



Professor Felisa Tibbitts

Human Rights Education Chair Established

As of 1 January, the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM) at Utrecht University has established the very first chair in human rights education in the Netherlands. The Carla Atzema-Looman Chair in Human Rights Education, with special attention for Women's Rights, is initiated and financed by the Union of Soroptimists in the Netherlands, Surinam, and Curacao. This organization, with 3200 members, is part of Soroptimist International, the world's largest women's service organisation, which works to improve the position of women and girls, as well as human rights, worldwide. The unique chair is made possible by an endowment from Carla Atzema-Looman, who during her life was head of social services and advisor to the Board of Governors of Heineken. The chair is a very timely initiative because Dutch children generally know very little about human rights.

Felisa Tibbitts will be the first professor in human rights education in the Netherlands. Professor Tibbitts is the co-founder of Human Rights Education Associates and an internationally acknowledged expert in the field of human rights education. She is currently connected to Columbia University's Teachers College. The chair will be based at Utrecht University

with SIM in the human rights city of Utrecht. Professor Tibbitts will also closely cooperate with University College Roosevelt (UCR); Utrecht University's Liberal Arts and Sciences College based in Middelburg. Just like Utrecht, Middelburg is a human rights city, and it is where the International Four Freedoms Awards are handed out every two years. The legacy of the Roosevelt family (that was seminaly involved in both the Four Freedoms and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) is a key pillar of UCR's identity.

Professor Tibbitts considers the chair a unique opportunity to strengthen human rights education in the Netherlands and worldwide: 'I admire the leadership of Utrecht University, the University College Roosevelt and the Soroptimists in creating this Chair in Human Rights Education and I am thrilled to be joining the community of human rights advocates and educators in the Netherlands. Education is essential for developing knowledge, attitudes and behaviors that promote and protect the human dignity of each person. Through my collaboration with Dutch colleagues, I am optimistic that we will be able to further understanding and implementation of effective human rights education in the Netherlands and beyond'.

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Netherlands Helsinki Committee

Dr. Brianne McGonigle Leyh has recently joined the Advisor Board of the Netherlands Helsinki Committee.

The Netherlands Helsinki Committee is a non-governmental organisation that promotes human rights and strengthens the rule of law and democracy in all countries of Europe, including the Central Asian countries participating in the OSCE.



MOOC Human Rights for Open Societies

After its first very successful run at the end of 2016 with more than 6000 participants, the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) 'Human Rights for Open Societies' is again open for enrollment.

The course, an introduction to the European Convention on Human Rights, was codeveloped by SIM director Antoine Buyse and Sim fellow Janneke Gerards and Paulien de Morree.

It is offered through the Coursera platform. A short introductory video is available [here](#) and you can register [here](#). The course will start again on 13 February 2017 and will be offered several times this year.



Pictured:
Janneke Gerards (l) and Antoine Buyse (r)



European Equality Law Network: Contract Renewed for 2017

Alexandra Timmer, Assistant Professor at SIM, is acting specialist coordinator of gender equality law at the *European Network of Legal Experts in the Field of Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination*. The Network provides to the European Commission independent information and advice on the implementation of European sex equality and non-

discrimination legislation in the EU Member States, the EFTA countries, and the candidate countries of Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Commission has renewed its contract with the Network for 2017. Together with Linda Senden, Professor of EU law at Utrecht University, Alexandra

has written a report for the Network entitled '[A comparative analysis of gender equality law in Europe – 2016](#)'. In addition, general reports on the implementation of gender equality law from European 35 countries have been published. All reports are available on the Network's [website](#).

In Memoriam

Sir Nigel Rodley

The sad news reached us that Sir Nigel Rodley, after a short and severe illness, passed away in January. Sir Nigel was one of the founding figures of the human rights movement.



As a former UN rapporteur on torture, former UN Human Rights Committee chair and president of the International Commission of Jurists, he has left his mark as a principled and committed defender of human rights as well as a very amiable man. In 2014 Nigel Rodley delivered the SIM Peter Baehr lecture in Utrecht.

We commemorate him with fondness and great respect and extend our sincere condolences to his loved ones.

New Staff at SIM

Erin Jackson will be leaving her position as gender equality law assistant for the European Equality Law Network on 1 February to commence a PhD at Utrecht University on the subject of European Judicial Cultures. Erin will remain connected to SIM through her position as Executive Assistant of the Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights. She will be replaced by Franka van Hoof. Franka has an LL.M in International and European Law, and previous experience in management of European human rights projects. Good luck Erin and welcome Franka!

Pro Bono Connect



Dr. Brianne McGonigle Leyh is since the end of 2016 on the Advisory Board of Pro Bono Connect. Pro Bono Connect is the first public interest clearinghouse in the Netherlands and acts as intermediary between non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and law firms.

Pro Bono Connect was established in November 2015 by the Dutch section of the International Commission of Jurists (NJCM) after extensive research among law firms, NGOs and foreign clearinghouses. Thirteen of the Netherlands' largest law firms support its work.

Grant for Interdisciplinary Research into Migration, Gender and Sexuality

Institutions for Open Societies, one of the four strategic themes of Utrecht University, has granted seed money to carry out exploratory research on *Inequality and wellbeing at the intersection of gender, sexuality and contemporary migration*.

The proposed research endeavours to fill part of the knowledge gap that currently surrounds the risk of ad hoc social policy, stirred by incidents and informed by anecdotal evidence.

The mending of gaps between disciplinary domains across the social sciences is especially urgent in this field. The research group, led by prof. John de Wit (interdisciplinary social sciences / public health) is composed of researchers from a number of disciplines including public health, cultural diversity, gender studies, and human rights law. Marjolein van den Brink Assistant Professor at SIM, also participates.

Utrecht Young Academy

In October 2016, Dr. Brianne McGonigle Leyh, Associate Professor with SIM, was selected as one of the first 24 members of the Utrecht Young Academy (UYA)! The UYA is a platform for young academics from different disciplines to connect, exchange, and interact. The members will get familiar with

each other's fields of expertise and can advise each other from their own perspective about the needs researchers have. In addition, they will start projects together to gain public attention for Utrecht University's research and education. More information about the UYA can be found [here](#).

UGlobe

Utrecht University, as of January 2017, has established a new cross-faculty platform for teaching and education: UGlobe, the Utrecht Centre for Global Challenges.



The new centre, in which SIM actively participates will focus on the global order and its contestations in a number of selected field, including human rights. It brings together the expertise at Utrecht University on the issue from the fields of law, governance, economics, history and ethics, amongst others. At SIM we see this as an important commitment of the University to our research and teaching themes as well as an opportunity to further extend cooperation with other fields of academia.

Field Research in Indonesia



Julie Fraser, PhD candidate at SIM, is undertaking field research in Indonesia in January and February 2017, visiting with Universitas Indonesia in Jakarta for one month. Julie's research explores the role of Islamic law and institutions in promoting women's reproductive health and family planning.

*Pictured:
Julie Fraser (l) in Indonesia with AD Eridani (r), the Director of Rahima (the centre for education and information on Islam and women's rights)*

Nobel Laureate Ebadi Freedom of Movement Social Sciences Council



At the end of October, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate dr Shirin Ebadi delivered a lecture in the University's ceremonial hall. The event, organized by the Utrecht University College Alumni Association, included reflections by SIM director Antoine Buyse.

Dr Ebadi was no stranger to Utrecht, as she had participated in SIM's 25th anniversary, exactly a decade ago.

At the occasion of world human rights day, the city of Utrecht and the Utrecht Human Rights Coalition organized an evening event on 'Freedom of Movement'. The evening included both short introductions to the theme from different angles (migration, disability, policing, and online rights), of which professor Antoine Buyse delivered the opening one, as well as debate and even theatre on human rights.

SIM fellow Janneke Gerards and SIM director Antoine Buyse have both been appointed to the prestigious Social Sciences Council of the Dutch Royal Academy of Sciences (KNAW). The Social Sciences Council works to promote the social sciences and advises on pertinent matters. Where necessary, it initiates and encourages collaboration between individual researchers and institutions. It also represents social science researchers in the Netherlands and abroad.

Human Rights and Drug Control

On Friday 20 January, Marie Elske Gispén successfully defended her PhD dissertation *Human Rights and Drug Control: Access to Controlled Essential Medicines in Resource Constrained Countries*. Turn to page 9 to read more about her dissertation.



New Horizon2020 Project – ETHOS

SIM researcher Alexandra Timmer and SIM fellows Barbara Oomen and Sybe de Vries participate in a new Horizon2020 project entitled ETHOS (Towards a European Theory Of Justice and Fairness). The project runs from 2017 to 2019. The project is managed by Utrecht University colleagues from social sciences, and includes research partners from the Netherlands, England, Turkey, Portugal, Austria and Hungary. ETHOS will examine which theoretic foundations laid the groundwork for European notions of justice.

NQHR moves to SAGE

As of 1 January the SIM-based Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights (NQHR) has a new publisher: SAGE Publishing. With its wider global reach and its excellent reputation as an independent publisher, the NQHR's board is very happy with this move.

The journal's audience will grow to include a much bigger amount of libraries, both in the developed and developing world. The move is a result of our former publisher Intersentia transferring its international journals to SAGE. The Board is grateful to Intersentia for the many years of very good cooperation, which helped to establish the NQHR as a premier international peer-reviewed journal in the field of human rights. The Quarterly Board has also recently expanded to include SIM fellow professor Barbara Oomen.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, 29 March, Utrecht University: the Inaugural lecture of SIM fellow and Board member professor Janneke Gerards will be held in the Aula of the Academy Building at 16:15 on the protection of fundamental rights. Please register to attend before 22 March by emailing to: rechten.SBRSecretariaat@uu.nl

Friday, 7 April, Utrecht University: The Institute for Jurisprudence, Constitutional and Administrative Law and SIM are co-organising the annual Article 1 lecture. Job Cohen, former Mayor of Amsterdam, and now professor in Leiden will give the Art. 1 lecture on decentralisation practices and unequal treatment. The lecture will be held in the Raadzaal from 15:00-17:00 in Dutch. Please register to attend before 1 April by emailing to: rechten.SBRSecretariaat@uu.nl

Wednesday, 5 April, Utrecht University: As part of the [FRAME project](#) (Fostering Human Rights among European Policies) Alexandra Timmer and Lorena Sosa of SIM are organizing an academic workshop entitled Human Rights and Vulnerability: Conceptualization, Contestation and Resilience. This workshop aims to bring together an international and interdisciplinary group of scholars working on the intersections of human rights and the notion of vulnerability. The organizers are looking for abstracts on the links between human rights and vulnerability.

Call for Abstracts: Deadline for abstracts is **6 March**. Authors of the selected abstracts will be required to prepare a 20 minutes' presentation. The organizers plan to invite approximately 10 speakers and leave plenty of time for discussion. The full call for abstracts is available on the [SIM website](#).



19 and 20 May, Utrecht University: SIM fellow Liesbeth Enneking and the Utrecht University Centre for Accountability and Liability Law will host an international conference on 'Accountability and International Business Operations: Providing Justice for Corporate Violations of Human Rights, Labor and Environmental Standards'. The Centre is currently accepting abstracts of no more than 500 words until 1 November – information regarding the conference themes can be found [here](#).

Thursday, 8 June, Utrecht University: the Seminar on Transitional Justice, Social Justice, and Human Rights will be held in the Raadzaal from 9.30-17.00. The Seminar is sponsored by SIM, the focus area of Culture, Citizenship and Human Rights and the Montaigne Research Centre.

10-14 July, SIM Summer School: SIM will host its summer school programme *International Human Rights Law: An Introduction* from 10-14 July. SIM has received outstanding feedback from past summer school students and is happy to once more welcome another international and multidisciplinary group of students. This course focuses on the major features of international human rights law, delving into both theory and practice. It begins by examining the philosophical and political bases of human rights. It then explores human rights documents and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights at the international and regional levels, looking at civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, and their relationship with one another. Participants will analyse specific rights in context, focusing on the complexities around ensuring human rights protection. Through lectures, interactive working groups, expert panels and excursion(s), participants will gain an understanding of the various elements – and their interplay – involved in this field. The course is designed for students and professionals with an interest in human rights law. More information, including on how to register, can be found [here](#).



Research Trip to Geneva

From 22 October to 18 November 2016, Julie Fraser, PhD candidate at SIM, worked with the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for its 65th Session in Geneva. Julie assisted Ms. Pramila Patten, a long-standing member of the Committee that oversees states parties' implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. During this session, the Netherlands reported to the Committee on the progress made and outstanding issues regarding women's rights across the Kingdom. You can read Julie's blog about her experiences [here](#).



*Pictured:
Julie Fraser (l) and Pramila Patten (r)*

Equinet Conference on Intersectional Discrimination

On 7 December 2016, Alexandra Timmer, Assistant Professor at SIM, participated in a conference held by the European network of equality bodies (Equinet) in Brussels, Belgium. The conference was called *Diverse, Inclusive and Equal: Innovating at the Intersections of Gender Equality*. Alexandra spoke about the work of the European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination on intersectional discrimination in EU law.

Regional Moot Court Competition in Kigali, Rwanda

From 12-17 December 2016, Paulien de Morrée, Assistant Professor and SIM fellow, participated as an expert/judge in an annual regional (Francophone) moot court competition on international humanitarian law and human rights in Kigali, Rwanda.

The Stichting Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights, of which Paulien herself is president, organised the moot court alongside the Comité pour le Concours Grands Lacs, and local NGO iPeace. Utrecht University acted as one of the sponsors of the project, alongside the International Committee for the Red Cross and the Swiss Ministry

of Foreign Affairs. Teams from 15 different universities in Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo participated in the competition, which this year focused on the theme of sexual violence in armed conflict.

The team of experts/judges included experts in the fields of international humanitarian law and human rights from the three participating countries, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Guinea, Mali, Came-

roon, and Burkina Faso. The finals took place at the Rwandese Supreme Court. More about the moot court competition can be found [here](#).



Torkel Opsahl Memorial Lecture, Oslo

On 24 November Jenny Goldschmidt delivered the Torkel Opsahl Lecture in Oslo, titled *Towards Transformative Justice through the UN Disability Convention?* The announcement can be viewed on their [website](#) and the text will be published in the Nordic Journal of Human Rights.

Conference in Tianjin

Julie Fraser and Stacey Links, PhD candidates at SIM, presented at a conference in Tianjin, China hosted by Nankai University from 1 and 2 December 2016 on the topic of spiritual and cultural values underlying human rights. The title of Julie's presentation was: *Role of Islamic Law and Institutions in Promoting Women's Reproductive Rights in Indonesia*.

Training for Professionals

SIM staff is actively engaged in training professionals.

In early November, Brianne McGonigle Leyh and Antoine Buyse co-taught a full-day training course on the rule of law at the Hague Academy for Local Governance, to a group of professionals from across the globe. At the start of December, Antoine also gave a training on the European Convention on Human Rights at the Dutch Training Centre for the Judiciary (SSR).



On 6 December 2016, Alexandra Timmer, Assistant Professor at SIM, participated in a conference held by the Europäische Rechtsakademie (ERA) in Trier, Germany, entitled *Current reflections on EU Gender Equality Law*. Alexandra presented her lecture on *Gender Stereotyping in the Case Law of the CJEU*.



Movies and Science: *In the line of fire*

On 28 November, Brianne McGonigle Leyh, Associate Professor at SIM, participated in a short movies series organised by Utrecht University's Studium Generale in cooperation with the research focus area 'Cultures, Citizenship and Human Rights (CCHR)', in which SIM participates, entitled *In the line of fire*. The series showcases the research undertaken in this focus area to a broader audience and was a great success; for all

three events the auditorium was fully booked. Brianne hosted a Q+A session on human rights defenders and documenters after the screening of the Human Rights Watch Documentary *The E-Team*. This documentary follows four members of the Emergencies Team as they piece together the actual events that take place in areas of conflict across the globe. More information about the Movies and Science series can be found [here](#).

SIM Blogs



Armed Groups and International Law Blog

Katharine Fortin, lecturer at SIM, hosts a blog on armed groups and international law, together with Rogier Bartels of the Netherlands Defence Academy and Annyssa of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law:



<http://armedgroups-international-law.org>



ECHR Blog

Antoine Buyse, professor and director of SIM, host a blog on the European Convention of Human Rights, reporting on case-law from the European Court and on recent publications and events concerning the ECHR:



www.echrblog.blogspot.com



Culture and Human Rights Blog

Ingrid Roestenburg-Morgan, PhD researcher at SIM, runs a blog on topical issues relating to culture, human rights, traditional values and international criminal justice:



www.culture-human-rights.blogspot.com

'Atlantic Dialogues' Conference in Marrakesh

On 14-16 December 2016, Stacey Links, PhD candidate at SIM, attended the 'Atlantic Dialogues' in Marrakesh, Morocco. This annual event hosted by the German Marshall Fund of the United States and the OCP Policy Center of Morocco brings together high-level influential public and private-sector leaders from around the Atlantic basin for discussion on cross-regional issues.

This year's theme was Changing Mental Maps: Strategies for an Atlantic in Transition and included topics such as *Populism and its Threat to Global Liberal Democracy*; *Investment in the Developing World*; *Rethinking Development Finance*; *Atlantic Security: Risks, Fragility and Paths to Resilience*;

Globalisation in Flux: Economic Trends and Regional Consequences; and *Countering Radicalisation*. Stacey represented the 'Emerging Leaders' as an alumni member, discussing the role of and challenges that face Africa (and the developing world more broadly) within the Atlantic basin and vis a vis the developed world. Stacey presented, in conjunction with international broadcaster Nik Gowing throughout the conference, in segments titled *Thinking the Unthinkable*.

She was also honoured to act as a discussant with the former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo in a talk entitled *A Tale of Two Policies: Paths to Development in Africa*.



Conference in Beijing

Julie Fraser, Stacey Links, Qiao Congrui and Ming Niu, PhD candidates at SIM, participated in a conference in Beijing celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Right to Development on 3 and 4 December.

*Picture (from L-R):
Stacey, Cong-rui, and Julie at the People's Hall in Chinese Congress on Tiananmen Square where the conference was opened*

Recodification of Human Rights in the Dutch Constitution

Recently, many European countries have moved towards codification of international human rights law. In a special issue of the *Revue Interdisciplinaire d'Etudes Juridiques* on this trend, SIM fellows Janneke Gerards and Barbara Oomen reflect on the discussions on recodification of human rights in the Dutch Constitution held within the context of the 2009-2010 Constitutional Review Commission.

- J. Gerards, 'The Irrelevance of the Netherlands Constitution, and the Impossibility of Changing It', *Revue Interdisciplinaire d'Etudes Juridiques* (2016) (77):207-233.
- B. Oomen, 'Strengthening Constitutional Identity Where There Is None: The Case of the Netherlands', *Revue Interdisciplinaire d'Etudes Juridiques* (2016) (77):235-263.

Lecture to Amnesty International NL

On 19 January, SIM fellow Paulien de Morré gave a lecture to Amnesty International Netherlands as part of a series organised on future challenges for human rights protection. Paulien focused on the challenges facing the European Court of Human Rights, such as the states of emergency in Turkey and France and derogations from the Convention in times of emergency, the reverse movement of democracies becoming increasingly illiberal in Poland and Hungary, and the ever increasing case load and nationalist and anti-European sentiments in national politics.

Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights

The newest issues of the NQHR features the following articles:

NQHR, 2016-4

- Y. Donders, 'Defending the Human Rights Defenders'
- M. Neglia, 'The UNGPs – Five Years On: From Consensus to Divergence in Public Regulation on Business and Human Rights'
- J. Planitzer, 'Trafficking in Human Beings for the Purpose of Labour Exploitation: Can Obligatory Reporting by Corporations Prevent Trafficking?'
- E. Lambert Abdelgawad, 'Dialogue and the Implementation of the European Court of Human Rights' Judgments'
- Z. Ra'ad Al Hussein, 'SIM Peter Baehr lecture 2016: 50 Years of the Two UN Human Rights Covenants: Legacies and Prospects'



Articles

- B. McGonigle Leyh, *Nuremberg's Legacy on Transitional Justice: Prosecutions are Here to Stay*, 15 Washington University Global Studies Law Review 559 (2016).
- J. Goldschmidt, *Van gelijke behandeling naar inclusie: het VN- verdrag inzake de rechten van personen met een handicap*, 1 Digitale Tijdschrift VN Forum (2016).

Book chapters

- B. McGonigle Leyh, *National and Hybrid Tribunals: Benefits and Challenges*, 115-138, in P. Malcontent, *Facing the Past: Amending Historical Injustices through Instruments of Transitional Justice*, Intersentia (2016).
- F. Tibbitts and A. Keet, *Curriculum Reform in Transitional Justice Environments: The South African Human Rights Commission, Human Rights Education and the Schooling Sector*, 87-100, in J. Zajda and S. Ozdowski (eds.), *International Handbook of Globalisation, Human Rights Education and Social Justice*. New York: Springer Academic Publishing Company 2016).

Marie Elske Gispen – *Human Rights and Drug Control* (Intersentia, 2017)

Globally, millions of people suffer health and socio-economic related problems due to the unavailability of controlled essential medicines such as morphine for pain treatment, which leaves them in disabling and sometimes degrading situations. Controlled essential medicines are medicines included in the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines, and whose active substance is listed under the international drug-control treaties. Their availability and accessibility therefore fall within the remit of both human rights and international drug-control law. Even though

the unavailability of controlled essential medicines is generally caused by a multifaceted and complex interplay of factors, the current international drug-control framework paradoxically hinders rather than fosters the access to medicines.

Human Rights and Drug Control analyses a human rights interpretation of the in-

ternational drug-control framework with an emphasis on advancing the access to controlled essential medicines in resource-constrained countries. Its approach goes beyond the more conventional legal analysis and includes an ethical analysis as well as two case studies in Uganda and Latvia. It first aims to identify a human rights foundation of drug control by examining how human rights norms would balance the underlying tension: some controlled substances have a clear, evidence-based medical benefit, yet also have the potential to be misused, which may lead to dependency disorders. This makes it evident that States should regulate this delicate equilibrium, the challenge being how they can do so legitimately in light of human rights norms.

The book can be ordered [here](#).

