



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

Annual Report 2023-2024



uOttawa

MESSAGE from the STEERING COMMITTEE

In 2023-2024 the Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory on the Rights of the Child (IRLRC) organized several in-person, virtual and hybrid activities, maintained an active presence on social media, and recruited new members. Despite the budget constraints affecting the University of Ottawa, and all universities in Ontario, we were pleased to be able to continue offering all the same activities as in the past, ranging from lunchtime conferences, to members' salons, the essay competition, blogs, and two full conferences.

Our members have been busy conducting research on a variety of children's rights related topics, including children's participation as human rights defenders in national and international institutions; Indigenous child and family services in Innu communities; and rights-based approaches to education law, policy, and practice in Canada.

Research by our members was showcased at this year's ACFAS (Francophone association for knowledge) Congress, which was held at the University of Ottawa. IRLRC's conference on *Children's Rights: Current Challenges and Sustainable Development Goals* brought together more than 20 speakers, seven of whom are members of the Laboratory. The IRLRC also supported a conference on Indigenous Child and Family Services, where four members participated as organizers and speakers.

As the Laboratory looks forward to the 2024-2025 academic year, we are planning a new series of activities and welcoming three new members to the steering committee. We thank the outgoing members for their contributions. We will also be focusing our efforts on long-term planning to ensure the Laboratory's financial viability.



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

Karine Croteau | Assistant Professor | Faculty of Social Sciences

Claire Tugault-Lafleur | Assistant Professor | Faculty of Health Sciences

Jean-Frédéric Hübsch | Doctoral Candidate | Faculty of Law

Andrea Khan | Global Affairs Canada

Viviana Fernandez | Associate 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, neighborhoods, 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 45 members are academics from the Faculties of Law, Social Sciences, Education, Health Sciences and Medicine from uOttawa and other academic institutions (26), graduate students (14) and actors in the wider community (5).



EXPANDING our REACH & KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION ACTIVITIES

During 2023-2024, the Laboratory organized five public events (in person and webinars), two of which took place in the context of the 91st ACFAS Congress hosted by uOttawa. ACFAS is a francophone association for knowledge. The total number of people participating in these activities was 155 (this number will be updated on June 14).



20.11.2023 | Supporting culturally-rooted child and family services: Indigenous children's interests, governance and self-determination

Professor Karine Croteau is collaborating with the INRS Centre Urbanisation Culture Société, the Tshukuminu Kanani Health and Social Services Centre in the Nutashkuan community on a SSHRC-funded project (Partnership Engage) titled *Development of Culturally Rooted Monitoring and Success Markers for Child and Family Services in the Nutashkuan Community*. Speakers presented the legal context, the rights of Indigenous children, and the realities and needs of communities in terms of child and family services. This webinar was organized as part of the World Children's Day.

27.02.2024 | Parents, schools & children's rights

Parents play an integral role in public education systems. However, recent discourse around parents and their rights in schools has brought to light the complex nature of the relationships between parents, schools, and the rights of the children in those schools. This timely panel explored this intersection through the lens of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the policies and processes governing special education, and front-line advocacy.

14.03.2024 | Droit des enfants et des jeunes : Défis actuels et objectifs de développement durable

This full-day symposium was organized by IRLRC members Professors Mona Paré (Faculty of Law, and IRLRC Director, uOttawa), Anta Niang (School of Social Work, Université de Sherbrooke) and Nathalie Mondain (School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies, uOttawa), in the context of the 91st ACFAS Congress. The day included panels addressing three main themes: Participation rights and the involvement of minors, the diversity of partnerships at the heart of protecting the rights of minors and the justice system and legal context; between realizing and defending the rights of minors.

17.03.2024 | Services enfance-famille autochtones : Gouvernance, autodétermination et sécurisation culturelle

The symposium aimed to explore the evolution of child and family services since the adoption of Bill C-92, and to identify the challenges and promising avenues ahead. It also touched upon the direct and current benefits for communities, the composition of child and family services, the priorities to be developed, the needs of communities and the ways in which research can provide leverage in this regard. Finally, the symposium highlighted the voices of the Aboriginal players involved, and enabled networking between various Aboriginal organizations and researchers, who generally have few opportunities to share their ideas on these priorities. This full-day symposium was supported by the IRLRC and organized by Executive member Professor Karine Croteau (School of Social Work, Université d'Ottawa), in the context of the 91st ACFAS Congress.

14 MAI 2024 COLLOQUE du LRIDE

DROIT DES ENFANTS & DES JEUNES

Défis actuels & objectifs de développement durable



Inscrivez-vous
aux activités de l'ACFAS



>> 91^e CONGRES
Acfas



HYBRID event
13.06.2024 | 11:30 am

Exploring conceptualizations & practices
of children's rights internationally

Registration required in person & online.



Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory on the Rights of the Child (IRLRC)

13.06.2024 | Exploring Conceptualizations and Practices of Children's Rights Internationally

This event was organized with the International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership (ICCRP) which brings together researchers, partner organizations, and young people from the Global South and the Global North to work together intergenerationally to promote dialogue and knowledge about children's rights. Professor Irene Rizzini (PUC-Rio University and founding director of the International Center for Research and Policy on Children (CIESPI), Brazil), and IRLRC member, professor Tara Collins (Toronto Metropolitan University & Children's Institute, University of Cape Town), presented different perspectives about children's rights to participation and protection, bringing out a decolonial perspective.

In addition, the Laboratory organized three salons (November and March) and supported two book club series; both activities were for members only. Salons this year focused on intergenerational approaches, children and spirituality, and children and adolescents in an intervention context.

ESSAY COMPETITION

Since in 2020-2021, the Laboratory organizes an annual essay competition that engages participants from institutions hosting [Canadian Association of Human Rights Institutes](#) (CAHRI) members (between 2010 and 2020, only students at the University of Ottawa were eligible):

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

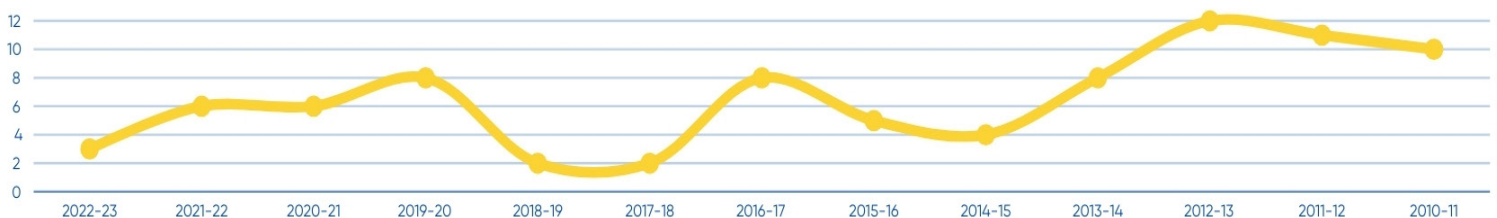
Concordia University

York University

University of Winnipeg

University of Ottawa

The competition features two categories: Undergraduate and Graduate students but for 2022-2023, **Jacqueline Thibault**, doctoral student in social work at the University of Ottawa, was the sole winner in the Graduate Category. Her essay was titled ***The new sociology of childhood and children's rights*** and it was published by *The Canadian Journal of Children's Rights*. For the 2023-2024 edition, the laboratory received two submissions. The winners will be announced in September 2024.



BLOG

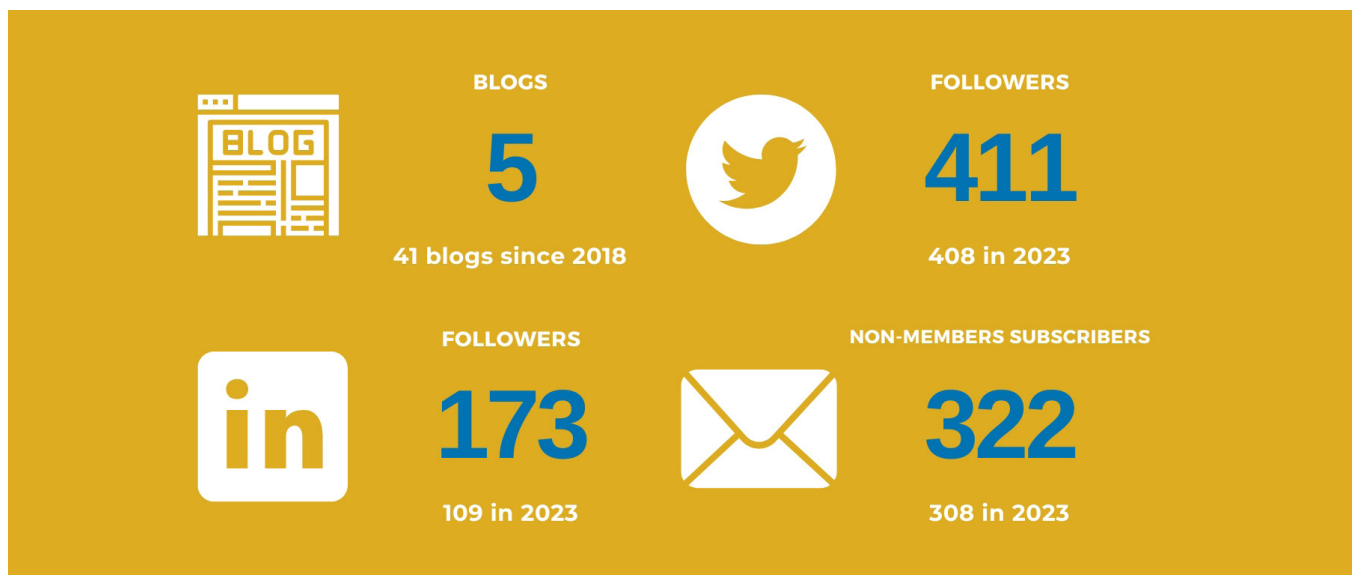
The Laboratory's blog features reflections on emerging trends and issues, research findings and programs written by our members, students following our graduate course and partners. Posts are published in the authors' language of choice, French or English. During 2023-2024, 5 blogs were published, with a total of forty-one (41) blogs since its creation in 2018.

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 (HRECE)
- Landon Pearson Resource Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children's Rights (IRLRC represented by Mona Paré on Advisory Board)

SOCIAL MEDIA & OUTREACH



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