



Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory
on the Rights of the Child
University of Ottawa



Annual Report 2022-2023



uOttawa

MESSAGE from the STEERING COMMITTEE

The year 2022-2023 was marked by a return to normal after more than two years of health crisis. For the IRLRC, this meant that certain events could be organized in person or hybrid mode. The interdisciplinary graduate course was also able to take place in the classroom. However, the possibilities offered by online technologies enabled us to choose to continue certain events online, such as the CRIA training, in order to reach an audience outside the Ottawa region. This year's theme was Spotlight on Education.

We continued to develop and solidify our network of members and partners. The IRLRC has forged links with other groups within uOttawa, notably the Cercle Kinistôtadimin. The Laboratory has also welcomed new members among uOttawa faculty and students, as well as researchers from other universities. This interest demonstrates the importance of children's rights and the originality of our approach, which is unrivalled in the Canadian academic world. Mona Paré continues to represent the Laboratory on the Advisory Committee of the Landon Pearson Centre for Children's Rights, and we offer our sincere condolences to all those who have been touched by the life of Senator Pearson, an ardent defender of children's rights, who passed away in January 2023.

This year, the IRLRC's student members played an important role in the success of our activities. In addition to participating in events and moderating discussion salons for members, five students made impressive presentations at our final salon in April 2023, making connections between their research and our thematic discussion topics throughout the year. Several students also took part in a skills workshop on using NVivo to analyze qualitative research. In addition, three student members participated in the annual meeting of the Child Rights Academic Network, organized by the Landon Pearson Centre at Carleton University, further developing links between our two institutions. For the first time this year, the IRLRC offered funding to its student members who live outside the Ottawa region to help them travel to these events in person.

The Laboratory has begun planning activities for 2023-2024. Activities in the pipeline include a workshop for education professionals on the application of CRIA in the school context, as well as a participation in ACFAS, to be held at uOttawa in the spring of 2024.



Mona Paré | Full Professor | Faculty of Law, Civil Law Section

Karine Croteau | Assistant Professor | Faculty of Social Sciences

Christine Gervais | Associate Professor | Faculty of Social Sciences

Jean-Frédéric Hübsch | Doctoral Candidate | Faculty of Law

Andrea Khan | Doctoral Candidate | Faculty of Social Sciences

Viviana Fernandez | Assistant Director | HRREC | uOttawa

ABOUT the IRLRC

The Laboratory was created in March 2007 to foster interdisciplinary research on issues related to children's rights and well-being. The laboratory promotes a vast range of research initiatives conducted by members. A framework to understand the research conducted at IRLRC recognizes the child's identity when it comes to their rights. The framework emphasizes the different systems that influence children and children's rights studies, including families, schools, neighbourhoods, legal systems, child welfare systems, and societies.

To foster the development of research partnerships and encourage the initiatives of its members, the laboratory has grouped the research axes it favours under four complementary themes:

- The Child and the Law;
- The Child and the Family;
- The Child, the State and Society;
- Reflections on Child-Focused Research Methodologies.



Our MEMBERS

Our 40 members are academics from the Faculties of Law, Social Sciences, Education, Health Sciences and Medicine from uOttawa and other academic institutions (24), graduate students (14) and actors in the wider community (2).

EXPANDING our REACH & KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION ACTIVITIES

During 2022-2023, the Laboratory organized three public events (in person and webinars) in the context of the Civil Law Section Lecture Series. The total number of people participating in these activities was 243 (more details on the IRLRC website). In addition, the Laboratory continued organizing salons for members (September, November, January and April). Salons this year focused on trauma-informed approaches, interdisciplinarity and interprofessionalism, as well as sustainable development goals applied to children's rights' research.



22.11.2022

The child at the heart of youth protection

This event presented an important reflection on youth protection in Quebec that took place with the work of the Laurent Commission. The Commission's recommendations led to amendments to the Youth Protection Act in 2022 to ensure that the child is truly at the heart of the decisions made. Youth protection actors discussed good practices and challenges in child participation in youth protection proceedings.



28.02.2023

Children's right to education during a pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic changed our lives and while the health and labor sectors received much media attention, relatively little was paid to education. Yet children were greatly affected by the health crisis. The conference explored the challenges of implementing the right to education in times of pandemic and lessons for the future. Speakers were IRLRC academic members Tracy Vaillancourt (Faculty of Education, Canada Research Chair in School-Based Mental Health and Violence Prevention and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada) and Nathalie Bélanger (Faculty of Education, Director of the Observatory on education in minority language contexts).



23.03.2023

Young persons' reflections on their rights as children

This presentation shed light on young people's perspectives on the importance of upholding children's rights to express their views and to be heard in the context of Aggression towards Families/Caregivers in Childhood and Adolescence (AFCCA) in Canada. The presentation explored the experiences of both demonstrators of AFCCA, and their siblings from child rights and trauma-informed lenses. Academic members Christine Gervais and Elisa Romano (Faculty of Social Sciences) and uOttawa graduate student Danika DeCarlo-Slobodnik (Department of Criminology, Faculty of Social Sciences) presented their findings.

TEACHING

The laboratory has offered a master's level course titled *Children's Rights: An Interdisciplinary Approach* since 2010. This course enables students of diverse faculties to pursue the study of child rights while allowing them to benefit from the strengths of multidisciplinary perspectives. During the 2023 Winter semester, Professors Valerie Steeves and Mona Paré offered the course in English under the code DCL5131. Five (5) graduate students from the Faculty Social Sciences (Criminology, Social Work, Psychology) participated in this edition. The laboratory has trained ninety-three (93) graduate students in the eleven previous editions of the course.

TRAINING

25.05.2023

Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA)

The Laboratory organized a second edition of a training program for students and professionals on the Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA). The program focused on Education as a theme.

The training, moderated by IRLRC Director, Professor Mona Paré (Vice-Dean, Graduate Studies, Faculty of Law), was given by experienced speakers: Christian Whalen (Deputy Advocate and Senior Legal Counsel, New Brunswick Child & Youth Advocate Office), Yves-Gérard Méhou-Loko (Equity and Human Rights Commissioner, Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario (CEPEO) and Vice President, Fédération des communautés francophones et acadiennes du Canada - FCFA), and Malika Saher (Director - Integrated Law, Dr. Julien Foundation and Student Protector, Centre de services scolaires de Montréal - CSSDM). The training benefitted thirteen (13) participants and was offered in French.



Formation | Training — 25.05.2023

Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA)

SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

Évaluation des répercussions sur
les droits des enfants (ERDE)

PLEINS FEUX SUR L'ÉDUCATION

Training offered by the
Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory on the Rights of the Child (IRLRC)
University of Ottawa

www.uottawa.ca/faculty-law/civil-law/irlrc

Formation offerte par le
Laboratoire de recherche interdisciplinaire sur les droits de l'enfant (LRIDE)
Université d'Ottawa

www.uottawa.ca/faculte-droit/droit-civil/lride

ESSAY COMPETITION

Starting in 2020-2021, the Laboratory organizes an annual essay competition that engages participants from institutions hosting [Canadian Association of Human Rights Institutes](#) (CAHRI) members:

St. Thomas University
McGill University
University of Manitoba
Université Laval
Université du Québec à Montréal
University of Saskatchewan
University of British Columbia

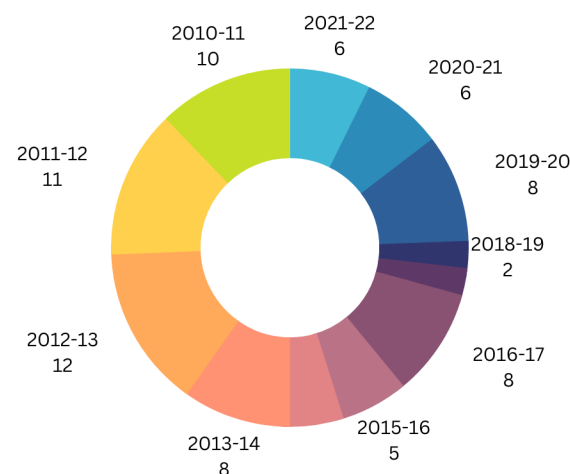
University of Toronto
Carleton University
McMaster University
Concordia University
York University
University of Winnipeg
University of Ottawa

Previous editions since 2010-2011, were only for eligible students at the University of Ottawa. The competition features two categories: Undergraduate and Graduate students. The *Canadian Journal of Children's Rights* published the winning submissions. The 2021-22 winners were:

Undergraduate Category | JULIETTE SAMSON & GABRIELLE-ANNE LABRECQUE (Université Laval) for their essay titled *La protection des droits des demandeurs d'asile mineurs dans le Règlement de Dublin III face aux exigences de la CEDH : Le cas de la détention et de la réunification familiale*.

Graduate Level Category | EMMANUELLE GARCIA (University of Ottawa) for her work titled *Les discriminations et les lésions de droit des enfants autochtones découlant de l'application indifférenciée de la loi de la protection de la jeunesse*.

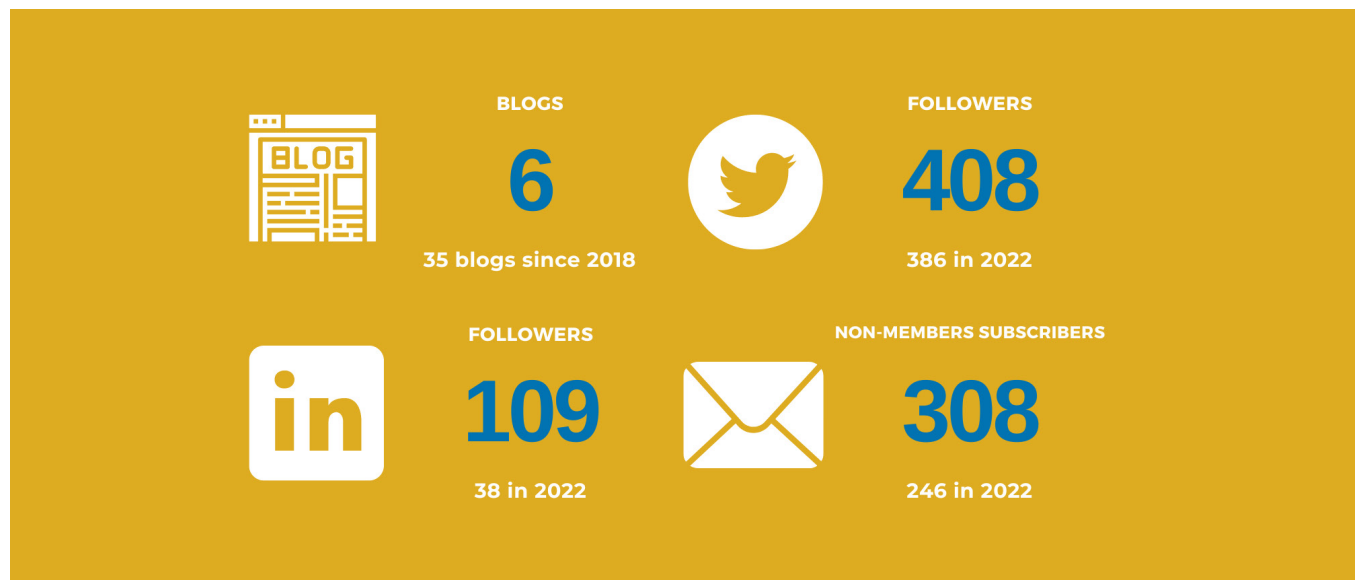
For the 2022-2023 edition, the laboratory received three submissions. The winners will be announced in September 2023. See the graphic on the right highlighting the number of submissions for the Essay Competition since 2010.



BLOG

The Laboratory's blog features reflections on emerging trends and issues, research findings and programs written by our members, students following our graduate course and partners. Posts are published in the authors' language of choice, French or English. During 2022-2023, six (6) blogs were published, with a total of thirty-five (35) blogs since its creation in 2018.

SOCIAL MEDIA & OUTREACH



RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

The IRLRC fosters collaborations in the field of children's rights through membership in human rights and child rights institutions and association in research partnerships.

- *International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership* (partnership project led by Tara Collins, Toronto Metropolitan University)
- Canadian Association of Human Rights Institutes (CAHRI)
- Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children (CCRC)
- Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC)
- Landon Pearson Resource Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children's Rights (IRLRC represented by Mona Paré on Advisory Board)

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH LABORATORY ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

University of Ottawa
Fauteux Hall
57 Louis-Pasteur Private
Ottawa (ON) K1N 6N5

LRIDE@uOttawa.ca



@LRIDEuOttawa



LRIDE - Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory on the Rights of the Child



uOttawa