

Academic Visit at IEA Hamburg

Jina Kim

Ph.D. student at Indiana University Bloomington

My two months at IEA have been a wonderful experience both academically and professionally. I came to IEA via a summer internship program offered by Indiana University Bloomington in collaboration with IEA.

One of the most important goals for me was to investigate International Large-scale Assessment data using geospatial analysis. I had been working with data in the U.S. context at smaller scales such as a school district, an enclave, or a state. A substantial portion of the existing literature from a geospatial perspective has also been focused on school district, city, state, or country levels, which intrigued me in exploring data and applying my learnings at an international level.

During the visit I was able to explore TIMSS data using geospatial analysis as I had hoped. I learned a lot about TIMSS data and improved my knowledge and skills in data management. Starting with projecting a concordance between regional (ERCE/PASEC) and international (TIMSS/PIRLS) assessments for the Rosetta Stone Project, I worked with Andrés Strello, Rolf Strietholt, and Sabine Meinck to look into the patterns of migration and its relation with academic achievement in Math in Europe. I am truly excited that we were able to produce a concrete outcome in the form of a conference proposal. I am glad that I got to collaborate with Andrés, Rolf, and Sabine, and who gave me great guidance and advice and whom I learned a lot from.

I can't thank enough everyone at IEA, particularly the Research and Analysis (RandA) unit. The friendly circle of RandA colleagues made me feel very welcome for two months. In particular, I would like to thank my contact person, Andrés Strello, for not only helping me get to know Hamburg and IEA, but also TIMSS data. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to Rolf and Sabine, who supported and gave great advice, I am happy that we are able to continue our collaboration after I return to the U.S. I also want to thank Aysel Gojayeva who helped me find accommodation and introduced me to life in Hamburg before my arrival. I would have felt lost without the information shared by Aysel. Of course, I would like to express many thanks to Ana-Maria Mejia-Rodriguez, Andrés Christiansen, Alec Kennedy, Linda Liaw, Zhijun Chen, Umut Atasever, Max Romero, Pablo Irribarra, Mojca Rozamn, Diego Cortes, Valentina Toloza, Chennhe Lee, Jonathan Linden, Nayeli Urdiales, and Minge Chen for making me feel welcome. It was my pleasure getting to know everyone and having great conversations about a host of topics. I sincerely think that the friendly and welcoming environment they create helped me adopt to the new living and work environment. There were a few challenging times especially when I got COVID a few weeks after my arrival, but my two months at IEA remain a fruitful and pleasurable experience thanks to my colleagues and friends.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to IEA and Indiana University Bloomington for hosting and organizing the academic visit at IEA. This experience was a meaningful learning experience that I hope to take with me throughout my academic and professional career.

About the author

Jina Kim obtained a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from McGill University in Canada and holds a Master's degree in Global Education Cooperation from Seoul National University in the Republic of Korea. She later went to work as a Research Assistant at the National Assembly Research Service in the Republic of Korea. Her research interests center around education policy and educational equity, and she is particularly interested in taking a geospatial perspective in analyzing access to education and equity. Jina Kim is a Ph.D. student in Education Policy Studies at the Indiana University Bloomington.

