

Report of the Jury of the Edmond Hustinx Prize 2024

The jury in charge of selecting the recipient of the Edmond Hustinx Prize 2024 consisted of Prof. Dr. Jan Smits, Dr. Anke Moerland and Prof. Dr. Andrea Broderick.

In their deliberations, the jury considered four excellent candidates who were nominated by senior members of the Faculty of Law. In selecting the winner of the prize, the jury took into account the aim of the prize, namely to support a promising young researcher affiliated with Maastricht University. The jury also carefully considered the rules and criteria governing the grant of the Prize by the Hustinx Foundation.

In this light, the jury deems that Dr. Elvira Loibl is a very worthy recipient of the 2024 Edmond Hustinx Prize.

The jury confirms that Elvira meets all four criteria governing the grant of the prize. Firstly, the jury agrees that Elvira has reached a high scientific level in her field. Since defending her dissertation in May 2019 with the distinction cum laude, entitled “The Transnational Illegal Adoption Market: A Criminological Study of the German and Dutch Intercountry Adoption System”, Elvira’s excellence as a scholar has been recognised nationally and internationally, and her work has been the subject of considerable attention both within academia and within the Dutch Parliament. She has also been consulted as an expert by the Joustra Committee on the investigation of intercountry adoption. This clearly demonstrates her status as an independent legal scholar of high calibre. Secondly, taking into account the views of Elvira’s PhD reading committee, the jury considers that Elvira meets the criterion of having made an original contribution to the academic work on criminology, and organisational crime in particular. The jury also deems that Elvira meets the third criterion for the award of the Hustinx prize due to her clear integration and interaction in a research team. In that regard, Elvira has fostered strong networks and collaborations with external colleagues, and she has also demonstrated her integration within a team of researchers at Maastricht University through various projects in which she has recently been involved. Finally, the jury considers that Elvira surpasses the criterion of demonstrating the applicability of her research in practice. Her research on child trafficking for adoption purposes, particularly on the question as to how illegal intercountry adoptions are organised and facilitated, has had considerable societal impact not only in the Netherlands but also in other Western countries where government commissioned inquiries into past intercountry adoptions have taken place. In addition, Elvira regularly shares the findings of her research with the wider public, and she has been interviewed on the subject by the Dutch and international media.

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