that the parts addressing family and succession in the Civil Code have three major characteristics. Firstly, the collective idea (groupism) in family life is observed. For instance, even a non-relative shall be treated as a family member if s/he is living jointly and registered in the same family registration book (a certified family book) (section 137). In another case, a house servant is eligible to succeed his/her employer who is a deceased head of a family and who died with no heirs if s/he has lived with and worked for more than three years (section 583). In other words, a non-relative person can be understood as being a family member if s/he once shares everyday life with a family and has close relationships with them.

Secondly, the family tie is regarded as strong and the rights and obligations between family members are given priority in many situations. A parent shall have obligation to maintain not only his/her minor child but also his/her adult child if the child lacks capacity to support himself/herself (section 217). On the other hand, the child also has a similar obligation toward his/her parents (section 218). In connection, a parent or child shall lose the right to succeed if s/he fails to perform such obligations of support and maintenance (section 617(2)). As another example, a stepchild is eligible to succeed his/her stepparent with some limitation since his/her rights and duties are similar to those of a blood child or adopted child (sections 213(2) and 577(1)(iii)). In this respect, a child in a family (group) is interpreted as a child in the family notwithstanding his/her legal status. In the area of marriage, a man shall visit the parents and senior members of his fiancée's family in order to give an engagement gift and make arrangements for the marriage ceremony (section 147). This requirement is not legally mandate but it indicates that a marriage is not a solely matter concerning husband and wife but a matter of family reflecting the current family culture in Laos.

Thirdly, some provisions provide substantial protection for a vulnerable family member. When a fiancée becomes pregnant by a fiancé or gives birth to a baby before marriage, the male shall have obligation to maintain the baby until reaching the age of majority (section 149(3)). In the case of succession, there is no discriminatory provision against a non-marital child regarding distributed portion as an heir. As a further example, the detailed conditions and procedures are particularly set out about cross-border adoption cases for the purpose of the prevention of child trafficking and securing the welfare of a child.

Under the current infrastructure and practices of the judiciary scheme, it may take time until the new Civil Code is fully operating in society. However, the new Civil Code will definitely play crucial roles in improving the quality of legal services in Laos in the near future.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> More details on the Lao Civil Code: see IRIE Katsunori, 'Outline of the Lao Civil Code', ICD NEWS LAW FOR DEVELOPMENT March 2020 (International Cooperation Department Research and Training Institute, Ministry of Justice, Japan), p.52 (<http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001321500.pdf>). Mr Irie is Attorney at Law and was JICA Long-term Expert in Lao People's Democratic Republic until July 2021.

MINAMIKATA Satoshi\*  
dairake@gmail.com

\* Member of ISFL in Japan and of Advisory Group of JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) Rule of Law Project (for Lao PDR).



## UNITED STATES

The Houston Journal of International Law is going to publish an issue relating to the regulation of cohabitation. There will be articles about the regulation of co habitation in Australia, English-speaking Canada, French-speaking Canada, United States, and Scotland. The issue should be available in May 2022.

JT Oldham  
Toldham@central.uh.edu

## MEMBER NEWS

---



## CHINA

Xia (Lisa) Li was listed on the list of *the most influential scholars in Chinese philosophy and social sciences*, ranking third in the field of family law. Her paper was listed in the Top 100 of *China Jurisprudence*, the most authoritative law journal in China and was listed in the Top 150 citations in *China Jurisprudence* in 2021 on China Knowledge Network.

Xia (Lisa) Li  
Lisa\_1@163.com



ISRAEL –



MALTA

Philip Marcus, Retired Judge of the Jerusalem Family Court in Israel, was keynote speaker at an International Seminar on Changes Needed for Family Well-Being in line with the European Convention on Human Rights held in Malta on 6 May 2022. The seminar, organized by Happy Parenting Malta for Happier Children, dealt with a variety of topics relating to children whose parents separate and divorce. After the seminar, Judge Marcus met with cabinet ministers and academics, in order to present his ideas for law reform and family court reform, so that the system in Malta will be better adapted to the needs of children.

This is a link to an interview given to Malta television in which Judge Marcus describes his approaches and activities <https://fb.watch/cX6SyqNrUW>

For more information: philipmarcusjurist@gmail.com

Philip Marcus  
philipmarcusjurist@gmail.com



Attached is a short presentation of an international project on Children's Rights that I am coordinating. Please feel free to ask for further information.

Children's rights violations risk to remain hidden for many reasons.

Children may perceive certain abusive behaviors as accepted practices; they may not know they are entitled to seek the assistance of public authorities; they may not know when to report and to whom the report should be made; the reporting itself may lead to further violence due to the so-called re-victimization of the reporter.

[Children Digi-CORE project \(2021-2023\)](#), funded by the European Commission (Rights, Equality and Citizenship Program), aims to design, test and promote a mobile app to encourage children to report violations of their own or peers' rights. The project also aims and to develop a shared methodology (using interdisciplinary guidelines and policy recommendations at the national and European levels) to deal with such reportings.

The project adopts an innovative, child friendly, participatory, integrated and interdisciplinary approach. For instance, groups of children and young adults are involved in the needs assessment (through children's focus groups), in the mobile app development and testing (users' assessment workshops) and in the training (children as trainers).

It is coordinated by the University of Torino (UNITO), bringing together three different Departments (Law, Psychology and Culture, Politics and Society), distinguished by their research excellence, international outreach and experience in EU projects. In addition to coordinating the project, UNITO has been leading an international and a national survey addressed to Children's Ombudspersons and other public authorities and UNITO has organized field visits to acquire a better understanding of the challenges and good practices on receiving and managing reports coming directly from children.

The project consortium also includes:

- Synesthesia, technological partner, that combines strong technological know-how with an innovative approach, namely the structural use of focus groups in design activity,
- Association Agevolando, that promotes the first network of children raised in a host community or foster care (Care Leavers Network),
- Hope for Children, an NGO based in Nicosia, Cyprus, that has established and manages shelters for the accommodation and support of unaccompanied foreign children in Cyprus and
- *Consiglio Regionale del Piemonte*, a regional legislative assembly which has authority over essential matters such as social services and health, as well as includes an independent authority of Ombudsperson for Children of the Piedmont Region.

The project is supported locally by the Piedmont section of National Association of Italian Municipalities and the Regional Orders of Psychologists and of Social Workers and internationally by the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates and by the Commissioner (Ombudsman) of Administration and Protection of Human Rights of Cyprus.

A first prototype of the mobile app has already been created and it will be tested and assessed by potential users in June 2022.

For more information [childrendigicore@unito.it](mailto:childrendigicore@unito.it) and [joelle.long@unito.it](mailto:joelle.long@unito.it)

Updates and News on: <https://digicore-project.eu/the-project/>

Follow us:



Joelle Long  
[joelle.long@unito.it](mailto:joelle.long@unito.it)



**UNITED STATES**

Between April 18, 2022, and May 20, 2022, Professor Robin Wilson visited St Anne’s College, Oxford University, UK as the Plumer Visiting Research Fellowship and The School of Law at Queen Mary University of London, UK as a Fulbright Specialist.

During her visits, she delivered a seminar to research staff and research students at Queen Mary on religious freedom and LGBT rights complementarity in Utah and other US states, held closed meetings with scholars from Oxford Faculty of Law, The School of Law at Queen Mary University and University of London, on the transferability of US best practices to an EU context. A project report was co-drafted to be used in a larger research project launched by Queen Mary and other EU partner institutions. She also held a meeting with Lord Nicholas Wilson, former Chief Justice, UK Supreme Court—discussed US law and Access to Justice. On May 16, 2022, she made a lunch presentation at St. Anne’s. College, Oxford University on “The Demise of Roe v. Wade: Is America Ready.” She met with Professor John Eekelaar, Faculty of Law and Pembroke College, to discuss transgender rights and family law. She co-presented to Bonavero Institute of Human Rights & Oxford Children’s Rights Network, with Utah Senate President Stuart Adams and Representative Kera Birkeland: The Path to Inclusion of Transgender Athletes: Guided by Children’s Rights on May 18, 2022. <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/events/path-inclusion-transgender-athletes-guided-childrens-rights>.

She re-visited visited St Anne’s College, Oxford University, UK between June 5, 2022, and June 15, 2022, upon a panel discussion invitation on the topic Roe v. Wade, its (Possible) Overturn, and the State of the American Constitution at the Oxford Union. In the meantime, she continued her meetings to build a long-term collaboration with the host institutes and Bonavero Institute of Human Rights.

She is also working as one of the Co-Principal Investigators of the below ongoing projects:

- “Virtual Courts and Access to Justice” project to understand the difficulties in accessing justice  
ISBN: 978-0-9964805-1-2

Faculty Edited

during COVID-19.

- “Centering Youth’s Health and Wellness: Designing a Third Reconstruction and Chicago Renaissance” project to understand the health and wellness needs of youth from systemically marginalized communities in Chicago.

Robin Fretwell Wilson  
[wils@uillinois.edu](mailto:wils@uillinois.edu)

## **RECENT AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS**

---

### **James G. Dwyer**

- *The Most Dangerous Branch of Science? Reining in Rogue Research and Reckless Experimentation in Social Services*, **87 Mo. L. Rev.** (2022).
- *Smith’s Last Stand? Free Exercise and Foster Care Exceptionalism*, **24(2) U. Pa. J. Const. L.** \_\_\_\_ (2022).
- *Clarifying Questions About the Nature of Rights*, **12 Jurisprudence** 47 (2021) (peer reviewed). [Online](#).
- *Deflating Parental Rights*, **40 Law & Philosophy** 387 (2021) (peer reviewed). [Online](#).
- *Forever Owned: Children as Possessions in the CRC*, in **Global Reflections on Children’s Rights and the Law** (Pamela Laufer-Ukeles and Ellen Marrus, Routledge 2021).
- *Faux Advocacy in Amicus Practice*, **50 Pepperdine Law Review** (2022 forthcoming).

### **Xia (Lisa) Li**

Xia (Lisa) Li has published *a study on alternative mechanisms of guardianship measures for the elderly* in Law Press.

And she has completed a national project on *Voluntary Guardianship for the elderly*.

### **Elaine Sutherland**

- *Child and Family Law: Vol II: Intimate Adult Relationships* (Edinburgh: W. Green, 2022), 3rd edition, 825pp., £95.00, ISBN: 9780414019379 This new edition addresses the recent wealth of changes in child and family law, now warranting two volumes to encompass the depth of its authoritative treatment. Publishing first, Volume II sets Scots law in its comparative and international contexts, examining the formation and dissolution of intimate adult relationships, and the legal consequences of each. Significant legislation is examined in detail alongside the plentiful case law and law reform proposals. Throughout, there is critical appraisal of the extent to which the law recognises diversity in intimate relationships, respects individual choice and affords adequate protection to those who need it.
- An article, “Teaming up to Zoom in on Marriage” (2021) 66(3) *Journal of the Law Society of Scotland*: <https://www.lawscot.org.uk/members/journal/issues/vol-66-issue-03/family-teaming-up-to-zoom-in-on-marriage/>

- An article: “Avoid lawsuits beyond all things”: (2021) 66(7) *Journal of the Law Society of Scotland*: <https://www.lawscot.org.uk/members/journal/issues/vol-66-issue-07/avoid-lawsuits-beyond-all-things/>
- My very first blogpost, “An attempt to take child protection to a new level in Scotland”, *Centre for Research on Discretion and Paternalism Blog*, University of Bergen, 24 August 2021: <https://discretion.uib.no/an-attempt-to-take-child-protection-to-a-new-level-in-scotland/>

## **UPDATED ADDRESSES**

---

NOTE: To receive the current ISFL international survey, you must have updated your address on the ISFL webpage.