

Isabelle Rorive

Full professor (Prof. Dr.)

Isabelle.Rorive@ulb.be

[Centre Perelman](#) – Law Faculty - Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

50 av. F.D. Roosevelt (C.P. 132) - 1050 Brussels

Main professional activities

Current activities

<i>Full professor, Law Faculty (ULB)</i>	since 2020
<i>Elected Full member of the Royal Academy of Belgium (Class of Letters and Moral and Political Sciences)</i>	since 2025
<i>Advisor of the Vice-Chancellor and the President of the ULB on gender and diversity policy (ULB)</i>	since 2017
<i>Director of the Equality Law Clinic (ULB)</i>	since 2014
<i>Founding member of the Advisory Board of the Berkeley Centre on Comparative Equality & Anti-Discrimination Law</i>	since 2011
<i>Member of the Executive Committee of senior experts of the European Equality Law Network</i>	since 2004

Previous assignments

<i>Scientific sabbatical (FNRS – National Fund for Scientific Research)</i>	2022-2023
<i>Visiting professor, Law Faculty, Doshisha University (Kyoto)</i>	April 2023
<i>President of the Centre Perelman for Legal Philosophy (ULB)</i>	2018-2022
<i>Director of the Centre Perelman for Legal Philosophy (ULB)</i>	2012-2018
<i>Member of the Scientific Committee of the Wiener-Anspach-Foundation (ULB and Oxbridge)</i>	2011-2022

Previous academic titles

<i>Professor, Law Faculty, Centre Perelman (ULB)</i>	2005-2020
<i>Associate professor, Law Faculty, Centre for Comparative Law (ULB)</i>	2002-2010
<i>Postdoctoral Research Fellow, PCMLP, Wolfson College, University of Oxford (Wiener-Anspach Fellow)</i>	2001-2002
<i>Research Fellow, Centre for Comparative Law, Law Faculty ULB</i>	1999-2001
<i>Doctoral Researcher in Law, ULB (FNRS scholarship - National Fund for Scientific Research)</i>	1995-1999

Academic qualifications

<i>PhD in Law (Université Libre de Bruxelles, ULB)</i>	1995-2000
Grade: highest honors and jury's congratulations	
Charles Duvivier Prize (Royal Academies for Sciences and the Arts of Belgium)	
Alice Seghers Prize (ULB)	
Thesis title: When Supreme Courts Change the Law. Justifying Judicial Overruling in the UK and in Belgium	
<i>Master of Studies in Legal Research (University of Oxford)</i>	1997-1998
Wiener-Anspach Fellow	
<i>Master degree in law (ULB)</i>	1991-1994
Grade: highest honors/Valedictorian/René Marcq Prize	
<i>Bachelor degree in law (ULB)</i>	1989-1991
Grade: highest honors	

Selected recent publications (in their original language)

- *Redéfinir la femme en justice*, Dalloz, coll. Les sens du droit (manuscript in preparation, with publisher's permission).
- « Article 36 CEDH : Tierce-intervention », in J. Andriantsimbazovina, L. Gonin, F. Tulkens & S. Van Drooghenbroeck, *La Convention européenne des droits de l'homme et ses Protocoles. Commentaire article par article*, Mare & Martin, 2026 (forthcoming).
- « L'affaire Caster Semenya: démasquer les monstres, célébrer les dieux », in M. Antaki, G. Gidrol-Mistral et A. Popovici (dir.), *Démasquer la personne : la fabrique du corps*, Éditions juste titre, série Les mondes du droit, Sherbrooke, 2026, p. 74-110.

- « Intersex », L. Carlson & P. Kapotas (eds), *Elgar Encyclopedia of Equality and Discrimination Law* (forthcoming).
- « Sexual orientation: The development of European case law » (with E. Bribosia & R. Médard-Inghilterra), in C. O’Cinneide, J. Ringelheim & I. Solanke, *Research Handbook on European Anti-Discrimination Law*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2025, chap. 16.
- « Qu’est-ce qu’une femme ? », *Revue Esprit*, juin 2025.
- « Le droit à l’intégrité physique des personnes intersexuées » (with C. Derave, M. Goffaux & A.-C. Rasson), in S. Wattier, P. Colson, A.-C. Rasson & M. Rolain (dir.), *Les droits des personnes intersexes*, Larcier Intersentia, 2024, p. 71-120.
- « La cour d’appel de Bruxelles met un coup d’arrêt à la normalisation du corps des enfants intersexués » (with C. Derave & A.-C. Rasson), *Journal des tribunaux*, 2024, p. 308-313.
- « Du cas à l’affaire Caster Semenya : (en)cadrer la question de l’égalité des sexes », *Intersections (revue semestrielle genre et droit)*, 2024/2, 29 p. ([open access](#)).
- « A la recherche des critères de régularisation de séjour fondée sur l’article 9bis de la loi du 15 décembre 1980. Une évaluation de la pratique de l’Office des étrangers à l’aune des principes généraux du droit administratif » (with C. Leclerc & V. van der Plancke), *Administration publique (trimestriel)*, 2024, n°1, p. 45-83.
- « Les contrôles d’identité au faciès : prouver la discrimination en justice » (with Robin Médard-Inghilterra), *Revue trimestrielle des droits de l’homme*, 2024, n° 137, p. 33-70.
- « Interdiction de la discrimination fondée sur la situation socio-économique en droit européen : rendre visibles les personnes socio-économiquement défavorisées » (with E. Bribosia & S. Ganty), *Cahiers de droit européen*, 2022, p. 145-195.
- « Article 20 – Egalité en droit » and « Article 21 – Non-discrimination » (with E. Bribosia & J. Hilaire), in F. Picod, C. Rizcallah & S. Van Drooghenbroeck (ed.), *Charte des droits fondamentaux de l’Union européenne. Commentaire article par article*, Bruxelles, De Boeck, 2022, 3rd ed., p. 589-617 & p. 619-654.
- « Le droit à la santé sans discrimination des résidents des maisons de repos laissé pour compte » (with C. Derave), in F. Tulkens, S. Parsa (ed.), *Etat de droit, état d’exception et libertés publiques*, Anthémis, 2022, p. 205-253.
- « Digital Profiling: Challenges for Equal Opportunities in Online Targeted Employment Advertising » (with A.M. Corrêa Harcus), *European Journal of Human Rights*, 2021, p. 221-241.
- « Discrimination intersectionnelle : mode d’emploi » (with E. Bribosia & R. Médard Inghilterra), *Revue trimestrielle des droits de l’homme*, 2021, p. 241-274.
- « Femmes voilées au travail face aux errements du droit de la non-discrimination » (with E. Bribosia & R. Médard Inghilterra), *Journal des tribunaux du travail*, 2021, no. 1393, pp. 145-153.
- « Le nerf de la guerre : les subventions et les marchés publics pour renforcer l’effectivité du droit de la non-discrimination en Belgique » (with E. Bribosia & L. Fromont), *Administration publique (trimestriel)*, 2021, p. 394-416.
- « Anti-discrimination law and private law from a transnational perspective », in K. Nakata, M. Wakabayashi, Y. Shiomi, & H. Matsuo (eds), *Modernisation of European Private Law and Developments in Japanese Private Law*, Japan: Nihon-Hyoronsha, 2020.
- « #MeToo in Belgium: Confronting the Failure of Criminal Law: How social media propelled a historic movement and the law responded » (with E. Bribosia & C. Leroy), in A. M. Noel & D. B. Oppenheimer (eds), *The Global #MeToo Movement*, Full Court Press, 2020, p. 131-137.
- « Religious Conscientious Objection: A Troubled Path » (with A.M. Corrêa Harcus), in S. Mancini (ed.), *Handbook on Constitutions and Religions*, Edward Elgar Publishers, 2020, p. 370-382.
- « Convention sur l’élimination des discriminations à l’égard des femmes et Pactes onusiens : quel potentiel pour les droits des femmes ? » (with E. Bribosia), in D. Bernard & C. Harmel (eds), *Code commenté – Droits des femmes*, Bruxelles, Larcier, 2020, p. 23-34.
- « Droit de l’égalité et de la non-discrimination – Chronique » (with E. Bribosia), *Journal européen des droits de l’homme – European Journal for Human Rights*, 2019 (p. 120-140), 2018 (p. 126-145), 2017 (p. 191-213), 2016 (p. 254-268), 2015 (p. 223-243), 2014 (p. 205-237), 2013 (p. 125-157).
- *Human Rights Tectonics. Global Dynamics of Integration and Fragmentation* (with E. Bribosia, eds), Intersentia, Cambridge/Antwerp/Chicago, 2018 (331 p.).
- *Governing Diversity. Migrant integration and Multiculturalism in North America and in Europe* (with E. Bribosia, A. Rea, & D. Sredanovic, eds), PUB, Brussels, 2018 (261 p.).
- « L’arrêt Coman : quand la Cour de justice contribue à la reconnaissance du mariage homosexuel » (with E. Bribosia), *Journal de droit européen*, 2018 n° 9, p. 344-347.
- « Lutter contre les discriminations », in C. Briceux & B. Frydman (eds), *Les défis du droit global*, Bruxelles, Bruylant, coll. Penser le droit, 2018, p. 41-61.
- « Human Rights Integration in Action: Making Equality Law Work for Trans People in Belgium » (with E. Bribosia), in E. Brems & S. Ouald-Chaïb (eds), *Fragmentation and Integration in Human Rights Law: Users’ Perspectives*, Edward Elgar Publishers, 2018, p. 111-138.
- « The Enforcement and Effectiveness of Anti-Discrimination Law in Belgium » (with E. Bribosia), in M. Mercat-

- Bruns and D. Oppenheimer (eds), *The Enforcement and Effectiveness of Anti-Discrimination Law*, Springer publishing, 2018, p. 43-62.
- « Seeking to Square the Circle: A Sustainable Conscious Objection in Reproductive Healthcare » (with E. Bribosia), in Mancini, S. and Rosenfeld, M. (eds), *Conscience Wars*, Cambridge University Press, 2018, p. 392-413.
 - « Une nouvelle loi pour les personnes transgenres en Belgique » (with E. Bribosia & N. Gallus), *Journal des tribunaux*, 2018, n° 6724, p. 261-266.
 - « Objection Ladies! Taking IPPF-EN v. Italy One Step Further » (with E. Bribosia & I. Isailovic), in E. Brems (ed.), *Rewriting Integrated Human Rights*, Edward Elgar Publishers, 2017, p. 261-288.
 - « Affaires Achbita et Bougnaoui: entre neutralité et préjugés (C.J.U.E., Gde Ch., arrêts Achbita et Bougnaoui 14 mars 2017) » (with E. Bribosia), *Revue trimestrielle des droits de l'homme*, 2017, p. 1015-1035.
 - *Droit de la Non-discrimination. Avancées et enjeux* (with E. Bribosia & S. Van Drooghenbroeck, eds.), Bruylant, 2016 (251 p.).

International conferences

Academic papers delivered in various universities, including:

- In Europe (CoE): Sciences-Po (Paris), ENS (Paris), Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines (Paris), Université Paris X-Nanterre, Université de Lille 2, Université de Nice Sophia Antipolis, Université Paris Diderot, Université Lyon 3, University of Oxford (UK), University College London (UK), Trinity College Dublin (Ireland), University of Umeo (Sweden), University of Stockholm (Sweden), European University Institute (Firenze, Italy), Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung and Institut für Informations, Telekommunikations und Medienrecht (Muenster University, Germany), Central European University (Budapest), University of Malta (La Valette), International Institute for Sociology of Law (Onati, Spain), the Bilgi University (Istanbul).
- In the Americas: University of California (Berkeley), Cardozo Law School (New-York), Université du Québec (Montreal), McGill University (Montreal), Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana (Medellin), Universidad Externado de Colombia (Bogota), Fundação Getúlio Vargas Rio de Janeiro Law School (Rio de Janeiro).
- In Asia: Institute of Law of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (Beijing), Jiao Tong University (Shanghai), University of Doshisha (Kyoto), French Institute for Japan (Tokyo), University of Todai (Tokyo), University of Waseda (Tokyo).

Promoter of academic research projects with the appointment of research staff (selection)

- EQqualis, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, *(In)Equality in the EU* (Institute for European Studies, ULB, 2022-2025).
- *Étude de faisabilité des mesures correctrices pour les congés de maternité dans le cadre de la carrière académique et scientifique des femmes dans les facultés de STEM* (Alter égales, Equal Opportunities Unit of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, 2023).
- *Untangling the multiple categorizations of migrants. Intersectional Frameworks and Practices* (Action de Recherche Concertée, Trans-disciplinary research Centre MAM - Migration, Asylum and Multiculturalism, ULB, 2019-2023).
- e-NACT (e-learning National Active Charter Training), « *Social Rights in the Labour Field* (DG Justice, 2017-2018).
- *The Global Challenge of Human Rights Integration: Towards a User's Perspective* (HRI – Human Rights Integration, Pôle d'Attraction Interuniversitaire, BELSPO, 2012-2017).
- *Under the Sign of Merit and Cultural Conformity. New Integration Policies for Migrants in Europe* (Action de Recherche Concertée, Trans-disciplinary research Centre MAM - Migration, Asylum and Multiculturalism, ULB, 2012-2017).
- MEDIADDEM – *European research project on media policy-making processes in EU member States and candidate countries* (7th Framework-Programme of the European Commission, 2010-2013).
- *Outsiders in Europe: The Foreigner and the 'Other' in the Process of Changing Rules and Identities* (Action de Recherche Concertée, Trans-disciplinary research Centre MAM -Migration, Asylum and Multiculturalism, ULB, 2006-2011).
- JURISTRAS – *Strasbourg's Court and Human Rights in France: An Overview on Litigation, Implementation and Domestic reform* (6th Framework-Programme of the European Commission, 2006-2011).

PhD theses (direction)

- Charly Derave, *La gestion de la crise sanitaire face à l'État de droit, à la démocratie et aux droits humains*, defense scheduled for June 2026.
- Xavier Delgrange, *La religion saisie par le droit. Le droit saisi par la religion*, co-promoter with S. Van Drooghenbroeck.
- Ana Maria Corrêa, *Discrimination in Online Platforms. A Comparative Law Approach to Design, Intermediation and Data Challenges*, November 2021.

- Sara Aguirre, *Discursive Practices Constructing Normative and Trans* Sex/ Gender Categories. The effects of the legal certification of sex in Belgium and the definition of the (gendered) worker subject*, co-promotor with C. Closos, April 2019.
- Joseph Damamme, *La conciliation entre les droits des personnes handicapées et les intérêts des entreprises*, co-promotor with E. Bribosia, February 2019.
- Sarah Ganty, *Intégration, droit et obligations: Une étude des différents modèles d'intégration des migrants dans les politiques et droit européens*, co-promotor with E. Bribosia, February 2019.
- Dorothea Staes, *The European Court of Human Rights and its procedures of reference to « external sources' and of » cross references*, co-promotor with S. Van Drooghenbroeck, June 2017.
- Moritz Baumgärtel, *Foreigners in the Labyrinth of Human Rights: An Analysis from the User Perspective*, co-promotor with E. Bribosia, December 2016.
- Gabrielle Caceres, *Quand la religion questionne la généralité de la norme. Quelle place pour l'accommodement raisonnable en Europe ? Étude de cas – Angleterre, France, Belgique*, co-promotor with E. Bribosia, January 2016.
- Markus Falbusch, *European integration in the field of human rights protection - The interaction on the basis of different constitutional cultures*, December 2014.

External member of the Jury of PhD theses in Belgium, France and Columbia.

Member of the jury for Qualification to Supervise Research – HDR (Sciences Po Paris, University Paris Nanterre).

Main recent research reports

- *L'effectivité du droit de la non-discrimination face aux systèmes d'intelligence artificielle dans l'administration publique : défis procéduraux et pistes d'évolution*, Equality Law Clinic, 2026 (forthcoming).
- *Garantir le droit à l'oubli des personnes survivantes du cancer*, Equality Law Clinic, 2025.
- *A comparative examination of the legality of restrictions on abortion in light of the right to gender equality* (Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law & Equality Law Clinic at the Université Libre de Bruxelles), 2022 ([online](#)).
- *Étude de faisabilité juridique relative à la mise en place de mesures d'action positive dans le cadre du recrutement académique* (with M. Bakiasi, T. Berhaut-Streel, S. Habousha & V. van der Plancke), Equality Law Clinic, 2022 ([online](#)).
- *Belgium - Country report. Non-discrimination* (with E. Bribosia), Equality network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination: one report per year since 2004, EU Commission (see the 2021 report [here](#)).
- *Rapport à l'attention de l'IEFH au sujet de l'arrêt no. 099-2019 de la Cour constitutionnelle du 19 juin 2019 annulant partiellement la loi du 25 juin 2017 réformant des régimes relatifs aux personnes transgenres, et de ses conséquences en droit belge à la lumière du droit comparé* (with E. Bribosia & H. Ounahou), Equality Law Clinic, 2019 ([online](#)).
- *Guide pour l'inclusion des étudiants en situation de handicap dans l'enseignement supérieur* (with E. Bribosia), Equality Law Clinic, 2019 ([online](#)).

With the Equality Law Clinic, submission of third-party interventions (TPI) before the ECtHR, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and written observations before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

University courses and legal training

Law School of the ULB:

- Equality Law Clinic (MA2 course, 24 h., in French and English).
- Anti-discrimination Law (MA course, 24 h., in French)
- International and European Protection of Human rights (MA course, 24 h., in French)
- Introduction to Law (BA1 course, 72 h. partim, in French)
- Comparative Law (BA3 course, 36 h., in English).

Law Faculty of the University of Doshisha (Kyoto):

- Current issues of comparative law. Strategic litigation and human rights in a globalized world (30 h., in English).

Multi-University Legal Studies Course (UC Berkeley, University of Stockholm, University of Portsmouth):

- Comparative Equality Law (online, in English)

Training in European Anti-Discrimination Law:

- Inter-university certificate: *Law and Disability in Context*, organized by UCLouvain Saint-Louis Brussels, in partnership with ULB (since 2026).
- Legal Department of the French *Défenseur des droits* and previously of the High Authority for the Fight against Discrimination and for Equality – HALDE, Paris (since 2007)
- Judges, lawyers or academics, especially in programs organized by the Academy of European Law - ERA (since 2005).