Welcome to our Winter Newsletter

Introducing our new Famcare colleagues

Naomi Aerts is a PhD student on the SPICES project on “Scaling-up Packages of Interventions for Cardiovascular disease prevention in selected sites in Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa”. Naomi is responsible for research activities in the Belgian setting (City of Antwerp), working with Professor Hilde Bastiaens who coordinates the project. In particular, Naomi’s aim is to contribute to this project from a nursing perspective. Naomi hold a Master’s degree of Nursing and Midwifery from University of Antwerp, and eight years nursing experience in the field of emergency health care.
**Johan Van de Voorde** is a postdoctoral fellow in the research group Personal Rights and Property Rights. His research centers on private law (both property law – the subject of his dissertation – and the other parts of private law such as contract law and procedural law), including the patrimonial relations between (unmarried) cohabitants and other familial or family-like relations. His postdoctoral project concerns the protection of subjective rights (such as property, contractual rights and intellectual property). The protection of subjective rights in general is mostly neglected. The postdoctoral project is meant to remedy this, by analysing whether it would be possible to generalise the property law framework.

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**Tine Van Hof** - From January 2018 onwards, Tine Van Hof will conduct legal research on the wellbeing of children in international child abductions for the VOICE project. This project is in collaboration with Professor Thalia Kruger and Sara Lembrechts. Readers will recognise Tine from last December’s newsletter and her work (also with Professor Kruger) on the comparative project investigating international child abduction and the best interests of the child.
Julie Maes is a PhD student working on labour market trajectories of migrant women. Her research will focus on how labour market trajectories of migrant women and the division of paid work in migrant households are affected by family formation, with specific attention to variation in terms of migration background and differential uptake of family policies compared to natives. Julie studied sociology in the University of Antwerp. She will be working under the supervision of Professor Karel Neels.

Miriam Mutambudzi is Professor of Non Communicable Disease and Occupational epidemiology. Her research focuses on chronic diseases among vulnerable populations, and the impact of the work environment on varied health outcomes. Miriam received her PhD from the University of Connecticut, and previously worked at both Johns Hopkins University Baltimore. Prior to coming to Antwerp, Miriam spent three years as an Assistant Professor (tenure-track) in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at the University of Texas Medical Branch.
**Sara Lembrechts** works as a researcher and policy advisor on matters relating to children’s rights. At the University of Antwerp, she is a part-time researcher in the EU-funded VOICE project, in which she investigates how European family judges define the wellbeing of children in their case law on international child abductions. Sara is also co-working on a legal commentary about the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, she is a part-time staff member at the Children’s Rights Knowledge Centre (KeKi), where she is responsible for translating children’s rights between research, policy and practice.

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**Samuel De Winter** obtained his law degree from the University of Antwerp in 2017, and is pursuing a PhD in administrative property law, under the supervision of Professors Nicolas Carette and Ingrid Opdebeek. His research concerns the right to dispose of private property and the public law restrictions in this regard (e.g. restrictions on private land use through land planning and development), both from the perspective of the Belgian Constitution and of article 1 of the First Additional Protocol to the ECHR (protection of property). During the first year of his PhD,
Samuel will be combining his appointment at the University of Antwerp with an Advanced Master of Notary Law at the Free University of Brussels.

**Kris Van den Broeck** is post-doctoral researcher at ELIZA. Being a psychologist and behavioural therapist, he is currently responsible for teaching future GP about (treating) mental health issues. His research so far has focused on mood disorders, personality disorders, collaborative care, appropriate end of life care, and stigma regarding mental health. His aim is to further study and develop mental health care in primary care, including the interactions between primary care and mental health professionals. In addition, Kris is Director of the Flemish Association for Psychiatry.

**Katleen Veryheyen** is a general practitioner, who will be working in the ELIZA group teaching medical students. She holds a master's degree in Medicine and has a postgraduate master's degree in Family medicine from the University of Antwerp.
Bert Van Den Houte is a research and teaching assistant. He holds a Master’s degree in Law (KU Leuven) and a Master’s degree in Notary Law (KU Leuven). Bert’s research field is Family Property Law, and his supervisor is Professor Renate Barbaix.

Leen Marynissen is a PhD student researching couple’s labour force participation around parenthood, more specifically, whether differential labour market trajectories and resources account for doing gender. Leen studied sociology at the University of Antwerp and is completing the QASS (abridged master in statistics) at the KU Leuven. She is working with Professors Sarah Van de Velde and the team of Karel Neels.
Kim Watts is a PhD student in the area of compensation funds. Her research will use a comparative law approach to analyse compensation funds in multiple jurisdictions. She holds Master of Laws, Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of Auckland, New Zealand. She worked as a commercial lawyer in New Zealand and worked for four years in an Irish legal NGO. Her supervisors are Professors Britt Weyts and Thierry Vansweevelt.

Josefien van Olmen is a general practitioner with a MPH, researcher and teacher. She is currently working with colleagues on funding proposals on Non Communicable Diseases in vulnerable populations. Josefien spent several years working as an medical doctor in Tanzania and Pakistan. Since 2008, she has worked as a health system researcher at the Institute of Tropical Medicine. She combines her research work with clinical practice as a GP in Zeeuws Vlaanderen (Netherlands).
The next Famcare seminar is on Friday 8th December at 4pm in M.106.

**Hilde Bastiaens** will present on “Challenges of researching in South Africa: experiences of 2 projects on chronic conditions” and **Caroline Masquillier** on “Photovoice as a research methodology: research on social inclusion of children with special needs in Uganda”

The seminar begins at 4pm. Christmas Drinks are at 5pm. To register, please email Famcare@uantwerpen.be

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**ELIZA Experts Selected for International Expert Panel on Nature and Mental Health**
Roy Remmen (left) and Hans Keune have been selected as experts for the EKLIPSE review panel on the effects of peri-urban blue/green spaces on human mental health and mental well-being. The first expert meeting was held on 14th November 2017 in Paris.

Divorce Conference Success and Media Attention

In early October, Dimitri Mortelmans and his CELLO team hosted the 15th Meeting of the European Network for the Sociological and Demographic Study of Divorce. During three days, more than 60 academics from all over Europe specializing in the field gathered at the University of Antwerp. The keynote speaker was professor Robert E. Emery who presented an interesting lecture called “Does Parental Conflict Influence Parent-Child Contact?”

Empirical and Legal Questions”. During the conference, a number of articles on research by CELLO members appeared in the media. Dries Van Gasse appeared in De Standaard with an article about the importance of the social network of single parents during and after their divorce. In his research, Dries shifts the ‘typical’ focus from problems related to divorce and single parenthood to the positive influence and importance of the people who surround single parents in getting through a divorce. Another article was published in De Standaard on the research of Elke Claessens. Elke found that, due to the lack of a uniform calculation method, there is a significant variance in how much child maintenance is paid in Belgium. This signals the importance of objectifying the determination of child support in Belgium.

Inauguration: Chair of Care and the Living World - 28th March 2018
The inauguration is announced of the ELIZA Chair on Care and the Living Environment, **Hans Keune**. The Chair is for three years, from 2019 onwards. The main aim of the Chair is to achieve more attention in primary health care for the natural living environment, focusing on research, education and services. The Chair will collaborate closely with the Province of Antwerp (also the sponsor), and welcomes collaboration from all interested groups at the University of Antwerp and beyond. The inauguration will be on 28th March 2018 from 4-6pm in Aula 05, Gebouw O, Campus Drie Eiken, Universiteitsplein Wilrijk.

**Kristof Van Assche invited to Council of Europe**

**Kristof Van Assche** has been invited by the Council of Europe Bioethics Unit to participate as a speaker in the international Conference on "Free and informed consent as a core principle of protection of human rights in biomedicine". The conference will take place on 8 December 2017 in Minsk and is organised within the framework of the Action Plan of the Council of Europe for Belarus. The topic of the presentation will be "Free and informed consent in the field of transplantation", which is connected to his research on organ transplantation and trafficking.

**NAture impact on MEntal health Distribution (NAMED) - BELSPO Project**
Mental illnesses are a growing problem in modern societies. The interaction with the urbanised environment is little understood. The BELSPO funded NAMED-project (July 2017 – July 2021) investigates the impact of the (non)-built environment on mental health in the Brussels Capital Region. Methods will combine quantitative and qualitative research, and researches from ELIZA include Hans Keune, Hilde Bastiaens and Roy Remmen.

Kim Bastaits and FiTTiF Team launch App for Children and Divorced Parents.

A new smartphone app was recently launched by Kim Bastaits of the project Families in Transition, Transition in Families - FiTTiF. The app, called KiT (Keep in Touch) supports the communication of separated parents and their children. It includes a calendar to list appointments for the child(ren), an area to post photos and messages, a checklist, a chat function and useful information. The app is in its pilot stage and for now only available in Dutch, and is free to download in Android and iOS. By downloading the app, you are also taking part in the study that is connected to the app on communication in separated families. More information on the work of Kim and the FiTTiF team, can be found at https://www.fittif.be/

Bouncing Back After An International Parent Child Abduction.
Thalia Kruger has, together with Professors Wouter Vandenhole and Koen Ponnet, recently finished a research project on the wellbeing of children who were abducted by one parent. The project was a collaboration between Missing Children Europe, Child Focus (Belgium), the University of Antwerp, Centrum IKO (the Netherlands), CFPE-Enfants Disparus (France) and the French Ministry of Justice. The research revealed that, no matter the circumstances or where they end up living, children find it important to remain in contact with both their parents. Children complained about the lack of communication and understanding related to legal proceedings, the outcomes and the reasons for certain decisions. On the 23rd November, the results of the research will be presented to professionals (judges, lawyers, Central Authorities, mediators) who deal with international child abduction cases across Europe through a brochure and video. More information can be found at www.missingchildreneurope.eu/mediator/researchreport/categoryid/2

PhD Success for Myrte Dierckx, Maxim Kovalenko, Tine Kil & Ferda Botha

Congratulations to Drs. Myrte Dierckx, Maxim Kovalenko, Tine Kil and Ferdi Botha who recently successfully defended their theses

Myrte Dierckx - Families in Transition: the Family Context of Gender Transition

Maxim Kovalenko - Insecurity and Stratification in 'New' Work Careers

Tine Kil - Work, Family & Policy: Gender and Migrant-native differentials in work-family trajectories around parenthood

Ferdi Botha - Essays on the Socioeconomics of Family Functioning and Subjective Well-being in South Africa

New Curriculum for Master's in General Practice
This academic year the first students of the brand new curriculum for general practice will be selected. ELIZA will run a special one month intensive clerkships and in house training sessions to prepare the students for the selection process in March and April. This will cover subjects ranging from acute to chronic to psychological care. It is expected about 50 students will be selected in July, and will start their three year vocational master training in the forthcoming October.

We would like to wish you a wonderful holiday season!

Famcare is a Centre of Excellence at the University of Antwerp. We research intergenerational solidarity & informal care, family dynamics & relationships, and methodological innovations. Keep in contact with us through twitter, our website, or email using the icons below.