

# SARA LEMBRECHTS

## Contact details

Ghent University  
Faculty of Law & Criminology  
Universiteitstraat 4  
9000 Gent

+32 (0) 9 264 69 53  
sara.lembrechts@ugent.be

## Visiting address

Migration Law Research Group  
Paddenhoek 5  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor – office 004

## Personal details

Lily Boeykensstraat 3 / 208  
9000 Gent

+32 (0) 474 339 113  
s.lembrechts@gmail.com  
LinkedIn, Twitter: Sara Lembrechts  
° 14-07-1987

## Languages

Dutch	****
English	****
French	***
German	**
Spanish	*

## ICT-skills

- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)
- Software for qualitative data-analysis (NVivo, Qualtrics)
- Online content (Google, Drupal, Wordpress, Mailchimp, OPAC)

## More about me

- \* Creative entrepreneur in natural skincare products (2016 – 2020)
- \* Freelance actress at Multatultheater Ghent and Tink Tank Performances (2013 – present)
- \* Facilitator in meditation and reflection for young people (2003 – present)
- \* 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for LL.M-thesis, awarded by the Dutch Section of the International Commission of Jurists
- \* Driver's license B and own car at disposal
- \* Married to Steven Dauwe, mother of Fleur Aurora Dauwe (\*24-09-2019)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### PhD researcher at Ghent University

September 2020 – present; fulltime

Ghent University, Universiteitstraat 4, 9000 Ghent, Belgium (supervisor: Prof. Ellen Desmet)

Children's rights in appellate asylum proceedings: a legal ethnography of the Council for Alien Law Litigation. The project analyses how children's rights are perceived, mobilised and practiced by the key actors involved in the adjudication of Belgian asylum cases in appeal: children and young people, their parents or guardians, lawyers, representatives of the first instance asylum authority, and judges.

### Research & policy advisor at Children's Rights Knowledge Centre (KeKi)

October 2012 – July 2020; fulltime until February 2016, 60% since then

Kenniscentrum Kinderrechten vzw, V. Vaerwyckweg 1, 9000 Ghent, Belgium

Knowledge management, research, publications, presentations, policy advice and training on children's rights, human rights and youth, with the aim of embedding children's rights in research, policy and practice in a scientific way.

### Researcher at Antwerp University

February 2016 – present; part-time 20% or 30%

University of Antwerp, Prinsstraat 13, 2000 Antwerp, Belgium (supervisors: Prof. Thalia Kruger & Prof. Wouter Vandenhole, in cooperation with Child Focus, Missing Children Europe and international partners)

Legal analysis of Belgian, Dutch, French and European (ECtHR) jurisprudence, focus groups with young people, interviews with judges and international literature study on the involvement and experience of children and young people in legal proceedings following an international child abduction, with the aim of strengthening legal professionals to increase the well-being of children and young people during these proceedings.

## EDUCATION

### European Master in Childhood Studies and Children's Rights

October 2011 – March 2013

Freie Universität Berlin, Faculty of psychology and pedagogical sciences, Germany

Children's rights, Sociology of childhood, Research with children, Children in vulnerable situations, Children's rights and media, Children in work and education, Knowledge management on children's rights (in English and German)

### LLM International Laws (Honours Programme)

September 2009 – August 2011

Maastricht University, Faculty of Law, Netherlands

1 semester at Stellenbosch University, Faculty of Law, South-Africa

3 months internship with UNICEF Liaison Office at the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

European Law, European Human Rights Law, European Family Law, Migration and Citizenship in Europe, International Relations of the EU, International Law, International Human Rights Law, Principles of European Private Law, Research Methods in Human Rights Studies, Multidisciplinary Study of Law, Children's Rights, Environmental Law, Legal Remedies (in English)

### Bachelor European Studies

September 2005 – August 2009

Maastricht University, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Netherlands

2 semesters Erasmus at Université Bilingue de Fribourg, Faculty of Law & Faculty of Languages and Social Sciences, Switzerland

1 semester internship with Amnesty International, Auckland, Aotearoa Nieuw Zeeland

European Law, Human Rights, Philosophy & History of European Integration, Cultural Sciences, Economics, International Relations, Policy Studies, Research and Writing Skills (in English, French and German)

### Minor Law in the Multicultural Society

September 2006 – August 2007

Maastricht University, Faculty of Law, Netherlands

International Human Rights Law, Children's Rights, Project: Practical Experience in Human Rights – Tibetan Refugees in the Netherlands

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal articles A1 (first author)

- Lembrechts, S., Putters, M., Van Hoorde, K., Kruger, T., Ponnet, K. & Vandenhole, W. (2019), Conversations between children and judges in child abduction cases in Belgium and the Netherlands, *Family & Law*, 2019/2 (open access): <http://www.familyandlaw.eu/tijdschrift/fenr/2019/02/FENR-D-18-00007.pdf>.
- Lembrechts, S., Putters, M. & Van Hoorde, K. (2018), Kinderen en rechters in gesprek in internationale kinderontvoeringszaken in België en Nederland, *Tijdschrift voor Jeugd en Kinderrechten*, 2018/3.
- Lembrechts, S. (2012), Wiens klachtenrecht? - Het kind-concept in het derde Facultatief Protocol bij het Verdrag inzake de Rechten van het Kind betreffende de instelling van een communicatieprocedure; in: *Tijdschrift voor Jeugd en Kinderrechten*, 2012/2, June 2012.

### Journal articles A1 (co-author)

- Van Hof, T., Lembrechts, S., Maoli, F., Sciacaluga, G., Kruger, T., Vandenhole, W. & Carpaneto, L. (2020), To hear or not to hear: Reasoning of judges regarding the hearing of the child in international child abduction proceedings, accepted for publication in *Family Law Quarterly* (forthcoming).
- Maoli, F., Sciacaluga, G., Lembrechts, S., Van Hof, T., Carpaneto, L., Kruger, T. & Vandenhole, W. (2020), Understanding the best interests of the child in EU child abduction proceedings: perspectives from the case law, accepted for publication in *Diritti Umani e Diritto Internazionale* (forthcoming).

### Journal articles A3

- Kruger T., Vandenhole W., Carpaneto L., Lembrechts, S., Maoli F., Sciacaluga G. & Van Hof, T. (2018), Giving a VOICE to the child's best interests: an analysis of case law in the field of international child abduction, *The European Legal Forum*.
- Lembrechts, S. (2018), Hearing abducted children in Court, *The Judges Newsletter*, Hague Conference on Private International Law, <https://assets.hcch.net/docs/a8621431-c92c-4d01-a73c-acdb38a7fde5.pdf>.
- Lembrechts, S. (2018), Een topje van de ijsberg? Kinderrechten juridisch en maatschappelijk vormgeven in Vlaanderen. In: *CDR* 6(1), Maart 2018, <https://www.cdenv.be/wie-zijn-we/wetstraat-89/ceder/cdr/het-kind/een-topje-van-de-ijsberg-kinderrechten-juridisch-en-maatschappelijk-vormgeven-in-vlaanderen>.
- Herbots, K. & Lembrechts, S. (2016), Analyse XL: Nieuwe aanpak jeugddelinquentie - Kinderrechten dagen jeugdrecht uit, *Sociaal.net*: <https://sociaal.net/achtergrond/nieuwe-aanpak-jeugddelinquentie>.

### Books (co-editor)

- Vandenhole, W., Erdem-Türkelli, G. & Lembrechts, S. (2019), *Legal Commentary on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Protocols*, Cheltenham (UK): Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Vandenhole, W., Desmet, E., Reynaert, D. & Lembrechts, S. (eds). (2015), *Routledge International Handbook of Children's Rights Studies*, London: Routledge.

### Chapters in books (author or co-author)

- Van Vooren, E. & Lembrechts, S. (2020), Involving children and young people in policymaking – A children's rights-based approach to co-creative practice in REFLECTOR, in A. Apers, L. Richter & L. Van Praag (eds.), *[titel te bevestigen]*, in review.
- Kruger, T. & Lembrechts, S. (2019), Weigeringsgronden HKOV in het licht van de EHRM-rechtspraak, in F. Ibili & A. Olland (eds.), *Internationale kinderontvoering*, Deventer: Wolters-Kluwer.

- Vandenhole, W., Erdem-Türkelli, G. & Lembrechts, S. (2019), *Legal Commentary on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Protocols*, Cheltenham (UK): Edward Elgar Publishing (hoofdstukken 4, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 38, 41 en 50).
- Lembrechts, S. (2016), A Future of Mess, Confusion and Complexity? Linking Children's Rights and Knowledge Management in a Critical Research Agenda beyond 25 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in T. Liefwaard & J. Sloth-Nielsen (eds.), *25 Years of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*, Leiden: Brill.
- Vandenhole, W., Desmet, E., Reynaert, D. & Lembrechts, S. (eds). (2015), *Routledge International Handbook of Children's Rights Studies*, London: Routledge (hoofdstukken 1 en 25).
- Lembrechts, S. (2014), De implementatie van het IVRK in België: Het 3e Facultatief Protocol bij het IVRK inzake een communicatieprocedure; in: De Geyter, L., Decock, G., Devolder, K., Van Rumst, S. & Vandekerckhove, A. (eds.), *Wet & Duiding Kids Codex Boek I – Herwerkte Druk*, Gent: Uitgeverij Larcier.

### Research reports

- Lembrechts, S., Vlassenroot, E., Demarré, H., Kruger, T., Vandenhole, W., De Marez, L. & Ponnet, K. (2019), Enhancing the Wellbeing of Children Before, During and After Legal Proceedings of International Child Abduction, UGent (open access): <https://biblio.ugent.be/publication/8636664/file/8636665.pdf>.
- Herbots, K., Lembrechts, S., Pleysier, S. & Put, J. (2019), Participation for Protection – Child protection systems in Belgium, Brussels: European Union (open access via [www.keki.be](http://www.keki.be)).
- Van Vooren, E. & Lembrechts, S. (2019), REFLECTOR – Beleidsparticipatie van kinderen en jongeren in Vlaanderen: Een ondersteuning voor beleidsmakers (open access via [www.keki.be](http://www.keki.be)).
- Lembrechts, S., Willems, N. & Van Vooren, E. (2019), DemoDram – A reflection tool for teachers to enhance their democratic classroom (open access via [www.keki.be](http://www.keki.be)).
- Carpaneto, L., Kruger, T., Vandenhole, W., Maoli, F., Lembrechts, S., Sciacaluga, G. & Van Hof, T. (2019), The VOICE of the Child in International Child Abduction Proceedings in Europe, Brussels: European Union (open access): <https://repository.uantwerpen.be/docman/irua/b0c972/157267.pdf>.
- Van Hoorde, K., Putters, M., Buser, G., Lembrechts, S., Ponnet, K., Kruger, T., Vandenhole, W., Demarré, H., Broothaerts, N. & Coruz, C., et al. (2017), *Bouncing back: the wellbeing of children in international child abduction cases*, Brussels: European Union (open access): <https://repository.uantwerpen.be/docman/irua/2848b1/147880.pdf>.
- Coutteel, E., Herbots, K., Lembrechts, S., Put, J., Sporen, N. & Versweyvelt, A. (2015), Omgevingsanalyse Jeugdrecht – Deelrapport 5: Jeugdrechtsystemen in vergelijking, KU Leuven (open access via [www.keki.be](http://www.keki.be)).

### Opinionated publications

- Van Vooren, E. & Lembrechts, S. (2020), Het belang van het kind: een vertaling van een complex begrip, artikel in TJK e-zine, in review (opiniërende bijdrage)
- Lembrechts, S. (2018), Een reflectie-oefening voor kindvriendelijk beleid met kinderrechten als kapstok, artikel in VVJ Dropzone, <https://www.vvj.be/documenten/dropzone/dropzone-maart-2018> (opiniërende bijdrage).
- Lembrechts, S. (2018), *M.K. v Greece* – Implementing children's rights in legal proceedings following an international parental abduction, *Strasbourg Observers*, <https://strasbourgobservers.com/2018/03/22/m-k-v-greece-implementing-childrens-rights-in-legal-proceedings-following-an-international-parental-abduction/> (blog-artikel).
- Lembrechts, S. (2017), In de ban van verbinding – Een plaats voor videoconferentie in het nieuwe jeugdrecht?, in: *Tijdschrift voor Jeugd en Kinderrechten*, 2017/4, December 2017 (forumtekst).

- Lembrechts, S. (2014), Book review of Liebel (2012) *Children's Rights from Below – Cross-cultural Perspectives* and Hanson & Nieuwenhuys (2013) *Reconceptualizing Children's Rights in International Development – Living Rights, Social Justice, Translations*; in: *Tijdschrift voor Jeugd en Kinderrechten*, Juni 2014.