

CURRICULUM VITAE

Machteld Vonk was born on 29 May 1967 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. From 1985 to 1991 she studied English language and literature at the *Vrije Universiteit* in Amsterdam. Her studies were concluded with a thesis on the use of early Victorian literature and imagery in the novels of John Irving, *The Victorian Connection*. From 1992 until 2002, she worked as a (legal) translator and interpreter in the English language. She obtained all the certificates necessary to translate and interpret for the Dutch courts. In 1998 she enrolled at Amsterdam University in the evening classes of the law school. She concluded her legal studies in 2002 with a master's thesis on the question whether adoption was an appropriate instrument for establishing a legal relationship between a child and his or her non-genetic parents. Subsequently, she started working at Utrecht University's Molengraaff Institute for Private Law as a PhD researcher. The funds for the research which resulted in this book were acquired in the open competition for research grants (MAGW) of the Netherlands Organisation of Scientific Research (NWO).