

Lena Bendiksen, Associate Professor at The Faculty of Law of the University of Tromsø (Norway), spent her sabbatical year at Kingston Law School, from September 2011 to June 2012.

My name is Lena Bendiksen, and I am an Associate Professor at The Faculty of Law, University of Tromsø. I have spent my sabbatical year at Kingston Law School, from September 2011 to June 2012.

My doctoral thesis was published in 2008 and is about taking away the parental responsibility and adoption as a measure in the child care system. My research interests concerns all kind of questions concerning children and their rights, especially their human rights, The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and The European Convention on Human Rights, and also the theoretical framework for children's rights. During my sabbatical year I have been working with the biological principle, telling that it is in the best interest for children and parents that they live together or have contact with each other.

I have also been writing some Norwegian articles published in Norwegian law research magazines. These are about how adoption as a measure in the Norwegian child care system are dealt with by Norwegian courts and by the European Court of Human Rights, and about whether children tend to "only" have the best interest principle while adults have rights. The best interest principle is of main importance, but it is in my view necessary to also focus on children's rights, which I am not sure the courts do all the time.