

Association for Migration Research Fall Conference [organized at Europa Institute/Department of European Law, Faculty of Law, Leiden University]

UNACCOMPAGNIED MINORS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Date: Wednesday 23 of November 2022
Venue: Faculty of Law, University of Leiden, The Netherlands
Conveners: Dr. Moritz Jesse & Dr. Mark Klaassen (both Europa Institute, Leiden University)
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Registration: Please send an e-mail to the organisers. There are limited places available on first come first serve basis.

Challenges arising from the movement of unaccompanied minors rank among the most difficult to handle in the field of migration. As soon as children are involved, there are no simple solutions in any decisions concerning the legal status, right to remain, or expulsion of immigrants. This is even more so, if minors travel alone and present themselves to the authorities in the EU as unaccompanied, thus without anyone legally 'in charge' of them at their side. Challenges arise for this group in all phases of immigration trajectories from reception, administration, to settlement, inclusion, or expulsion. These challenges, which shall be in the centre of our conference, are legal (e.g. human rights, duty of care, application of immigration law in a fair and predictable manner, right to education, etc.), social (e.g. inclusion, use of support networks, prevention of exclusion, discrimination, and abuse, or guarantee of equal chances to education, etc.), and political (e.g. immigration as a sensitive, divisive topic in times of populist political movements, the inability to govern unaccompanied minors with general policies without political involvement, etc.) in nature and will be dealt with in two separate panels during the conference.

Conference programme

Moderators: Moritz Jesse and Mark Klaassen, Leiden University

9:00 – 9:15 Registration

9:15 – 9.30 Plenary Kick-off by Ann Skelton, Visiting professor Enforcement of Children's Rights Leiden University, Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

9:30 – 11.30 Panel 1: How to deal with arriving unaccompanied minors?
Moderator: Peter Rodrigues, Leiden University

The participation of unaccompanied children in asylum interviews in the Netherlands
(Stephanie Rap, University of Amsterdam)

Unaccompanied minors: procedural guarantees concerning age assessment in the Czech Republic and reflection on the current ECtHR caselaw
(Katerina Radova and Eliksa Flidrova, Charles University, Prague)

Effectively Protecting Childrens' rights in case of age assessment of unaccompanied minors – a case study on Austria
(Daniel Simon, Leiden University)

Precarious inclusion: understanding unaccompanied minors' search for inclusion through their mobility within the EU
(Océane Uzureau, Ilse Derluyn, Ghent University)

Existing entitlements and concomitant obligations: establishing a duty to locate and secure the protection of missing, unaccompanied minors in the European asylum context
(Anastasia Karatzas, VU University Amsterdam)

11.30 – 11.45 Break

11.45 – 12.30 Keynote address
Unaccompanied Children Outside the Level Telling Field and Protection Systems
(Dora Kostakopoulou, Leuven University)

12.30 – 13:15 Lunch

13.15 – 15.15 Panel 2: Integration and inclusion of unaccompanied minors
Moderator: Moritz Jesse, Leiden University

Transition into adulthood of unaccompanied refugee youth
(Lise Hacquebord en Kjell Winkens, University of Groningen)

Recreating a Home, Hardly: Unaccompanied Refugee Youth Caught Between Law and Desire
(Marco Motta, University of Neuchatel)

'Secretly I feel at home' – The Integration paradox amongst unaccompanied minors in the Netherlands
(Safoura Ghaemina, Halleh Ghorashi, Maurice Crul, VU University, Amsterdam)

At home in the Netherlands? A study among former unaccompanied minor asylum seekers
(Monika Smit, University Groningen, Groningen)

15.15 – 15.30 Break

15.30 – 17.30 Panel 3: What comes after the determination of migration status for unaccompanied minors?

Moderator: Mark Klaassen, Leiden University

The position (of the best interest) of unaccompanied minors in the context of their family life

(Wendy de Bondt, Ghent University)

'I have no future without a residence permit' – Challenges regarding going off radar and transition to adulthood: (nomadic unaccompanied minors without a residence permit in Europe

(Isik Kulu-Glasgow, Manon van der Meer (WODC, Den Haag)

Guiding unaccompanied ex-minor asylum seekers; the (un)importance of a legal status – 20 years of experience from Utrecht

(Peter Vrieler, University of Amsterdam)

After T.Q. – a recalibration of the relationship between youth protection law and immigration law?

(Ellen Nissen, Iris Sportel, Radboud University, Nijmegen)

Ethnographic Exploration of Narratives of Vulnerabilities and Agency among Unaccompanied Eritrean Refugee Minors

(Nebil Kusmallah, VU University, Amsterdam)

17.30

End