

Academic Visit at IEA Hamburg

Ioulia

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Early in the Summer of 2022, I received the WERA (World Education Research Association) Visiting Research Award 2022. My initial satisfaction with this achievement was nothing compared to my excitement during the visit. The breadth of new research and collaborative opportunities exceeded my initial expectations.

I felt welcomed from the first day of my arrival in Hamburg. During my visit, I had the opportunity to meet new people in the scholarly field and engage in deep conversation. In fact, I still stay in touch with a couple of people from my accommodation!

As part of my research, I worked on investigating motivational learning outcomes in mathematics between recent migrants, native individuals, and those who migrated later in life using cross-national data from IEA. Recent migrants have higher motivational outcomes than native individuals and later migrants, despite the considerable barriers they face when moving to another country (e.g., having access to lower economic resources). This trend is commonly referred to as the “immigrant paradox.” I collaborated with both statistical methodology experts from RandA (Research & Analysis Unit) at IEA Hamburg and established researchers in the field of comparative education from the University of Hamburg. I collaborated with both organizations, which were well-organized and fully engaged in our shared work. I had the chance to experience meaningful social interactions with colleagues and build long-term collaboration and friendships. To me, IEA RandA is now a family.

My stay in Hamburg also allowed me to explore the city, its main attractions—including its beautiful parks— and interesting places nearby, such as Berlin and the Baltic Sea. The weather was amazing during my stay, sunny and warm, making travels even more enjoyable.

I feel that receiving the WERA grant is the beginning of an ongoing research collaboration with IEA, and I look forward to it. Working with great people in a great place is far more than someone could ask for!

About the author

Ioulia is a researcher in quantitative social science with a special interest in applying statistical methods in large-scale, empirically driven research to investigate research questions from education, psychology, and allied fields. Before moving to Oxford, they earned an undergraduate degree in Pure Mathematics from the University of Cyprus (BSc, 2003 -2007). Ioulia earned an MSc in Applied Statistics, a second MSc in Educational Research Methodology, and a DPhil in Education from Oxford University (2008-2015). They are interested in students' motivational outcomes in their learning of mathematics and in the identification of factors that may have an impact on such outcomes. They currently work as a Quantitative Research Methodology in Social Sciences Lecturer at the European University of Cyprus.