



## CURRICULUM VITAE **Simon MATTHIJSEN**

13/12/1956, Dutch, male, married

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Simon is a former ombudsman (with extensive experience in mediation, intractable conflicts and human rights cases). He approaches abstract concepts such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law from a practical perspective: what purpose do these principles serve and how do we make them subservient to the vulnerable in society? In the INGO conference, he focused his attention on monitoring skills, the position of civil society organisations in Europe, human rights defenders, whistleblowers, environmental activists. He also put a lot of energy into reorganising the conference to make it more open, accessible and fit for purpose.

**Education:** Leiden University, double master's degree in administrative law and public administration.

**Languages:** (in order of proficiency): Dutch, English, German, French

### **Work experience:**

2011—2021 Utrecht University: researcher at the Montaigne Institute (ombudsman developments in former Eastern Bloc states)

1993—2011 Rotterdam municipality and 11 cities around it: advisor, deputy ombudsman and ombudsman

1990—1993 Rotterdam, borough Noord: alderman for spatial planning

1988—1990 Rotterdam municipality: lawyer / litigator

1984—1987 Leiden University: junior lecturer in administrative law

### **Other activities:**

- Oct 2023, Armenia: Trainer for the staff of the Armenian National Ombudsman, interview techniques, intractable/non-mediabile conflicts, international standards for SOGIESC community, SOGIESC discrimination jurisprudence.
- 2011—now, INGO Conference: deputy chair and chair of the Human Rights Commission; ad-hoc committee on the preparation of a code of conduct; Expert Council on NGO Law; CINGO occasional representative; country visits to Germany, Ireland, Bosnia and Herzegovina; assistant to the CINGO chair in the preparation of the 2018 Copenhagen Declaration; Standing Committee; Standing Committee representative on the Human Rights Steering Committee (CDDH)
- 2006—recent, Austria: member of the European Ombudsman Institute, former board member
- 2011—2016, National Research University 'Higher School of Economics' (Moscow): guest lecturer, summer school teacher, ECHR law, trainer at the ECHR moot court, trainer in soft law, margins of appreciation, ombudsman skills, trust in society
- 2014, Germany: guest lecturer 'Advanced Course in ECHR', pleading competition
- 2013—2014, Ukraine: guest lecturer at the Kyiv University of Law and Rivne State University in human rights, goals and limitations, system and procedures ECHR
- 2005—2013, Netherlands: board member and treasurer at the Dutch Complaint Law Association, reporter for the Journal of Complaint Law