

Migration Law Research Group (MigrLaw)



MISSION

We aim to gain insight in and critically reflect upon how migration law functions in society. To that end, we conduct both fundamental and policy/practice-oriented research.

We engage with the various actors in the field of migration, with particular attention for migrants considered to be in a vulnerable situation and their agency. We are committed to sharing our research findings with a broader audience in diverse and imaginative ways.

TEAM

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👤 A complete overview of researchers and teaching assistants can be found on [the website of the research group](#).

CONTACT

🌐 migrationlaw.ugent.be
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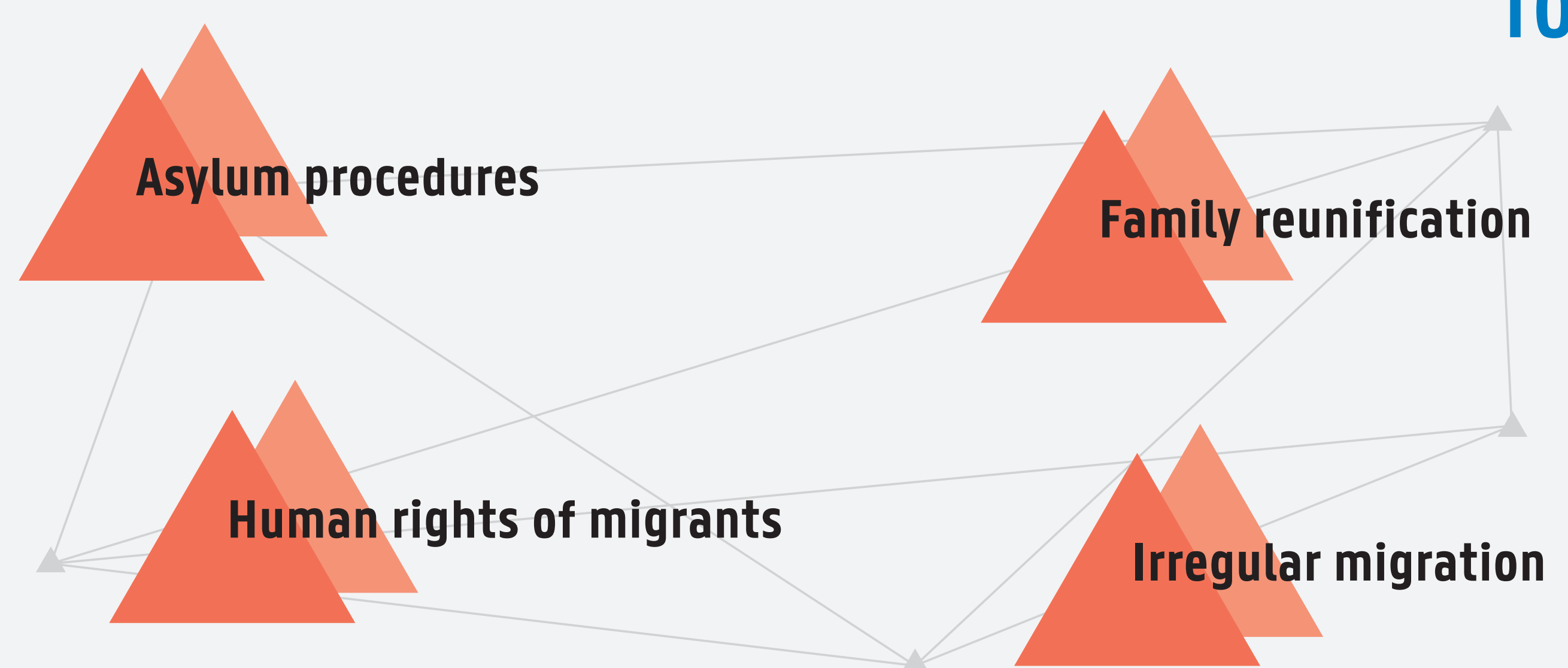
in [MigrLaw](#)



The **Migration Law Research Group (MigrLaw)** studies migration law and its daily practice from an integrated and critical approach, with a specific interest in human rights and users' perspectives.

We combine the doctrinal study of migration law with theoretical and methodological frameworks from other disciplines, including anthropology, sociology, political sciences, criminology as well as gender, queer, childhood and postcolonial studies. This involves a diversity of methods, ranging from case law analysis to interviews, ethnographic fieldwork, co-creative workshops, community-based participatory research and Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) surveys.

TOPICS



- **MIGJUST:** Global Migration Justice: Beyond conflicting approaches to migration in international human rights law (PI Thomas Spijkerboer - ERC)
- **UNPACK:** Unpacking the asylum procedure in its intersecting linguistic, sociocultural, psychological and legal dimensions (PI Ellen Desmet – iBOF)

A complete overview of research projects can be found on [the website of the research group](#).

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

- **Applied research:** for a variety of actors such as the Council of Europe, the Federal Migration Centre Myria, Enabel,...
- **Cocreative research with minors:** a new courtroom and an information video for and by minors in appellate asylum procedures
- **Publications for a wider audience:** [Practical guide for lawyers on gender-related asylum procedures](#), ['Refugee families after recognition: barriers and pathways to inclusion'](#), ['Migratierecht. Tussen mens en staat'](#) (KVAB Science Communication Award 2025)
- **Science communication:** blogposts, photo exhibitions, poster projects, videos, podcasts (e.g. on [the experiences of LGBTQ+ asylum applicants](#)), lectures, contributions to the media and to arts projects
- **Expert advice:** for FRANET, for the Belgian Parliament, third party interventions before the European Court of Human Rights, expert opinions for the Court of Justice of the EU
- **Practice-oriented teaching:** [Human Rights and Migration Law Clinic](#), [International Migration and Refugee Law Moot Court Competition](#), [Street Law](#), [Critical Legal Studies \(CLS\) Educational Network](#) (ENLIGHT Incubator Grant - coordinator)
- **Courses for practitioners:** Future-oriented work with/for undocumented migrants, 'Rights in distress' – workshop on legal support, psychosocial wellbeing and access to rights at the Franco-British border, migration law course for youth lawyers...
- **Board membership:** NANSEN- the Belgian Refugee Council, Myria, Unia, Dutch-Flemish Law and Society Association (VSR)...



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