

**Dr. Marlies Hesselman, PhD | Assistant Professor Public International Law**

University of Groningen | Faculty of Law | Transboundary Legal Studies

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23 May 2023

**Education**

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**PhD, Public International Law**

University of Groningen, Human Rights and Access to Modern Energy Services

**LLM, European Law, specialization human rights**

University of Groningen,

*Thesis topic:* 'The human right to a healthy environment in the Council of Europe'**LLM International Law & the Law of International Organizations, specialization human rights**University of Groningen, graduated *cum laude* (top 2%)*Thesis topic:* 'A right to humanitarian assistance in the wake of natural disasters?'**LLB, Dutch Law**

Leiden University,

*Erasmus exchange period:* Copenhagen University**Work experience**

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**Assistant Professor / Lecturer - Public International Law – University of Groningen***August 2009 – present* | Faculty of Law | Department of Transboundary Legal Studies

Involved in teaching and thesis supervision at all levels of LLB and LLM programmes in the area of (advanced) public international law, international environmental law, climate law, human rights law, law of humanitarian assistance and international dispute settlement. See for further academic activities over the years, below. List of courses includes:

BA/ IRIO – Intro to International and European Law (1st y)  
LLB - Introduction to International and European Law (1st yr)  
LLB – Legal Research Skills 1 (JOV1) - International law (1st yr)  
LLB - Thesis supervision - Interdisciplinary Research Colloquium (3rd y)  
LLB - Research Seminar International Law (2nd yr)  
LLB - Public International Law (2nd yr)  
LLB - Studentenrechtbank (Student moot court) (3rd yr)  
LLB - Honours College Human Rights| intro to HR & new human rights (2nd yr)  
BA UCG - Age of Human Rights | the right to energy as new HR (3rd yr)  
  
LLM - (Seminar) International Environmental Law (with prof. Frans Nelissen)  
LLM - Advanced International Law | new approaches to international law  
LLM - Seminar International Law in Practice  
LLM - International Health Law | air pollution & climate change  
LLM - Seminar International Human rights Law | justiciability & right to energy  
LLM - Climate Law | international climate law  
LLM - Settlement of International Disputes | conciliation & fact-finding  
LLM - International Law for Humanitarian Action (NOHA) | international disaster law  
LLM - International Trade and Development Law | SDGs and human rights law  
LLM - Thesis supervision

**Legal Counsel– Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Law Division – The Hague, Netherlands**  
*January 2011 – April 2011* | (secondment via University of Groningen)

Responsible for: law of the sea, diplomatic law, international drugs control treaties, international aviation law, international conventional weapon control, international cultural heritage protection.

**Legal Advisor – VluchtelingenWerk Nederland – Delfzijl, Netherlands**

*October 2008 – June 2009* | (voluntary position)

Advising asylum seekers and refugees at the COA reception center Delfzijl about their asylum procedure or family reunification.

**Project coordinator – NGO International Bridges to Justice – Beijing, China**

*November 2007 – August 2008*

Project coordinator and research fellow for projects on criminal justice reforms in China, mostly in the field of indigent defense and juvenile justice in the Chinese criminal system.

**Trainee – Delegation of the European Union – Development Cooperation Section – Beijing, China**

*July 2007 – November 2007*

Assisted in project management of EU-China development cooperation and rule of law projects (i.e. EU-China Social Security Reform Co-operation Project (EUR 20 million) and EU-China Information Society Project (EUR 15 million)) at the delegation in Beijing

**Trainee – Embassy Kingdom of the Netherlands - Development Cooperation Section – Beijing, China**

*February 2007 – June 2007*

Carried out an independent assessment of impacts of the Embassy's Rule of Law project portfolio and contributed to day-to-day management of several development cooperation projects.

## Academic and Leadership Positions

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*Present:*

- Managing Board Member of Groningen Centre for Health Law
- Member of Scientific Advisory Committee Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health
- Member of Global Peer Network on Climate Litigation, Columbia Law School, New York
- Member of the Teaching Academy Groningen, Community of Practice on Diversity & Inclusion
- Internship coordinator LLB and LLM PIL/IHRL
- Chair of Programme Committee LLM PIL, IHRL, GCL
- Member Groningen Centre of Energy and Sustainability Law (GCESL)
- Member Netherlands Network of Human Rights Research (NNHRR)
  - Chair / Co-founder WG Human Rights and Climate Crisis (2023 to present)
  - Chair / Member WG Economic Social and Cultural Rights (2013-2014, 2011-2018)
  - Member WG Business and Human Rights (2017 to present)
- Netherlands Juristen Comité voor Mensenrechten
  - Chair / Member WG International Human Rights Protection (2011-2013, 2009-2017)
  - Member WG Sustainable Development and Human Rights (2011-2017)
  - Leader of NGO coalition for shadow reporting, and the NGO representative in Geneva, for the UN ICESCR (2009-2010; 2016-2017) and UPR of UN Human Rights Council (2015)

## Selected Publications

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Marlies publishes widely in her areas of interest, including access to energy services, climate change, environment(al health), international disasters law, with renowned publishers, e.g. OUP, CUP, Routledge, Elgar, Brill, TMC Asser, Palgrave, Wolters Kluwer, Elsevier, Wiley, and in journals such as *Nederlands Juristenblad*, *Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Energierecht*, *Energy Research and Social Science* (IF 6.7), *Sustainable Development* (IF 12.5), and *BMJ* (IF 96.3).

## Edited volumes, Yearbooks, Special Issues:

1. Founding co-editor: Bartolini, Cubie, Hesselman and Peel/Telesetsky (eds) *Yearbook of International Disaster Law* (Volumes I-IV) (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022) (see [here](#))
2. Co-editor: Rachovitsa and Hesselman (eds) 'Special Issue: International Law for the Sustainable Development Goals' *Brill Open Law* (2020)
3. Co-editor: Toebes, Hesselman, Van Dijk, Mierau, 'Special Collection: Curbing the Lifestyle Disease Pandemic: Engaging in a Transdisciplinary Research Agenda for Effective Interventions', *BMC International Health and Human Rights* (2020)
4. Lead editor: Hesselman, Hallo de Wolf, Toebes (eds) *Socio-Economic Human Rights in Essential Public Services Provision* (Routledge, 2017) ([Google Books](#))

## Articles and chapters:

### *In the area of human rights and disasters*

**Hesselman M** and Cubie C 'Natural Disasters' in Hofbauer J, Binder C, Janig P, and Nowak M (eds) *Elgar Encyclopedia on Human Rights* (Elgar 2022)

**Hesselman M**, 'Access to Disaster Risk Information, Early Warning and Education and Awareness: Implementing the Sendai Framework through International Human Rights Law' in: Katja Samuel and Marie Aronsson-Storrier, *International Law and Disaster Risk Reduction* (CUP 2019) 188-215

**Hesselman M**, 'A Right to International (Humanitarian) Assistance in Times of Disaster: Fresh Perspectives from International Human Rights Law' in: Zorzi Giustiniani F *et al*, *Routledge Handbook on Human Rights and Disasters* (Routledge 2018) 65-86

**Hesselman M** and Lane L, 'Disasters and Non-State Actors: A Human Rights-Based Approach' (2017) 26(5) *Disaster Prevention and Management* 526-539

Lane L and **Hesselman M**, 'Governing Disasters: Embracing Human Rights Law in a Multi-Level, Multi-Actor Governance Sphere' (2017) 5(2) *Governance and Politics* 93-104

Cubie D and **Hesselman M**, 'Accountability for the Human Rights Implications of Natural Disasters: A Proposal for Systemic International Oversight' (2015) 33(1) *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights* 9-4

Brouwer J en **Hesselman M**, 'Gaswinning en het Recht op Veiligheid' (2015) 26 *Nederlands Juristenblad* (NJB) 1716-1723.

**Hesselman M** 'Regional Human Rights Regimes and Humanitarian Obligations of States in the Event of Disaster' in: Zwitter A *et al*, *Humanitarian Action: Global, Regional and Domestic Legal Responses to Local Challenges* (CUP 2014) 202-227

**Hesselman M** 'Establishing a Full 'Cycle of Protection for Disaster Victims: Preparedness, Response and Recovery according to Regional and International Human Rights Supervisory Bodies' (2013) 18(2) *Tilburg Law Review* 106-132

I currently sit on the editorial board of the Yearbook of International Disaster Law and was a co-founding lead editor between 2017-2022. I annually produce a reflection of all major legal developments on human rights and disasters within the UN human rights system for the *International Disaster Law in Practice* section.

For full overview of all my 70+ publications and 90+ conference presentations, academic activities and media, see: <https://www.rug.nl/staff/m.m.e.hesselman/research>