

June 2018

NEWSLETTER



Did you know that Horizon Europe will be the next research and innovation framework programme? Learn more about the MCAA's position on this.

As you probably know, the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) will take place from 9 to 14 July in Toulouse – France's 'Pink City'. Fernanda Bajanca, from the MCAA Policy Working Group, has the lowdown.

Wondering about the Career Development Working Group? Read about past and upcoming activities.

page 04

page 18

CONTENTS

Message from the board

[page 02](#)

Horizon Europe Programme

[page 03](#)

ESOF 2018 Event

[page 05](#)

Displaced Researchers 01

[page 07](#)

Displaced Researchers 02

[page 09](#)

Interview with Hatice Pinar Senoguz
[page 12](#)

Interview with Yuliia Ovchynnykova
[page 15](#)

News from Working Groups
[page 19](#)

News from the Chapters: Austria
[page 23](#)

News from the Chapters: Croatia
[page 25](#)

News from the Chapters: Denmark
[page 27](#)

News from the Chapters: UK
[page 29](#)

Interview with Nehama Lewis

[page 31](#)

Members' achievements

[page 33](#)

Sponsor: Vaultitude

[page 35](#)

Sponsor: Euro-Biolmaging

[page 36](#)

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Since the board elections at the MCAA General Assembly in Leuven on February 3, the MCAA Board has been hard at work, much of it behind the scenes. Our outgoing Chair and current German Chapter Chair, Brian Cahill, handed over a fantastic opportunity for MCAA: 8 accepted ESOF sessions organized by MCAA members, in addition to an MCAA stand and stand-alone session, plus two events in collaboration with external partners in the weekend prior to the event. Since then, Policy Working Group Chair Fernanda Bajanca, and Board Member Sara Ricardo have been leading the preparations for MCAA's activities at ESOF. Sara Ricardo is also leading a session on the lost generation of European scientists and how to make the system more sustainable, in which board member Maria Gorna will be taking part.

Mostafa Moonir Shawrav, Vice Chair, has taken on multiple roles to promote MCAA. He is leading the task force for the MCAA Annual Conference and General Assembly to be held in Vienna on February 24-25, 2019. Behind the scenes, Mostafa has dedicated his time to improving internal governance, implementing a communications structure for the board, contractor, and working groups and chairs; and creating more transparent guidelines for working groups and chapters. Mostafa is also organizing and chairing a special session at ESOF where the 2017 MCAA major survey results of more than 5,000 researchers throughout Europe will be disseminated. Current-

ly, he is also the contact person for MCAA participation in external research funding proposals.

Valentina Ferro, Vice-Chair, is leading our Communications team and is responsible for our social networking and public engagement. Valentina has been working on an initiative to unify and standardize our corporate identity. She is also working on creating new working group for research funding.

On the financial side, Treasurer Bala Attili and Chair Matthew DiFranco are leading our efforts to define our budget for the next financial year. One major initiative being undertaken is an update to our Micro Grant program to respond to increasing demand, and the different career stages of our applicants.

Murat Grunes, Secretary, Marco Masia, Board Member, and Pavlo Bazilinskyy, chair of the Bridging Science and Business Working Group, are organizing a workshop on 'Driving Solutions for Science in Business' partnering with Université Paris Saclay at University of Paris Saclay in Paris on 5th-6th July 2018. They are also exploring opportunities for partnerships and sponsorships for MCAA with academic and corporate organizations, and collaborating with EIT-Climate-KIC and other organizations focused on fostering research and innovation.

Zsofia Buttel, together with Mostafa, Bala, Renaud and Murat are working to attract short- and long term sponsors for MCAA to en-

sure its future sustainability. Zsofia is also proposing new ideas for standardizing financial procedures.

To establish a successful partnership with the network of National Contact Points, Maria Gorna aided by Sara Ricardo, both Board Members, are currently working with the Net4Mobility+ project to organize joint initiatives such as seminars on European Funding. One of the main goals of the collaboration will be improving availability of information and communication for prospective and current MSCA fellows regarding different kinds of support for researchers as well as a detailed explanation of fellowship rules in each given country.

Renaud Jolivet, Board Member, is currently working on MCAA's mentoring academy initiative. He is also contributing to writing proposals for European Funding and exploring long-term initiatives for MCAA.

Nehama Lewis, Board Member, will be presenting a talk on effective media outreach for researchers at ESOF. She is also working to improve internal and external communication between board and working groups.

The MCAA Board wishes everyone a fantastic summer!

MATTHEW DIFRANCO
CHAIR OF THE
EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE ON BEHALF
OF THE MCAA BOARD

RESEARCH

HORIZON EUROPE - THE NEXT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

The Horizon 2020 framework programme is due to end on 31 December 2020, with the next research funding programme covering the period of 2021-2027. Horizon Europe is still under construction, but consultations have taken place and the MCAA has been active in making its voice heard.

BUILDING THE POST 2020 FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation

stakeholders

LAB – FAB – APP
The Lamy report

Foresight and Economic case for R&I

stakeholders

Reports and material shaping the proposal

stakeholders

EU long-term budget

Proposal for post-2020 FP for R&I

Impact Assessment

stakeholders

European Parliament & Council
Q2 2018

January 2021
Launching post 2020 FP

'LAB-FAB-APP'

The 'LAB-FAB-APP' document sets out the European Commission's guiding principles for designing the post-2020 EU funding programme for research and innovation. The Commission's vision builds on the findings of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020, as explained by Pascal Lamy in a [speech](#) at the 'Shaping our future' conference on 3 July 2017.

Mr Lamy explained the LAB-FAB-APP name as follows:

"We need to continue investing in science, whether disruptive or incremental – LAB.

But we need to become much better in fabricating added value products and services; converting the results of science into innovative solutions that generate value for economy and society – FAB.

And we need to ensure that these solutions find their application for the benefit and with the more active participation of society – APP.

We need LAB, FAB and APP. All three, not one or the other. And not one after the other, but all together in an iterative process."

RESEARCH



WHAT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IS DOING

The Commission is working on its proposal for Horizon Europe – the next framework programme – on the basis of the LAB-FAB-APP report contents, foresight studies and other reports.

The proposal will form part of the EU's plans for the EU's next long-term budget, known as the 'multiannual financial framework' (MFF).

MCAA STATEMENT

In response to the “Public consultation on EU funds” launched by the European Commission, the MCAA Policy Group and the Board have published a statement containing recommendations in nine areas:

- Issue 1: Substantially increase research budget to at least €120 billion;
- Issue 2: Widen participation of all EU countries in the R&I framework programme;
- Issue 3: Improve career prospects for researchers;
- Issue 4: Implement Open Science;

- Issue 5: Facilitate long-term financial stability for mobile researchers;
- Issue 6: Expand support for the mental health and well-being of researchers;
- Issue 7: Improve integration of social sciences and humanities;
- Issue 8: Promote integration of displaced researchers in higher education institutions;
- Issue 9: Promote gender equality and diversity.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The proposal for the 2021-2027 EU budget (MFF) was presented to the European Parliament and to the EU Council of Ministers in May 2018.

Once the budget has been approved, the Commission will publish its proposal for Horizon Europe. The Council and European Parliament should adopt the proposal, possibly after negotiations have taken place.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Don't hesitate to contact the Policy Working Group:

wg-psr@mariecuriealumni.eu

USEFUL DOCUMENTS

Communication on the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020, adopted 11 January 2018: views on how to maximise the impact of a successor research and innovation investment programme

Horizon 2020 Evaluation: results of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020, input studies and evaluation methods

LAB – FAB – APP: Investing in the European future we want: report of the independent high level group, led by Pascal Lamy, on maximising the impact of EU research and innovation programmes

EVENT

WAITING FOR ESOF 2018

As you probably know, the [EuroScience Open Forum](#) (ESOF) will take place from 9 to 14 July in Toulouse – France’s ‘Pink City’. [Fernanda Bajanca](#), from the MCAA [Policy Working Group](#), has the lowdown.

CALENDAR OF SESSIONS

SCHEDULE	MCAA PARTICIPATING SESSIONS / EVENTS
Sat - Sun 7-8/07/2018 all day	MSCA satellite event (organised by the EC, participation of the MCAA)
Sat 7/07/2018 from 20:00	Science in the City event at the bar “Le Taquin” European Science Slam @ESOF2018: Smart nights on stage – science in 10 minutes
Tue 10/07/2018 from 8:45 to 10:00	Environmental impact of transportation on Europe: view of science and industry
Tue 10/07/2018 from 13:30 to 14:45	MCAA event : Core Issues for early career researchers and strategies for effective media outreach
Wed 11/07/2018 from 10:15 to 11:30	Refugees and Higher Education. A discussion on best practices to integrate displaced students and academics in higher education
Wed 11/07/2018 from 13:30 to 14:45	Researcher Associations beyond borders: how many computations to design an interactive constellation?
Wed 11/07/2018 from 17:00 to 18:15	The lost generation of European Scientists: How to make the system more sustainable
Thu 12/07/2018 from 10:15 to 11:30	Open science: from concept to implementation
Fri 13/07/2018 from 8:45 to 10:00	The perspective of humanities and social science researchers. Challenges, prosperity and guidance
Fri 13/07/2018 from 10.15-11.30	Family-friendly research to boost women’s research careers – How to address work-life conflicts and balance professional and personal life in career development in research
Fri 13/07/2018 from 17:00 to 18:15	Increasing awareness of researcher mental health

... more details on the sessions:

EVENT

Science in the City programme:

- European Science Slam @ ESOF2018: Smart nights on stage – science in 10 minutes, co-proposed by Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA), Wissenschaft im Dialog (WiD) and the Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG).

Scientific programme:

- Open science: from concept to implementation, roundtable discussion proposed by Maja Mise;
- Refugees and Higher Education. A discussion of best practices to integrate displaced students and academics in higher education, roundtable discussion proposed by Miguel Antonio Lim and Andreina Laera.

Careers programme:

- The lost generation. A discussion on solutions for the overproduction of overqualified researchers without permanent positions, roundtable discussion proposed by Sara Ricardo;
- Family-friendly research to boost women's research careers – how to address work-life conflicts and balance professional and personal life in career development in research, roundtable discussion proposed by Giovanna Avellis;
- The perspective of humanities and social science researchers. Challenges, prosperity and guidance, roundtable discussion proposed by Nina Díaz Fernández;
- Increasing awareness of researcher mental health, work-

shop proposed by Brian Cahill;

- Researcher associations beyond borders: how many computations to design an interactive constellation?, proposed by Maria-Antonietta Buccheri.

Science to business programme:

- Environmental impact of transportation on Europe: view of science and industry, roundtable discussion proposed by Pavlo Bazilinskyy.

The MCAA Board is organising an event to promote the MCAA, to take place on 10 July from 14.00 to 15.00. Make sure to attend this event, as information about the General Assembly 2019 will be unveiled!

This month we launched a new webinar Open Science Clinique: Winning Marie Curie with Open Science (Accessible at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZzUX9CajNk>, organised in collaboration with FOSTER and EuroScientist. It addresses how we can put the Open Science concept into practice in our projects.

We look forward to seeing you in Toulouse!

Further reading:

The MCAA is ready for ESOF 2018!

Interview with ESOF Champion Anne Cambon-Thomsen



FERNANDA BAJANCA

SPECIAL COVERAGE DISPLACED RESEARCHERS

WHAT THE MCAA HAS BEEN DOING FOR DISPLACED RESEARCHERS

Brian Cahill, former Chair of the MCAA, has taken a strong position in support of displaced researchers. He explains what the MCAA has done so far, and what is at stake for them.

The last few years have seen many international political developments that have been particularly challenging for researchers and academic freedom in many countries around the world. Many researchers have been forcibly displaced from their home countries by war but also by political oppression. For me, the migrant crisis in Europe was not just an external matter that I read about in the media, however; I have been hosting Syrian refugees as trainees in my lab as part of their Ger-

man language training and work reintegration programmes.

At the May 2017 networking workshop for Alumni Advisers run by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, I learned about the Humboldt Foundation's programme for supporting refugee researchers, the Philipp Schwartz Initiative (PSI). The session focused on how best to help displaced refugee researchers access conventional forms of research funding once the two-year Humboldt Fellow-

ship ends. In my conversations with speakers at the session, I was struck by the similarities between issues facing displaced researchers and those faced by the internationally mobile researchers within MCAA's membership. In addition, the MCAA's career development activities were similar to those of being promoted by the PSI. Research careers in Europe are very competitive, and job security is limited, and finding mentors who can offer career advice and support is very valuable for



SPECIAL COVERAGE DISPLACED RESEARCHERS

career development. Transferable skills are also critical for a career beyond academia.

Through the networking event, I also became aware of a Science4Refugees project, BRIDGE, which is being led by Eleni Adrianopulu, Head of the Welcome Centre at the University of Bielefeld and head of the EURAXESS Service Centre in the same city. The EURAXESS network supports researcher mobility, including the integration of displaced researchers and students into European higher education and research. EURAX-

ESS launched Science4Refugees to coordinate the efforts of its network throughout Europe. MCAA member Miguel Antonio Lim was invited to present the results of MCAA's survey on refugee education to the project partners, and Ms Adrianopulu will be a member of the discussion panel of MCAA's ESOF session on refugee education.

Through these interactions, the MCAA became an Associate Partner on the recent BRIDGE2 Science4Refugees proposal, which is also being led by Ms Adrianopulu. The project aims to support the

long-term careers of 300 highly skilled refugee researchers and their integration into the labour markets of EU member states and its associated countries. It will provide high-quality guidance, mentoring and training for refugee researchers, especially postdocs and professors. Should the project be accepted, the MCAA would contribute to the matching of researchers with mentors, communications and outreach. The MCAA would also contribute a member to the Advisory Board.



SPECIAL COVERAGE DISPLACED RESEARCHERS

DISPLACED MIGRANTS IN HIGHER
EDUCATION: SURVEY FINDINGS ON
PATHWAYS AND SUPPORT



The MCAA will hold a session about displaced researchers during the next edition of EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) in Toulouse. [Miguel Antonio Lim](#), [Andreina Laera](#), Rebecca Murray, [Soheil Shayegh](#) have been behind preparations for this session and have provided enough of a sneak preview for us to suggest that you should be there on 11 July at 10:15!

WHY A SURVEY

Practices and attitudes in higher education in relation to displaced students and academics were the

focus of a survey launched by the University of Manchester in collaboration with the MCAA in January 2018. The aim of the survey was to identify the best practices

for integrating displaced students and academics into higher education institutions. In addition, the study investigated the difficulties encountered by displaced people

SPECIAL COVERAGE DISPLACED RESEARCHERS

Andreina Laera



in accessing higher education. The survey was disseminated through various MCAA channels, including social media and personal e-mail, and was sent to both members of the association and of international networks. The study recruited a total of 2 384 respondents.

A similar study was conducted by the European Commission in 2015. It identified several initiatives already taking place in different European countries to support the integration of displaced students in higher education¹. The objectives of such programmes vary – from improving recognition of students' skills to stepping up access to higher education systems, and integrating researchers in the host countries – both academically and socially.

Together, the two studies highlight a need to raise awareness among researchers and institutions of the various practices that have been adopted in Europe to integrate displaced students and academics.

PERCEPTIONS OF EXISTING SUPPORT INITIATIVES

Most respondents were unable to answer questions regarding the inclusion of forced migrants in their host institutions. Although 115 respondents identified themselves as forced migrants themselves, only around a quarter of them were aware initiatives launched by their host institution to support them. Most of the displaced people who responded to the survey originate from Afghanistan, Syria and Turkey. For many of these individuals, their prior academic and professional experience did not adequately prepare them for a successful career in European academic institutions. Furthermore, self-identified forced migrant respondents overwhelmingly pointed to barriers that prevent forced migrant academics from accessing higher institutions in Europe. These relate to, but are not limited to, language and culture, finances and migration status. Similar results have been found in similar studies. A majority of respondents, particularly those unaware of any existing support structures at their university, said that institutions should 'deliver targeted support' for displaced academics (79%) and displaced students (76%). Among respondents who said that no additional support was needed, a variety of reasons were given. Some expressed a preference for a mer-

itocratic system rather than extra support for any particular group.

Some respondents who identified themselves as displaced also came from European countries. This was an unexpected finding, and needs more investigation. It reflects differences in how respondents perceive displacement – some may consider economic or environmental pressures as drivers of forced migration, as well as war.

Finally, some respondents reported being directly involved in initiatives to help forced migrants, and have indicated a willingness to share their experiences. One future goal of the study is to disseminate some of these experiences and best practices across the higher education sector.

CONCLUSIONS: MORE AWARENESS- RAISING REQUIRED

The results of the survey show that most respondents were unaware of any pathways and support systems for forced migrants available at their universities and research centers. Academic institutions and organisations dealing with displaced students and academics need to coordinate efforts that go beyond addressing basic resettlement requirements and facilitate integration into academic institutions. Academic institutions are running

¹ "Higher education for migrants and refugees," Available online at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/migration/higher-education-refugees_en.

SPECIAL COVERAGE DISPLACED RESEARCHERS

Soheil Shayegh



a number of large-scale initiatives in several European countries, but there is as yet no conclusive evidence that these initiatives are reaching their target audience in the most efficient way.

AN INVITATION TO ESOF 2018

The outcomes of this survey will be presented at the Euroscience Open Forum 2018 in Toulouse. The panel discussion on 'how best to integrate academics and student refugees into higher education' is scheduled to take place on 11 July at 10:15. The invited speakers are representatives of different organisations and entities, including the European Commission's EURAX-



Miguel Antonio Lim



ESS Services Network, the Helena Kennedy Foundation, Kiron Open Higher Education, the University of Grenoble Alpes, and an association helping Syrian refugees around Toulouse in France.

We welcome MCAA members and others to contribute in the roundtable discussion with their questions

and experiences.

MIGUEL ANTONIO LIM,
ANDREINA LAERA,
REBECCA MURRAY,
SOHEIL SHAYEGH

SPECIAL COVERAGE DISPLACED RESEARCHERS

INTERVIEW WITH HATICE PINAR SENOGUZ

Originally from Turkey, [Hatice Pinar Senoguz](#) is currently conducting research in Göttingen (Germany). We met her to find out about her life as a displaced researcher, and her advocacy for peace and research freedom.

ABOUT HATICE PINAR SENOGUZ

I'm a post-doctoral researcher and a recognised at-risk scholar from Turkey. I'm also part of the group of scholars known as Academics for Peace. Like many of the Academics for Peace, I have been dismissed by a state decree. For me this was in 2016, when I held a sociology lecturer post. I was teaching at a public university in the city of Gaziantep at the Turkish border with Syria, where I had also been researching local hospitality towards Syrian refugees.

You received your PhD from the Middle East Technical University in 2014 with a historical anthropological study on the border town of Kilis in the Turkish-Syrian frontier. Why did you choose this topic?

I have great interest in exploring the meaning and significance of state borders among citizens of the country concerned, especially the dwellers of border zones. Borders define our belongings. But they are also challenged, manipulated and circumvented. While borders are the places where the State exerts a tight hold and surveillance, they are

also viewed as places of disorder and crime. I am rather convinced that borders have their own stories, ideologies and ways of interaction that border researchers must delve into in order to explore what living at a border means to border dwellers. I assume that borders produce values, practices and relationships that are not found anywhere else in the nation-state. But this requires reflexive anthropology, prompting the researcher to reflect on the ideas and categories that she or he has so far taken for granted.

Today your research focuses on post-migration conflicts at

Turkey's south-east border, and Syrian families' migration trajectories to Germany. Could you tell us about this?

I conduct research on the local reception of Syrian refugees in the border city of Gaziantep. Although the local authorities are very much engaged in promoting the city as hospitable, anti-Syrian sentiments dominate, and impact social encounters – something that is not uncommon in the border regions neighbouring Syria. Several other colleagues working on this topic arrived at similar conclusions based on their observations. Together with

SPECIAL COVERAGE DISPLACED RESEARCHERS

my colleague Estella Carpi from the London School of Economics, we are exploring how hospitality turned into a dominant discursive strategy, that together with the everyday workings of hospitality at a societal level, has come to govern encounters between local hosts and Syrian refugees, and impose socio-spatial control on the refugees themselves.

Can you tell us about Academics for Peace?

Academics for Peace dates back to a time before the petition 'We Will Not Be a Party to This Crime' appeared in early 2016. The group was formed in 2012 when demands for the resolution of a long-standing conflict between the Turkish State and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) became more vocal, and extended to a hunger strike by Kurdish political prisoners. Personally, I had not been involved in the group, but I came across the petition demanding that the State end violence in predominantly Kurdish towns after the peace negotiations

started a few years earlier had dramatically failed. The State violence targeting young Kurdish militants in urban settings aimed not only at annihilating them, but also literally destroying their urban settlements, expelling civilians from their hometowns and even killing. Military operations in the region targeted an 'effective' war against terrorism. The government's reaction to the petition was to criminalise all signees and discredit their demands for an immediate return to the peace negotiations, instead accusing them of supporting a terrorist organisation – namely the PKK. A smear campaign launched by the head of the state and supported by the mainstream national media turned almost every signee into an Academic for Peace and broadened the network. Since then, the Academics for Peace engage in advocacy work and activities showing solidarity in various countries, including Turkey.

Why did you move to Göttingen in Germany?

I moved to Göttingen as I was offered a fellowship from the Philipp Schwartz Initiative that would enable me to continue my academic work. The shifting political situation in Turkey has endangered critical thinking and the prospects for independent science, especially at the smaller Anatolian universities. The purge was followed by trials in increasing numbers against the signees, for whom the prosecutors are requesting 7.5 year prison sentences for legitimising or promoting the methods of the terrorist organisation in the press.

You were a speaker at the March for Science in Göttingen in 2017. Can you tell us about the movement?

I am proud to have joined the first March for Science in Göttingen last year, although this movement dates back further in the US and elsewhere. This movement reminds us of the value of science and academic freedom, which are closely related to the critical thinking and freedom of expression.



SPECIAL COVERAGE DISPLACED RESEARCHERS

The march in Göttingen was very timely, reminding everyone that these values are under threat, with populist and authoritarian governments rising to power not only in Turkey, but also in the US, Europe, South Asia and Latin America. It also coincided with wish to give more visibility to the backlash and repression against the dissidents in my country.

What are the consequences of being displaced for the career of a researcher?

I think the consequences will be long-term and it is currently too early to comment. These consequences are not only personal – being displaced also affects our families, our students and the local communities in which we used to live. The impact of the ongoing purge in Turkey is massive for higher education. It led to the shrinking of intellectual space, coupled with migration and forming of a diaspora of Turkish intellectuals outside of the country. Turkish universities are becoming increasingly destitute places, denouncing diversity among their faculty and students. Being displaced creates psychological destruction at a personal level and is a setback for one's professional life. I have to adapt and re-orient myself in Germany in order to be able to continue my life. Being displaced also brings uncertainty about the future. But being hosted by a welcoming university and colleagues restores my self-esteem, and improves my well-being. The experience has also broadened my horizons and way of seeing things. Under the



pressure of securing a tenure track or positions, we are all as academics affected by increasing precarity within the job market in the higher education sector. But I do not believe that this is an impasse to producing critical knowledge or raising awareness about our concerns.

Do you have hopes and expectations regarding displaced researchers?

The arrival of displaced researchers at European and American universities was facilitated by the personal efforts of colleagues and friends, as well as the institutions who offered solidarity. The fellowships and funds granted to the scholars at risk give them a chance to recover and heal, and gather force to continue their fight. They

also provided an opportunity for new beginnings for others. Sometimes these financial means could also be offered to students at risk, who risk not only being expelled from educational institutions, but also imprisonment. I hope that these financial means can be sustained, and that they continue to reach those in need. Although the humanitarian, economic and political conditions leading to displacement are pervasive around the world, the displaced lack networks of solidarity. I hope the future will bring more opportunities to connect with different groups of displaced researchers and refugees, with whom experiences could be exchanged, common strategies developed and actions taken.

SPECIAL COVERAGE DISPLACED RESEARCHERS

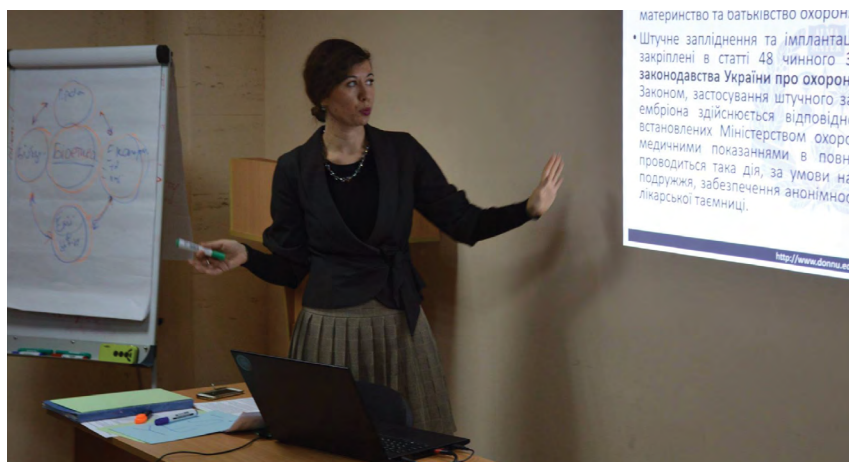
INTERVIEW WITH YULIIA OVCHYNNYKOVA

Originally from Ukraine, Yuliia Ovchynnykova started her career in Donetsk. But when her university – that of Vinnytsia – moved to central Ukraine following political upheaval, she upped and left with it. Here is her story, as well as her hopes and expectations for the future.

ABOUT YULIIA OVCHYNNYKOVA

I'm Acting Dean of the Faculty of Biology, associate professor of the Department of Zoology and Ecology at the Vasyl' Stus Donetsk National University (Vasyl' Stus DonNU). Since 2014, I have also been the Secretary, a member of the Presidium of the Young Scientists' Council at Ukraine's Ministry of Education and Science. In 2015-2017, I was an official Ukraine delegate to the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers (Eurodoc) and was a coordinator of the Interdisciplinarity Working Group of Eurodoc in 2016-2017.

My research interests include the ecological network of Eastern Podilia in the context of balanced development within the region, as well as the structure and dynamics of Collembolla in eastern and central Ukraine, and in particular their bioindicative features and ecological structure.



How long have you been at Donetsk University? What have you been doing there?

I am a graduate of Vasyl' Stus DonNU. All my professional path is connected with the university. From 2002 until 2007, I studied at the university's Faculty of Biology. Then between 2007-2010 I was a postgraduate student and wrote my dissertation on ecology at the Department of Zoology and Ecology.

SPECIAL COVERAGE DISPLACED RESEARCHERS



Since 2008, I have been the Deputy Head of the university's trade union, since 2011 I have been Head of the Educational laboratory on methodological provision of interdisciplinary training and internship. In October 2014, I was appointed Acting Head of the Department of Zoology and Ecology, and since 2016, I have been Acting Dean of the Faculty of Biology.

Could you explain what happened at Donetsk National University in 2014?

In 2014, our university was at the epicenter as events unfolded on the Donbass. On 16 September, the administrative premises of the university were captured by armed groups. University staff and students, who did not even consider cooperation with the invaders, created a public movement, 'Save Alma Mater!'. Our rector, Roman Grynuik, removed the seal from the university, as well as founding

documents. The university flag was taken down so that no trace could be found. A group of students, led by rector Roman Grynuik, met with Ukraine's then-Minister of Education and Science, Sergey Kvit, and a decision was made to move the University to Vinnytsia. An Order by the Ministry of Education and Science on "the organisation of the educational process of the Donetsk National University of Ukraine in Vinnytsia" was signed on 30 September 2014.

In total, more than 5 000 students and about 1 000 teachers moved from Donetsk.

Vasyl' Stus DonNU is a classical university that provides training for future specialists in the natural sciences, and in humanitarian and economic fields of knowledge. It is a powerful scientific and educational complex with the highest level of accreditation, one of the leading higher educational institutions in

Ukraine, and the best University in both Vinnytsia and the Vinnytsia region.

Why Vinnytsia?

In 2014 there was no classical university in Vinnytsia, so much of Donetsk National University's areas of expertise was not covered by other higher education establishments in the city.

The relocated university was renamed Vasyl' Stus; could you tell us about him?

The discussion on naming the university after one of its most famous graduates, Vinnytsia and Donetsk citizen, poet, human rights activist, political prisoner, Hero of Ukraine – Vasyl' Stus (1938-1985) – was relaunched by DonNU graduates in 2016.

Vasyl' Stus was born on 6 January 1938 in the village of Rakhnivka in

SPECIAL COVERAGE DISPLACED RESEARCHERS



the Vinnytsia region. He graduated from the Faculty of Philology at the Donetsk Pedagogical Institute, taught, worked on a newspaper and fought for the revival of national culture throughout his life.

How did the first few months after the move go?

We all understood that there was a lot of work ahead, and the university was ready to fight for each student. We all personally phoned our students and informed them about the transfer to Vinnytsia. A website was also created, where anyone who wanted to cross-check information with us could register.

Classes started on 3 November in practically all faculties and for all student groups (full-time, part-time and distance learners). Today the university has 9 faculties, in which more than 5 000 students study.

As for the Faculty of Biology, we

started with two chairs, one table and one room. Equipment, desks and boards were later purchased using grant funds and donations. In Donetsk, we had enjoyed a seven-storey building, two museums, and a separate floor for each department. In Vinnytsia we now have one floor and a number of auditoriums, in which we prepare future biologists and environmentalists.

The big problem for the university in Vinnitsa is the lack of student accommodation.

But in spite of all the difficulties and the considerable distance to travel from home to the university, there is a real university atmosphere and a good student life. Also, we are actively integrating into the Vinnytsia community, creating new innovative projects and educational programmes. Honestly, we have not for a minute let our shoulders droop, or abandoned our beliefs and hard work.

The original university campus continues to operate in Donetsk. What is the link between both campuses?

There is no cooperation and interaction between our universities. It should be noted that the only legitimate Vasyl' Stus Donetsk National University operates in the city of Vinnytsia! Those who stayed in Donetsk are imitating the education system run on our campus, and are acting outside of Ukrainian legislation!

Are you working with Russia in international projects?

To date, research and educational cooperation with Russia's institutions and organisations has been suspended.

How would you describe your university three years after the move?

Vasyl' Stus DonNU has gradually



SPECIAL COVERAGE DISPLACED RESEARCHERS

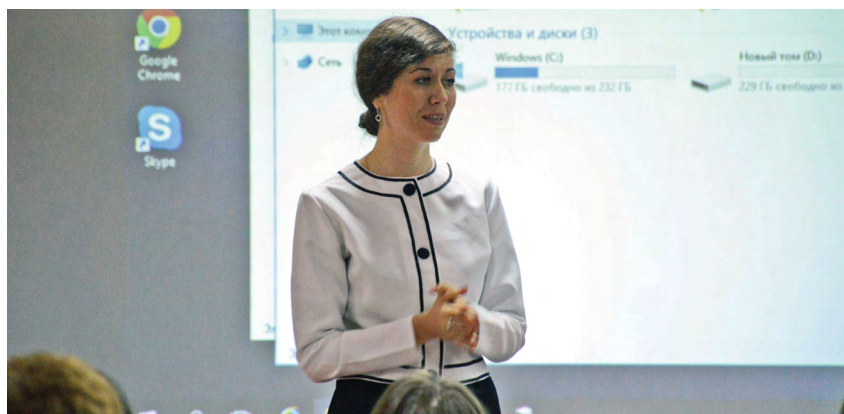
restored its resources and technical base. It has also created a co-working centre and a science park (DonNU-Podilia), developed its professorial teaching staff, began to recover the status it once had in national and international ratings, and is becoming a leading university locally. The university has also significantly intensified international cooperation; created an unprecedented partnership network and significantly strengthened relations between schools, government and the local community in order to implement joint socially beneficial projects.

Will the university's diplomas be recognised worldwide?

Vasyl' Stus DonNU issues European-model diplomas. The appendices are in two languages – Ukrainian and English. These contain information on all passed courses, training assessments and the number of ECTS, as well as information on the national system of higher education in Ukraine. Our university's diplomas are recognised as diplomas in accordance with procedures adopted under the The Hague and Lisbon Conventions.

What impact will being a displaced researcher have on your career?

I hope none, because, frankly speaking, it is morally very difficult to have the status of a displaced person. A person who has seen war up close and been forced to leave everything, to move and to prove his or her patriotism – not



through words, but through a deed – aspires to feel like a full citizen of his or her country. It is very important for me to campaign for equal rights in a democratic society in which you are respected as a professional and individual, regardless of whether you have the status of displaced person.

What are your hopes and expectations?

I hope that our university will progressively grow, continue to celebrate its glorious traditions and multiply its achievements. I sincerely believe that the natural sciences will gain popularity in Ukraine, and I believe that we will be able to fully restore our resources and facilities, including open laboratories, to build a campus and find a life-university balance. No matter how difficult it has been for us – working in new conditions, in a new city – we try to look to the future with confidence, we take small and very responsible steps each and every day, because NOMEN EST OMEN!

Are you aware of any platforms or programmes helping displaced researchers?

During the move, the university was assisted by donors from different countries around the world, by partners and graduates. For almost two years, the university received significant support from the ICF 'Renaissance' initiative within the framework of the European Development of Donetsk National University programme. Today, the Faculties of Natural Science need particular support. To participate actively in international programmes (Horizon 2020, Erasmus Plus and others), we need to confirm the availability of laboratory equipment for performing high-quality scientific work. But this is problematic as we do not have sufficient material resources. So we see other scientific consortia and joint laboratories created involving other organisations and institutions.

The main priorities for us today are therefore undoubtedly international cooperation, the internationalisation of science and education, fundraising and the search for support programmes for our university.

NEWS FROM WORKING GROUPS

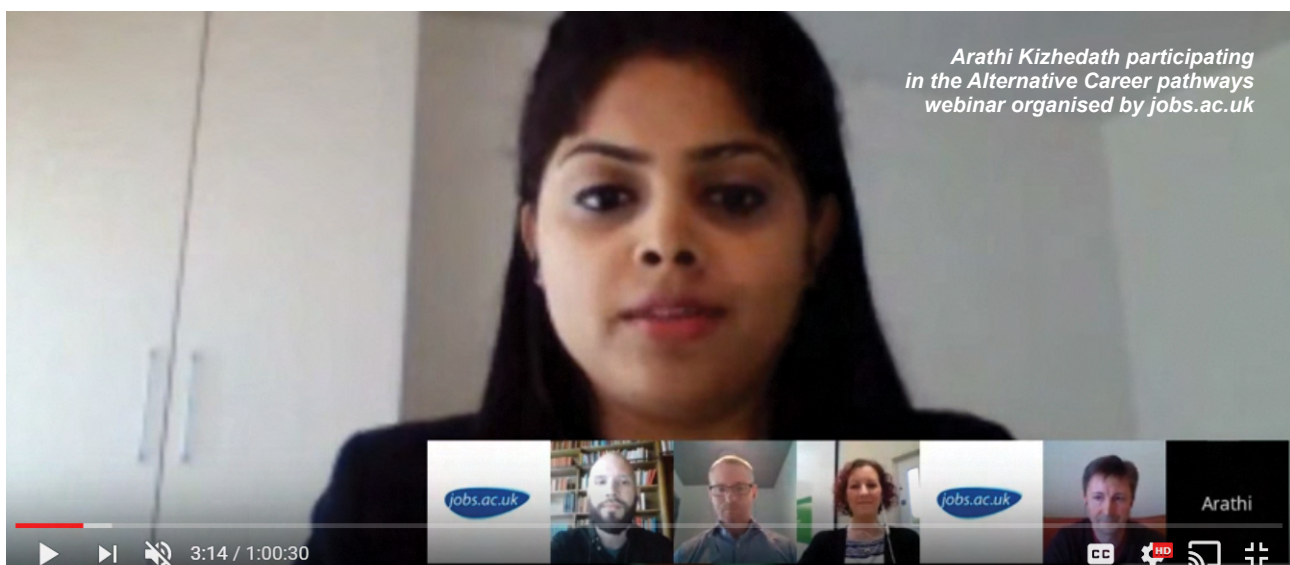
MEET ARATHI KIZHEDATH, CHAIR OF THE MCAA CAREER WORKING GROUP

[Arathi Kizhedath](#) is the Chair of the [Career Development Working Group](#). We met her to find out more about the group's past and future activities.

ABOUT ARATHI KIZHEDATH

I am an early stage researcher at Newcastle University within the EU H2020 Innovative Training Network BIORAPID. I was a founding member of the Career Development Working Group within the Alumni Curie Alumni Association; it aims to provide transversal skills to researchers for more holistic development. I am an active advocate of science without barriers and boundaries and firmly believe that collaboration is the way forward.

I graduated from Wageningen University and Research Center, the Netherlands (MSc.ir) and VIT University, India (BTech). I have also volunteered with several public engagement platforms, such as Soapbox Science and theNational Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU), and I have been both the RA representative on the Equality and Diversity committee at Newcastle University and a student representative at Wageningen University.



NEWS FROM WORKING GROUPS

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MCAA

As a founder member of the MCAA's Career Development Group, I have been actively involved in its activities, as well as that of the MCAA in general in various capacities. I have represented the MCAA in a collaborative initiative with jobs.ac.uk for early stage career development webinars, e-books and articles, and I contributed to the MCAA's representation at the Vitae Researcher Development International Conference 2017.

I am also currently involved in the administration of Oxford EPIGEUM courses, in the capacity of MCAA Career development Working Group. I am also an active member and contributor to the [MCAA Indian Chapter](#). Being associated with the MCAA for the last two years has been an incredible learning experience for me, especially for my professional growth. It gave me immense pride to be a part of and to contribute to this organisation, and this was my impetus to apply for the Chair position.

CHANGE IN ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

The Working Group now has a new structure for management of various activities. The current team and distribution of activities are as follows.



Brian Cahill and Julianne Sauer at the Career day, German Cancer Centre Heidelberg, Germany

Designation	Member
Chair	Arathi Kizhedath
Vice Chair (Operations)	Fran Cardells
Vice Chair (Funding and fellowships)	Juliane Sauer
Vice Chair (Strategic partnerships)	Brian Cahill
Vice Chair (Networking)	Maria Antonietta Buccheri
Vice Chair (MCAA Academy)	Francesco Grassi
Communications and events	Sajid Mohammed
Epigeum Courses	Pablo Tomatis

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

Career day at Heidelberg:

Brian Cahill and Julianne Sauer were speakers at an event hosted by the German Cancer Research Centre in Heidelberg. Prof. Stefan Hell, the only Marie Curie Fellow to win a Nobel Prize, was the plenary speaker.

Brian Cahill and Julianne Sauer at the Career day, German Cancer Centre Heidelberg, Germany

Brian Cahill was invited to the EURAXIND project meeting in the Netherlands. EURAXIND is a new project bringing together seven partners and seven third-parties from the EURAXESS Service Network with the aim of increasing industry participation in EURAXESS services. It will develop resources to support researchers and institutions as they seek to increase industry and research collaboration opportunities, and for institutions and industry promoting these opportunities.

NEWS FROM WORKING GROUPS

Arathi Kizhedath was a panellist on the 60-minute live video 'Alternative Career Pathways After Your PhD' organised by jobs.ac.uk. The webinar had over 2.5k views, and can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkiCq1d7fY>

Arathi Kizhedath contributed to two e-books published by jobs.ac.uk

'PhD employability: Career pathways and recruiter insights'

This e-book is a summary of the special interest session run by jobs.ac.uk at the Vitae International Conference 2017 (<http://www.jobs.ac.uk/careers-advice/resources/ebooks-and-toolkits/phd-employability-career-pathways-and-recruiter-insights>)

'Alternative Career Pathways After Your PhD: An essential checklist'

(<http://www.jobs.ac.uk/careers-advice/resources/ebooks-and-toolkits/alternative-career-pathways-after-your-phd>)

The Career Development Working Group session at MCAA GA 2018 was attended by more than 100 participants and was the most popular parallel session of GA2018.

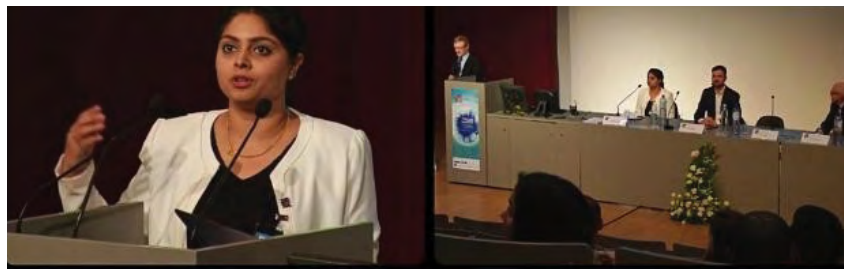
- Dirk Haaksman (Euraxess, Nuffic, the Netherlands) spoke about intersectoral mobility of researchers;
- Frans Cardells (Salesforce, UK) spoke about preparing for career transitions;
- Arathi Kizhedath (Newcastle University, UK) spoke about career development planning during a fellowship.

A careers panel was organised by the WG at the MCAA UK Chapter Annual General Meeting 2018: The session was attended by more than 60 participants. This was chaired by Arathi Kizhedath and the panel brought together:

- **Michael Browne**, Head of European Research and Innovation, UCL;
- **Dominika Bijos**, Instructional Designer, Medical writer, Delta Kn;
- **Chance Coughenour**, Program Manager, Google Cultural Institute;
- **Mattias Björnmalm**, Lead co-ordinator of qBioNano, Imperial College London;
- **Cleo Kontoravdi**, Reader in Biosystems Engineering, Imperial College London.



Fran Cardell (Salesforce UK) gets the audience thinking about their mission statement for career development. Dirk Haaksman (Euraxess, the Netherlands) shares insights from the EURAXIND project highlighting trends in intersectoral mobility.



(Top left) Arathi Kizhedath (Newcastle University) presenting how to make the best of career planning during the fellowship period. (Top right) Ex MCAA chair and CDWG founding member Brian Cahill introducing the panel members. (Bottom panel) Career Development Working Group at the MCAA GA 2018 parallel session.

NEWS FROM WORKING GROUPS



(Top left panel) The MCAA UK Chapter Annual General Meeting 2018. (Top right panel) Arathi Kizhedath introducing the career sessions panel (from the left): Cleo Kontaravdi, Chance Coughenour, Dominika Bijos, Michael Browne and Mattias Björnmalm. (Bottom Panel) Culmination of the session and summarising the career tips provided by the panellists.

Ex-CDWG chair Adel Pastor was behind the design of the MCAA 2017 survey. The results will be disseminated by the CDWG.

Brian Cahill attended the International Organisations Career Fair in Berlin on 3 March 2018. The event was run by the German Foreign Office and Brian was able to contact potential sponsors of the GA in Vienna, such as EMBL, EPSO and WIPO.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2018

Still to come: a major career event, the MCAA GA 2019, two confirmed sessions at ESOF, a grant writing webinar, collaborative events with external partners and MCAA chapters/WGs. We look forward to feedback and ideas from all MCAA members!

MESSAGE FOR MCAA MEMBERS

First, I would like to thank everyone for their continued contribution and participation in the Career Development Working Group so far. I would also like to thank Adel Pastor for her contributions as the previous Chair of this Working Group, and for organising an excellent survey which attracted more than 5 000 participants. The Career Development Working Group has been attracting a large audience (over 100 participants at the GA 2018) and we believe we can make a positive contribution, ensuring that this aspect of the MCAA shines through and benefits MCAA members as well as a wider audience! It will also facilitate continued support for the comprehensive development of researcher profiles as well as prepare for a transition to alternative careers. The following priorities will

guide our future activities:

- Uncovering career development needs;
- Maximising development opportunities;
- Amplifying strategic partnerships;
- Unleashing community engagement;
- Boosting mindshare outside of academia.

We champion the value of scientists outside of academia and strive to boost versatile employment opportunities. Our contribution to the MCAA mission will be in:

- **developing a career development platform** for researchers and scientists (from life sciences, engineering and social sciences) to bring in dedicated help and expertise for career pathways;
- **strategic alliances with external sponsors** such as jobs.ac.uk, OxygenEUM and other firms/consultancies to develop dedicated career guides and bring sponsorships via career events;
- **alliances with other Working Groups and Chapters** for high impact events – activities have already been initiated;
- **dedicated workshops and courses** for members to develop transversal skills and use MCAA for facilitating professional growth;
- **increasing the global impact and presence** of the MCAA.

With a dedicated team and valuable contributions from the WG members, we look forward to taking the activities of the CDWG to greater heights!

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

A NEW BOARD FOR THE AUSTRIAN CHAPTER

As of 21 April, the [Austrian Chapter](#) has a new Board! We met [Mohammad Rezaei](#), Chair of that Board, to find out more about what's coming up.



You have been elected as the new Chair of the Austrian Chapter, congratulations! Could you say a few words about yourself?

Thanks. It is a privilege and honour to serve the Austrian chapter and give back something to the Marie Curie Association. My name is Mo-

hammad Rezaei. I am originally Iranian, born in Tehran in 1984. I am a full-time explorer. I love exploring. I love to go out into the unknown and discover the unknown. Finding problems that need to be solved. I did my undergraduate studies in chemical engineering and obtained a master's degree in process

engineering. After my master's, I was accepted for an Innovative Training Network (ITN) programme called 'MULTIMOD', jointly hosted in Austria and Greece. I obtained my Ph.D. in chemical process engineering from Johannes Kepler University (JKU) in Linz and currently, I am working as a postdoctoral fellow there.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

The Chapter elections took place in Graz on 21 April. How did they go?

It was a simple election. Since I had been working with the Austrian Chapter Board for two years as the Vice-Chair, I was completely familiar with the tasks, challenges, and opportunities one can expect from the role. The Chapter members simply placed their trust in these experiences and voted for me. Besides my election, Jana Kemnitz was elected as the Chapter vice-Chair, and Simona Zajkoska and Zlatan Ajanovic were selected for the public relations and secretary roles.

How many members does the Chapter have and what is your target?

The Austrian chapter currently has 65 members and of course, we would love to have as many as possible.

What are the Chapter's current objectives?

The current objectives are to make the members active in the Chapter and also serve the members by providing as much training as possible. In this regard, I have proposed a plan to cover the expenses of some online hard and soft skill courses offered by some of the world's best universities through Coursera or edX. We plan to discuss this matter within the Board in more detail and will then seek approval from the association.

Do you already have plans for events?

We will be organising social events



in the major Austrian cities where the members are resident: Vienna, Linz, Graz, and Salzburg. People can get together locally and simply socialise and share their experiences and ideas. More importantly, we are honoured that the next General Assembly will be held in Austria, in Vienna. A special task force has already started working on this and we hold a monthly meeting to discuss preparations. All of us are so excited about this event and we hope to meet you all next year in Vienna!

What would you say to people who are considering joining the Austrian Chapter?

I definitely encourage all current and past Marie Curie Fellows to join the chapter. This will provide a win-win situation for both members and the Chapter. Simply reach out to me out if you have any questions regarding the chapter: mohammad.rezaei@jku.at, austria.chapter@mariecuriealumni.eu

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

A NEW CHAPTER UP AND RUNNING FOR CROATIA



The Croatian Chapter was launched recently. [Maja Mise](#), its Chair, told us about its objectives.

The kick-off event took place on 6 April at the Ruder Boskovic Institute in Zagreb – congratulations! How did the launch go?

The kick-off meeting was very successful. There were more than 30 attendees – members of the Croatian Chapter. A lot of our members are also new members of the MCAA. So, it was important to start the kick-off with a presentation of the MCAA, to present how it works, as well as its achievements, and finally the benefits of MCAA membership. Also, we took this opportunity to establish a collaboration with the national agency for mobility and EU programmes, which includes EURAXESS Croatia. The latter had been a great help in connecting the newly established Chapter with Croatian researchers, MSCA Alumni in Croatia and abroad, and with the National Science Foundation and Ministry of Science and Education.

We also presented the activities planned for the upcoming months, and discussed how to tackle the most important issues in research



NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

and for researchers within the national context.

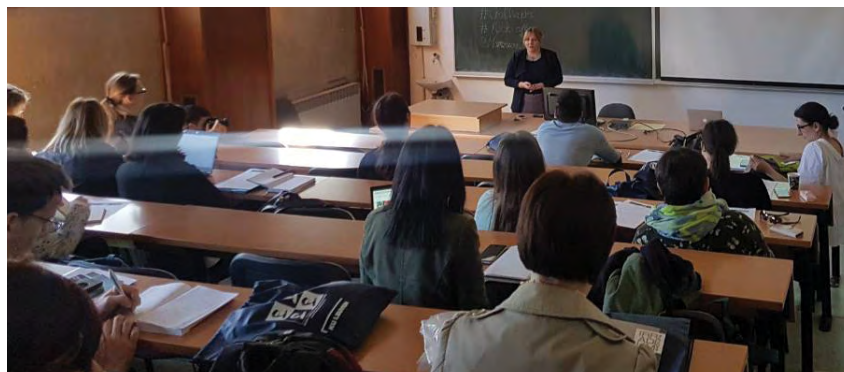
How many members do you currently count and what is your target?

The Croatian Chapter currently has 57 members, but this number could be greater, since there are 122 potential members within the MCAA. So, we urge Croatian MCAA members who have not yet joined the Chapter to do so, and to help us build the Chapter. We would like to extend the invitation in particular to those members who are currently in Croatia, and those who are planning to return to Croatia, to help us build the community of MSCA Fellows, and to establish national and regional networks.

I would like to highlight that our current membership is gender-balanced, and most of the members are young researchers.

What are the Chapter's current objectives?

The current objective is to introduce MSCA values and prospects to the Croatian research community; universities, research centres and the private sector, thus encouraging communication and collaboration with local and regional networks. This will be achieved through different activities and events, such as workshops and seminars. We would also like to promote the MSC Actions within the Croatian research community and to do so, we will support and facilitate connections between MSCA Fellows and prospective MSCA applicants one of Chapter's strongest advantages is its geographical location,



which lends itself to networking and collaboration between MCAA members from neighbouring countries. This makes Croatia a bellwether in this part of the Europe. We have already reached out to MSCA national contact points in Serbia, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, inviting them to participate in our events.

Do you already have plans for events?

We have planned two major events for this spring; at the end of May, we will hold, in collaboration with the Agency for mobility and EU programmes, the workshop 'Responsible research: research integrity and Open Science in MSCA projects' in Zagreb. The workshop will have prominent speakers, experienced and young researchers, from the University of Split, University of Rijeka and Ruder Boskovic Institute, who will focus on practices in the national context.

We are also organising a session called 'What has Horizon2020 brought to young researchers?' for the conference 'Young researchers in a highly skilled landscape', organised by the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education. The focus of the conference is young research-

ers. The objective of the conference is to engage researchers, particularly young researchers in Croatia, in discussions on the next framework programme for research, and Croatia's involvement therein. This is very important, as Croatian participation in Horizon 2020 is low. This will be an excellent opportunity to establish direct communication with the Ministry of Science and Education.

Our members have also been present at various science communication events, such as the Festival of Science in Zagreb and Open Days at the Ruder Boskovic Institute.

What would you say to people who are considering joining the Croatian Chapter?

First, the Croatian Chapter will promote our members, and will raise awareness of Croatia's excellent researchers among the local scientific community. With collaboration with the Agency for mobility and EU programmes, EURAXESS and local universities and research institutes established, the Croatian Chapter will provide members abroad with an opportunity to stay in contact with Croatian researchers; this could foster future collaboration.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

THE DANISH CHAPTER: A POTENTIAL TO TAP



We met Maria E. Mondejar Montagud, Chair of the Danish Chapter to find out what the Chapter has been up to, and what lies ahead.

MEMBERS

As of today, the Chapter has 74 members. According to the MCAA database there are about 212 people who are somehow linked to Denmark. However, it is difficult to judge how many of these people are really working or living in Denmark (or plan to come back). We have also found out that many people do not know about the MCAA. We have set ourselves the target of having at least 100 members.

OBJECTIVES

One of the current objectives is to reach all Marie Curie alumni located in Denmark who do not know yet about the MCAA. By contacting the universities' research services we were able to reach some researchers, but we know that there are many more who remain unaware of the MCAA.

A second objective is to develop activities that are of interest for the members. In this vain, we will soon send out a survey to members.

Finally we are seeking external sponsoring for our activities. We are in contact with some institutions and research services that are supporting us with information on funding options, but we are hoping to get some industrial partners and the embassies of our countries of origin involved.

MEETING ON MOBILITY: 5 MAY

The event went very well and led to a number of interesting discussions among participants on international mobility and the challenges that we face when we are 'mobile'.

The day included a brief presentation of the chapter board members and past activities, as well as thought-provoking presentations:

- Ruth Anderson (board member) presented her remarkable research on the importance of marine bacteria in the Öresunds Sea;
- Luca Tateo (board member) presented a very interesting view on how international mobility in sci-



ence is not new, but goes back to the Middle Ages, when students and researchers crossed borders in a quest for knowledge;

- Paula Fernandez introduced the Community of Spanish Scientists in Denmark, as well as a number of their amazing activities, which are open to all researchers;
- Martin Nielsen, recent recipient of the prestigious Villum Young Investigator fellowship, presented his experiences of applying for research funding, and provided very useful tips on applying for advanced research grants.

WHAT'S IN THE PIPELINE?

Right now we are discussing some

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS



MCAA WORKSHOP: DRIVING SOLUTIONS FOR SCIENCE IN BUSINESS WORKSHOP

5 & 6 JULY 2018
PARIS-SACLAY
CLIMB
HIGHER
HEIGHTS



options for activities, but we will also consider whatever our members tell us via the survey. There are plans to participate Researchers' Night here in Denmark, as well as in 'book a researcher' -type events . We are considering a workshop on supervision for members, but nothing has been finalised yet.

COME AND JOIN THE CHAPTER!

I would recommend people to join for a number of reasons:

- Get to know other fellows – even they they are from different fields and countries, they are sharing your experiences of being a researcher, international mobility, etc. This can also be a good opportunity to network for future jobs and collaborations.
- Stay up to date with the latest news on our activities, and how to participate in them. You may also contribute your ideas on what you would like to have, or what you are missing;
- Get in touch with people in rele-

vant institutions (Ministry of Education, etc.) for information on funding or other support.

MARIA E. MONDEJAR
MONTAGUD

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

MCAA UK CHAPTER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Stefan Bauer, Chair of the United Kingdom Chapter, is happy to announce that the second General Assembly of the UK Chapter (24 March 2018 in London) was a success! Keep reading to find out more!



Like last year's, our second MCAA-UK General assembly was a remarkable success. Around 50 Fellows attended the event and came from all over the country, including Glasgow, Dublin, Belfast and Newcastle. In addition, we also had Fellows travelling from Spain and Greece.

The attendees were from different career stages (41.9% PhD / 41.9% post-docs / 7% faculty / 9 % NA), mainly from the life sciences (39.5 %)

and engineering (32.6 %) sectors.

The event kicked-off with an introduction to the MCAA UK Chapter by the Chair, Stefan Bauer, who presented the latest stats on Chapter membership and information about the latest MSCA funding rounds.

This was followed by an entertaining flash presentation session, with Alice Biggane (University of Liverpool), Beatriz Martinez Bur-

go (Newcastle University), Vicky De Groof (University of Bath), Efsthia Gkioni (University of Liverpool), Erisa Karafili (Imperial College), Cecilia Lee (Royal College of Art), Fernando Rosas (Imperial College), Gonçalo Rosas (Queen's University Belfast) and Emmanuel Salifu (University of Strathclyde). This session was particularly interesting as it allowed the audience to capture the wide variety of subjects funded by the MSCA, ranging from translational medicine to immunology, neuroscience, computer science, applied health, service design, nutrition & metabolomics, sustainable chemistry and bio-geotechnics!



NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

Our 2018 Assembly included parallel sessions as follows:

1. **Mend the gap between science and business – Sundar Thirumalai, Chair of the session (MC ESR at the University of Cambridge)**
2. **Problems & Fixes – Stefan Bauer, Chair of the session (MC Alumnus, Lecturer at the University of York)**
3. **Open Research – Mark Bason (MC Alumnus, Research Fellow at the University of Sussex)**
4. **Strategic communications for engagement and impact – Sophie (MC ESR at the Open University)**
5. **Keynote – Researcher displacement – Miguel Antonio Lim from University of Manchester (Speaker)**
6. **The Future Partnership project**
7. **Career pathways for Researchers: An Insight – Arathi Kizhe-**

dath (MC ESR at Newcastle University)

8. **Humanities brainstorming – Stefan Bauer (MC Alumnus, Lecturer at the University of York)**

PUB SLAM

The programme was followed by a Science Slam in the pub, hosted by Giacomo Tarroni and Juan Cerrolaza (both MC RFs at Imperial College London). The judge was Alistair Jennings (Creative Director, Collab-Lab). We had six splendid participants, Maria Laura Greco (ESR at MedImmune, Cambridge), Katja Jonsas (ESR at University of Roehampton, London), Yana Wade (MC RF at the University of Bath), Dominika Bijos (MC Alumna and Instructional designer at Delta Kn, London), Valentina Ferro (MCAA Vice-chair), Coren Pulleyblank (MC ESR at Dublin City University).

Ideas for future events included help with ERC grant applications (we would like to cooperate with UKRO on organising ad hoc info



sessions on ERC grants), women in science, mental health and sustainability. Other suggestions include: more informal social meet-ups, hands-on workshops, events in the North of England and differentiation between PhD/post-doc events. We are also considering having a representative for each category (ESR/ER/Out of academia) in the committee so that they can voice each category's ideas/concerns.

In the meantime, if you have any other ideas (or concerns) or would simply like to be actively involved in the committee chapter, drop us an e-mail at mcaauk@gmail.com.

A full report and programme of the sessions can be found at <https://mcaauklondon2018.wordpress.com/>.



**STEFAN BAUER
(CHAIR)**

**MARK BASON
(SECRETARY)**

**MARIA M. RAZALAN
(MEMBER
ENGAGEMENT
OFFICE)**

RESEARCH

HOW THE MEDIA CAN IMPACT HEALTH BEHAVIOUR: AN INTERVIEW WITH NEHAMA LEWIS

Nehama Lewis, Ordinary Board Member, Senior Lecturer, Department of Communication, University of Haifa, has Australian-Israeli citizenship. Following her doctoral studies in communication (University of Pennsylvania, 2010) and postdoctoral research in psychology (Florida International University, 2010-2012), she received a Marie Curie Career Reintegration Grant to investigate the ways in which young adults in Israel and the US engage with information about drugs from the media and interpersonal sources. We met her to discuss the effects of media on health behaviours.

Dr Lewis, a scan of your CV shows that your research interests are health communication, information seeking and scanning, persuasion and message effects. What led you in this direction?

I was always interested in the process people follow when making decisions, and the factors that persuade us to behave in particular ways. During my undergraduate studies in communication, I became more interested in understanding the ways in which one of these factors – the media – influences this process.

One of the most important contexts for decision-making is health. We all make day-to-day decisions such as what to eat, drink, or whether to exercise, but are also faced with more critical decisions such as whether to be screened for can-

cer. These choices can impact our lives, but also impact society.

All of these interests contributed to my choice to study health communication. This area applies concepts and theories from psychology to test the impacts of the media and health information on our health behaviours.

Do we all actively look for information about health? How does behaviour differ?

Many people do look for information about health, sometimes on a regular basis and sometimes in reaction to a particular need for information (e.g. a disease diagnosis). However, others prefer to avoid information-seeking in relation to health. Research suggests that younger, more educated people tend to look for information from a broader range of sources, and that the ability to find, comprehend and



utilise health information is related to health literacy, which varies across individuals and groups.

There are many ways in which people look for and find information, and these have changed as our technology evolves. For many people, curiosity about a health topic leads to searching on their phone, or via the internet, but others prefer to ask friends or their doctor.

RESEARCH



What I find interesting is that our attitudes towards health topics are also influenced by information we didn't specifically look for – information we come across incidentally (through scanning). For example, we might hear about a new treatment when a friend mentions it, or come across an article about a health topic in our newsfeed. We may not be aware of the impact of information engagement, but research shows that it does affect our attitudes and health behaviours.

You conducted research about the way individuals seek information in relation to drugs. Can you tell us more about that?

My [Marie Curie Career Reintegration Grant](#) (2013-2017) supported research on the effects of information about non-medical drug use on drug use intentions and behaviour. The results showed that information-seeking is an early indicator of intention to use drugs and drug use among young adults. This is consistent with the idea that young adults may not necessarily decide to use drugs on the spur of the mo-

ment. As with other behaviours, the decision to use drugs non-medically may follow a process of information gathering from various interpersonal and media sources. The implications are that, from a prevention standpoint, providing information that can address the needs and curiosity of individuals at greater risk may reduce the likelihood of future non-medical drug use.

What role does the media play in providing information about drugs?

From a health and legal perspective, there is public interest in preventing non-medical drug use, particularly among young people. However, the media plays a complex role in these efforts. For example, coverage of marijuana, which was previously negative, has been influenced by increasing public support for the legalisation of marijuana in many U.S. states and other countries. Other technological advances, such as the dark web, and mobile applications such as Telegram, have made information about drugs, but also the drugs themselves, more accessible.

Drug-related information in the media has also become more difficult to regulate, as people seek information from online sources and come across a range of perspectives on this topic. At the same time, government-funded anti-drug campaigns have also had mixed success rates in influencing drug use behaviours. Thus, the media can potentially play an important role in shaping the way we think about drugs, but the influence may not always be to discourage use.

How should the media encourage healthy behaviour in your eyes?

There is a lot of excellent research in health communication that can be applied to designing more effective, strategic media campaigns to encourage healthy behaviours. However, even the most carefully designed media campaign will typically have a limited effect on health behaviours. Many people don't want to be told that they have to change their habits or adopt new ones. The most effective strategy to change health behaviours includes media campaigns alongside policy changes to create an environment that encourages behaviour change (through incentives or enforcement). This approach has been used to change behaviours such as smoking and seatbelt use.

She will be presenting this work at ESOF on July 10 in Toulouse.

MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS

THE MCAA MEMBER BEHIND THE START-UP 'ABRICOTOIT'

Abricotoit grew out of Julien Girardon's interest in plant biotechnology. The start-up uses urban farming to raise awareness of the sustainable development issues linked to city-living. Learn about this successful story!

ABOUT JULIEN GIRARDON

I'm French, and before starting my PhD studies with a Marie Curie Action, I spent time in several different French cities improving my skills. After general education in laboratory analysis, I obtained a first degree in ecosystems and populations biology, and finished my university education with a Master's degree in plant biotechnology.



MY MARIE CURIE EXPERIENCE: THE HARVEST PROJECT AND NETWORK

The Harvest network brings together major high-quality EU centres with expertise in a wide range of disciplines – from plant physiology to molecular biology, structural biology and photophysics – and who have a great interest in interdisciplinary collaborative research. The network will thus provide a unique training opportunity for young researchers in key aspects of molecular biosciences and biophysical sciences, for example in practical applications in instrument development, agronomy, ecology and biotechnology.

I worked on photoregulation at the pigment and protein levels in the

MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS

laboratory of Prof. Roberto Bassi of the Università degli Studi di Verona, Italy for three years. I focused in particular on LHCSR protein in the moss *Physcomitrella patens*.

The Harvest project was an unforgettable experience. First, at the scientific level, it provided high-quality training and the opportunity to travel in the best laboratories worldwide. Second, at a human level, it led to solid connections between all PhD students taking part in the Marie Curie Action.

MY BUSINESS: ABRICOTOIT

Abricotoit uses urban farming as a vector to raise awareness of sustainable development issues among the population of individual. Thanks to the Marie Curie Action, I travelled to diverse cities worldwide, and learned about the place

that plants have in big cities. After my PhD, when I came back to Marseilles, (France), I rediscovered a mineral city and a population disconnected from the realities of food and agriculture.

Today I split my time between Marseilles and Paris. Through urban farming, I produce ingredients for a restaurant in Marseilles, and hops for a local craft brewery in Paris.

TRANSITION BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY

The transition is not easy, but there are similarities. During my PhD, I was usually working on many projects simultaneously. But in industry, you must focus exclusively on one or two projects to avoid wasting energy. The language used and the way in which communication

happens are considerably different between academia and industry, and reactive time is faster in industry.

MY ADVICE TO MCAA MEMBERS WISHING TO CREATE THEIR OWN BUSINESS

All MCAA members have reached a very high level in their research field. But even though they might have a wonderful idea, they have not been trained to become entrepreneurs. Sometimes business acumen is lacking. Before opening my company, I attended entrepreneurship training for six months. I would encourage MCAA members to seek advice from an organisation supporting the set-up of a new business.



SPONSORS

NEW SOFTWARE VAULTITUDE REVOLUTIONIZES THE PROTECTION OF INNOVATION THROUGH BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

Due to its notary-like characteristics, the Blockchain awards actual proof of authorship. That is the basis for both defending intellectual property (IP) rights, such as copyrights, and for being qualified to receive awarded rights, such as patents.

Blockchain technology has already been identified as a game changer for the IP industry by the likes of Francis Gurry, Director General of WIPO, and Antonio Campinos, EU-IPO Executive Director. Also the EU is heading into the same direction – the eIDAS regulation (an EU regulation on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market) already prohibits courts from denying the legal admissibility of timestamps.

Vaultitude is a browser based software to be released in Q3 2018 that will revolutionize IP protection and as such can offer a number of distinct advantages to MCAA members. Inspired by the team's background in academic research, the platform offers free registration and can be used for safe storage of data, clear proof of ownership, cheaper and faster defensive publication and the secure transfer and sale of IP. Thanks to a partnership with leading authorities in the intellectual property industry, Vaultitude has been designed to solve the challenges innovators face on a daily basis.



Protect your innovations with Blockchain technology. Visit www.vaultitude.com

Vaultitude's benefits:

- Safe Storage of IPs and Trade Secrets tailor-made for IP departments
- Proof of Authorship & Practical application of Copyrights
- Defensive Publication will be faster, safer and cheaper
- Safer Sharing of Confidential Data by putting NDAs on the Blockchain
- Sell / License / Transfer of confidential data
- Search & Analyse IP data
- Networking
- Filing Patents & TMs
- Optional Peer Review and Ratings functionality

"The new technology that Vaultitude offers is the basis for a tool

that sensibly complements existing options and ensures greater comfort and security for the protection of IP", explains Richard Brunner, Global Head of Legal of Dennmeyer Group, a leading IP law group.

A game change for the protection of IP, Vaultitude is being presented at IP conferences and events organized by EPO, EUIPO, WTO, WIPO, local patent offices, universities and international associations such as IEEE and LESI. Vaultitude also has the friendly support of MCAA, which welcomes the notion of increased protection for the creations of its members. To learn more visit the project's website at www.vaultitude.com

SPONSORS

EURO-BIOIMAGING: EUROPE'S RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE FOR IMAGING TECHNOLOGIES



European Research Infrastructure for Imaging Technologies
in Biological and Biomedical Sciences

A wide range of research projects require some sort of imaging input and many researchers are often faced with the challenge that the state-of-the-art equipment and technical expertise required to perform advanced imaging is not available at their home institute. These problems are exactly what Euro-BioImaging aims to overcome – this research infrastructure exists to break down the barriers associated with biological and medical imaging.

Euro-BioImaging is actually a European-wide network of 29 imaging facilities (also known as Nodes) offering a selection of 36 distinct imaging technologies across 10 European countries and EMBL. Euro-BioImaging offers the following **open access** services:

Access to cutting-edge imaging technologies: From Super Resolution Light Microscopy to Electron Microscopy, EuBI offers access to the latest imaging technologies to allow you to generate innovative results.

Expert training and support:

Each Node is staffed with personnel who can provide the support required to maximise the output of your research project. Guidance is available for all aspects of the imaging pipeline, from study design to image capture.

Image processing and storage:

Data storage and analysis is a significant problem considering the large and complex datasets generated by imaging technologies. Euro-BioImaging can help extract meaningful conclusions from your data and, through tools such as [Image Data Resource](#), can give you the means to store and disseminate your data.

All life scientists, from academia to industry can access Euro-BioImaging services. These services are available now while Euro-BioImaging is in its “interim phase” and we all look forward to the coming months when Euro-BioImaging becomes a fully established European Research Infrastructure Con-

sortium (EuBI ERIC).

Click [here](#) for more information including access to the application form and a list of the available technologies.