

Quarterly  
Newsletter  
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## EURAXESS NORTH AMERICA

Dear Friends and Colleagues!

Being the gateway to the European Research Area (ERA), EURAXESS takes pride in providing an array of information on Europe's vibrant and dynamic research landscape, from latest strides and achievements to funding and partnership opportunities through our new and improved [portal](#) and beyond!

In this first 2019 issue and March being the International Women's Month, we are zooming into Croatia – another European destination where research and innovation are very high on the agenda - and interviewing three amazing scientists about their careers as female researchers.

EURAXESS North America is very pleased to provide you with the latest news and developments from the ERA. As always, we strive to offer a selection of articles to engage our growing community of researchers and science advocates in North America, include recent and very interesting R&D news from the European Research Area, Canada and the United States.

Enjoy reading the newsletter!

With Best Wishes,

Your EURAXESS North America Team

The information contained in this publication is intended for personal use only. It should not be taken in any way to reflect the views of the European Commission nor of the Delegation of the European Union to the USA or the Delegation of the European Union to Canada.

This newsletter is also intended as a communication tool with you all, so please do not hesitate to contact us at [northamerica@euraxess.net](mailto:northamerica@euraxess.net) for comments, corrections or if you want to advertise for a particular funding scheme or event

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# 1 EURAXESS Country in Focus: CROATIA

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance their career development. This pan-European effort is currently supported by 40 countries, of which we will profile one in each of our quarterly EURAXESS North America newsletters. This quarter we focus on Croatia.



**Croatia** is situated in South East Europe, at the crossroads of Central Europe and the Mediterranean, neighbouring five countries on land border: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia, and Montenegro. The Croatian Adriatic coastline is one of the most indented coastlines in Europe, next to the Norwegian fjords.

The International Monetary Fund classified Croatia as an open and developing economy and the World Bank defined it as a high-income economy.

## 1. Croatian S&T Funding Agencies

Scientific research in Croatia is monitored and conducted in six fields of science: natural sciences, technical, biomedical, biotechnical and social sciences, and humanities. The entire system of science and technology is financed through direct project financing with a mechanism of annual monitoring of results, through financing of junior researchers on concrete projects, with multi-year monitoring of their progress and financing of equipment.

The main funding bodies, in addition to the Ministry of Science and Education (MSE), are the Croatian Science Foundation (CSF) and the Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO). Through the Regional Competitiveness Operational Programme and Operational Programme Human Resources Development, Croatia is combining European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) for funding development of science and research.

### ***Croatian Science Foundation (CSF)***

Croatian Science Foundation was established by the Croatian Parliament in December 2001 under the name The National Foundation for Science, Higher Education and Technological Development of the Republic of Croatia. Its mission is to promote science, higher education and technological development in Croatia in order to ensure the economic development and to support employment. The Foundation provides support to scientific, higher education and technological programmes and projects, fosters international cooperation, and supports the realization of scientific programmes of special interest in the field of fundamental, applied and developmental research.

### ***Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO)***

HAMAG-BICRO is the Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovation and Investments established by the Government of the Republic of Croatia with the purpose of



enhancing SME development and promoting investment and innovation. The Agency is an independent institution under the supervision of the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts.

## 2. Croatian Research and Innovation Institutions

### *The Croatian research and innovation system*

The Croatian research and innovation system has evolved over the last decade into a complex system of various institutions and measures directed to build innovation-driven growth. The basic principles and guidelines of science and higher education policy are determined by the Croatian Parliament. **The Ministry of Science and Education (MSE)** is the main administrative body

responsible for planning, funding and monitoring of the entire science and education system while the highest advisory body for the scientific research system is **The National Council of Science, Higher Education and Technological Development** with the aim to harmonize the overall development of the R&D and innovation system. **The Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts** complements the national innovation policy related to innovation-based entrepreneurship and business infrastructure. The role of the **Ministry of Regional Development and European Funds** has increased upon the Croatian accession to EU. Scientific activity in Croatia is performed at the universities, public research institutes, research institutes, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and other legal persons duly registered in the Register of Scientific Organisations.

### *Investment in R&D and employment in Science and Technology*

The Croatian science and technology sector employed 38,2 % of the active population (aged 25-64) in 2016 according to the Eurostat report which is close to the EU-28 average (46 %). The public R&D sector, with universities playing a leading role, is the largely dominant sector research manpower (56,5 % of total researchers HEI in 2016). As reported by Eurostat in 2016, the business sector employs a modest 21 % of total researchers and invests 0,44 % of GDP in R&D. On the other hand, the business enterprises sector is leading in R&D performing activities (49,4 %), followed by the higher education sector (31 %). Furthermore, the total investment into R&D was 0,85 % of the GDP in 2016 and has been fluctuating around 1 % in the past 10 years, marking Croatia as one of the most advanced R&D performers in the region, but not at the EU level. However, according to ERAWATCH, Economic Programme of Croatia envisaged increasing the investment in research and development to achieve a share of GERD of 1,4 % of the GDP by 2020 in order to overcome the gap in science funding between Croatia and the EU countries (0,85 % of GDP vs. 2,03 % of GDP in 2016).

### *Ruđer Bošković Institute*

The Ruđer Bošković Institute is regarded as Croatia's leading scientific institute in the natural and biomedical sciences as well as marine and environmental research, owing to its size, scientific productivity, international reputation in





research, and the quality of its scientific personnel and research facilities. The Institute is the leading and internationally most competitive Croatian institute by virtue of its participation in international research projects.

### **Croatian Academy of Science and Arts**

The Academy promotes and organizes scientific research and encourages the application of the findings of this research, develops artistic and cultural activities, and is concerned with Croatian cultural heritage and its affirmation throughout the world. It publishes the results of scientific research and artistic creation and makes proposals and gives its opinion on the promotion of sciences and arts in the fields which are of special importance to the Republic of Croatia.

### **Study in Croatia**

The portal "Study in Croatia" ([www.studyincroatia.hr](http://www.studyincroatia.hr)) is owned and managed by the Croatian Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes. It contains information about higher education in Croatia aimed at prospective international students. You can find an overview of the Croatian higher education system, practical information about application procedures, student life, visas and accommodation and scholarships. Furthermore, the portal provides information on learning Croatian as a foreign language, as well as general information about Croatia. More information can be found at: <http://www.studyincroatia.hr/>



**Study**<sup>in</sup>  
**Croatia**



### **Important information for incoming researchers: EURAXESS Croatia**

The Agency for Mobility and European Union Programmes is coordinator (Bridgehead Organization) of the EURAXESS programme in Croatia as well as a EURAXESS Service Centre. The EURAXESS Service Centre (ESC) assists researchers and their families during their period of mobility, in all matters relating to their professional and daily lives, helping them to reach adequate services for their needs, as well as assists the core contact points in research institutions and informs a wider group of contact points about matters of interest to mobility. For all required information, incoming researchers should contact Croatian EURAXESS Service Centre, or check our website (<https://www.euraxess.hr/>).

Interesting Reads:

[Nature Index Croatia](#)

[OpenAIRE Croatia](#)

[Croatia become member of](#)

[CERN \(article\)](#)



## 2 HOT TOPIC: International Women's Month: Interviews with Three Women in Science

### 1. Angelia BELLIA

**Angela Bellia** is a Marie Curie Researcher at the Italian National Research Council. Her work concerns a particular area of social sciences and humanities, and involves the fields of archaeoacoustics and digital heritage. Thanks to the first Marie Curie Individual Fellowship, she carried out her research at the Institute of Fine Arts at the New York University, devoting her attentions towards the reconstruction of the musical dimension of an ancient Greek polis in the West. She also improved her training in "3D Modelling for Cultural Heritage" and in "Acquiring and Post-Processing 3D Data in Archaeology". For her new methodology in the use of digital technology in virtual environments, she received the Prize ITWIIN 2016 for the most "Exceptionally Creative Woman". More recently, thanks to the second Marie Curie Individual Fellowship, she carries out her research at the Institute for Archaeological and Monumental Heritage devoting her attentions towards archaeoacoustics as a new approach in the study of intangible cultural heritage. She has been Chair of the Northern Italy Chapter of the Marie Curie Alumni Association. At present, she is Chair of the Events & Network Working Group and an active member of the MCAA. As the main organiser, she is engaged in the organisation of the MCAA panel for the European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meetings in order to promote MCAA's activities and the community of MCAA. Currently, she is also engaged in the organisation of the Archaeomusicology Interest Group panel for the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America that will take place in San Diego, 3-6 January 2019. This event will involve European and American researchers.

**EURAXESS North America (ENA):** *Could you tell us a bit about your experience as a female researcher in general and more particularly in your field?*

**Angela Bellia (AB):** When I think about what motivated me to become a researcher, three terms come to mind: first curiosity, second intuition and third perseverance. I think these three aspects characterise my career and my research activity in the field of social science and humanities, an activity which I began after having completed exhaustive musical studies. The study of an instrument prepares the mind and the body for hard work that, as the research activity, requires a lot of perseverance and resilience. In my case, studying piano inculcated discipline and determination in me; studying to become an Opera singer helped me to freely follow my intuition without any mental barriers. Thanks to this training, I was able to combine the two great passions in my life: music and archaeology. To study archaeological evidence requires an overview and the ability to see beyond the materiality of things so that ancient objects found after thousands of years "can tell us" about the lives of people they belonged to. One of the most interesting aspects of my research is to have focused on musical and dance performances of girls and women from the ancient world carried out in daily life or in places of worship. I believe that my experience as a female performer helped me to better understand many aspects of female music of the past.

**ENA:** *How would you say your experience in ERA has contributed to your personal and professional growth?*

**AB:** I have been an Erasmus student and an Erasmus visiting professor, and I am two-time winner of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships. Thus, Europe has supported me throughout my research career. Thanks to European funding programmes, I have been able to make a strong contribution to the advancement of my research field, developing new skills through my active membership of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: the global network of researchers, open to any past or present researchers supported by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. This programme is one of the European Union's flagship initiatives to provide research grants supporting researchers at all stages of their career, across all disciplines.

**ENA:** *What is the first experience you think of when you hear "researcher mobility" or "research abroad"? What did you learn from it?*

**AB:** For a researcher, "researcher mobility" or "research abroad" is like learning to swim in open sea. Meaning that mobility provides the researcher with the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and to experience different research and teaching systems, as well as going beyond hurdles in their own research field



toward current forms of hybridisation and contamination of other scientific sectors.

All researchers should have an experience abroad at least once in their careers. My experience in the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University was fundamental for me to understand the future lines of research in the field of Arts and Humanities and the related application of new technologies.

**ENA:** *What would you say is the biggest challenge being a female mobile researcher? How did you overcome it?*

**AB:** I think the greatest challenge for any female mobile researcher is to combine her research work with her family life. The MSCA Individual Fellowship considered this aspect: family allowance is an important supportive resource. It allows the researcher's family to accompany her to the locale where the research activity takes place, as in the case of a person related to the researcher through marriage or a relationship of similar status, as well as dependent children who are actually being supported by the researcher.

**ENA:** *From your experiences, how does the research environment in Europe differ from that in North America, if at all? And, how do you think EURAXESS North America can further promote research collaborations between Europe and North America?*

**AB:** Thanks to my first Marie Curie Global Fellowship, I was able to carry out my research work in the United States. Although I had already built up substantial experience in research management in Europe and in mentoring at Italian universities, for me it was, nonetheless, a stimulating experience to work at NYU, where I was in contact with a new culture with different practices and procedures for project management, as well as PhD student supervision and PostDoc mentoring. During this period, I built and strengthen the bridges between North America and the European scientific communities in my field of research. These bridges are enabling the development of my research career. On the basis of my own personal experience, the best practice of cooperation between the US and EU countries, are platforms like EURAXESS North America that connect European Scientific Diasporas to each other and to Europe. These connections allow for yet another best practice in my experience, which is the Joint European Mentoring Initiative's (JEMI) pilot programme in North America. JEMI's objectives aim to advocate for European intellectuals by providing a comprehensive range of learning opportunities, and to expand the scope of European-funded services and the support available for European researchers worldwide, especially for younger researchers in North America connecting them back with Europe.

**ENA:** *What would you tell someone who is hesitant to apply for one of the prestigious and more competitive European research grants like ERC or MSCA found on our portal? (Would be great if you can direct a specific message to female scientists)*

**AB:** European research grants like ERC or MSCA can help female researchers pursue leadership positions by funding career development and mentoring programmes for early-career and experienced researchers. For example, the



**Cristina Florea** is a biomedical engineer with expertise in biomechanics research, medical devices industry and project management. She is currently a Global Marie Curie fellow in the Department of Applied Physics at University of Eastern Finland, with the first 2-year period at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, under Prof. Grodzinsky's supervision. She is also a member of the management board of the Marie Curie Association-North America Chapter and serves as External Relations and Funding Coordinator. Her research work is centered on the investigation of the early mechanisms of cartilage damage after injury that eventually leads to post-traumatic osteoarthritis. The novelty of this research lies in the interdisciplinary approach of combining sophisticated techniques and conceptual approaches from mechanics, engineering, physics and molecular biology. Understanding the mechanisms of progression of cartilage damage after injury, may lead to future novel strategies for prevention and repair of the joint cartilage. Prior to this, she worked as part of the project drafting and implementation of EU Horizon 2020 co-funded doctoral program for 15 PhDs students. She completed her double PhD degree in Mechanical Engineering and Medical Physics in 2014 as a result of three years' joint degree collaboration between Politecnica University of Timisoara, Romania and University of Eastern Finland. Before transitioning to academia, she worked in the ultrasound imaging business sector as area sales executive and product manager, managing the sales team and collaborating with hospital managers, clinicians and medical physicists.

MSCA can provide funding schemes for female researchers to facilitate a career restart. These programmes encourage and enforce best practices on gender equality and diversity in Europe.

**ENA:** *Finally, what's next for you, where is your research taking you?*

**AB:** Currently, my work concerns a particular area of social sciences and humanities, and involves the fields of archaeoacoustics and digital heritage. My objective is to develop a new multidisciplinary analytical approach that models the relationship between the intangible aspects and the spatial configuration of performative spaces in the past, which future researchers can use to advance their knowledge in the application of 3D technology to virtual acoustics. This novel approach will allow us to speculate on why ancient cultures created these spaces for auditory and synaesthetic experiences.

## 2. Cristina FLOREA

**EURAXESS North America (ENA):** *Could you tell us a bit about your experience as a female researcher in general and more particularly in your field?*

**Cristina Florea (CF):** Moving to an academic setting, after working nearly four years in the medical device industry, was an interesting transition for me and certainly required a lot of adjustments and a change in perspective. Despite the fact that this transition was not viewed as a natural thing to do by my former colleagues, I decided to dip my toes into research and graduated after three years with a double PhD degree in Mechanical Engineering and Medical Physics.

My current research is focused on understanding the mechanisms of the articular cartilage damage after being exposed to injury. Since cartilage damage has limited healing potential in time can lead to the development of post-traumatic osteoarthritis in younger populations years after the initial joint trauma. This is an exciting research to work on, not only because it gives me the opportunity to use engineering approaches towards solving a health problem, but most of all, I can help in finding less invasive solutions to change people's life for the better. Working at the intersection of medicine and engineering is indeed very appealing especially due to the societal impact of the research, and the number of female researchers in this field is certainly growing.

My experience as a female engineering student and later on as a female researcher in a male-dominated discipline – applied physics, taught me to turn any negative stereotypes about women in science, into an opportunity to demonstrate my competence and be accepted for my excellent work. In fact, over the years I was lucky to have had a lot of support and encouragement from male mentors I highly respect to think big and to achieve my full potential. Today, I'm surrounded by a phenomenal interdisciplinary research group in Grodzinsky Lab in MIT, predominantly women, who are also incredible sources of support and inspiration.

**ENA:** *How would you say your experience in ERA has contributed to your personal and professional growth?*





**CF:** In my view, learning does not end when you complete a PhD degree, it is a journey that continues throughout your life. Moreover, in order to become a research leader in your field you certainly need to be willing to invest in yourself. I've always had diverse range of work experiences and I wanted to immerse myself in outstanding environments where I could further explore and develop the necessary specialized and transferable skills to be successful. The Marie Curie fellowship is ideal for this pursuit since it has a strong focus on career development and mobility for researchers. After the first year into the fellowship, I can certainly say that it has been an invigorating and extremely intellectually stimulating experience. I'm a strong believer in standing on the shoulders of giants and learning from the best. This fellowship undoubtedly has given me the unique opportunity to work in MIT under the excellent supervision of Prof. Grodzinsky, one of the leading professors and pioneers in cartilage and osteoarthritis research in the world. Not only did I develop new skills in the molecular biology and nanomechanical testing techniques, but I also enjoy privileged access to the smartest people in the world, who genuinely are passionate about what they do. The opportunities for growth and career development training in MIT are tremendous. I'm happy that I was able to improve various transferable skills particularly in project management, networking, leadership, communication and conflict management, and the most difficult of skills, saying "no" to excessive demands on my time. Gaining such expertise will not only boost my career prospects and serve in the transfer of knowledge to my Finnish institution upon my return, but also benefit the European Research Area at large.

**ENA:** *What is the first experience you think of when you hear "researcher mobility" or "research abroad"? What did you learn from it?*

**CF:** My first research experience abroad that comes into my mind was 11 years ago through the Erasmus exchange programme. I've spent one full semester in Savonia University of Applied Sciences in Kuopio, Finland. And ever since, research mobility across different countries has been part of my life. My moves between Romania, Finland and the US have expanded my horizons tremendously. Not only I had the chance to do research in different excellent labs in my field, but it also helped me to build, through my advisors and my colleagues a broad national and international network, which later has proved to be of vital help during my PhD and postdoctoral studies. It has been fascinating to see how research is approached in different countries. I'm sure that this journey will continue, as I enjoy being exposed to new cultural environments, new ideas, learning new languages (Finnish in particular has been a real challenge), and working with researchers from diverse backgrounds. Through such experiences, one becomes more open-minded, flexible and tolerant of other people and able to foster creative ideas that benefit the whole research team.

**ENA:** *What would you say is the biggest challenge being a female mobile researcher? How did you overcome it?*

**CF:** Being a female mobile researcher is exciting and fun, but there are times in life when it conflicts with personal life. Living abroad and particularly in the US, creates many administrative burdens for the European researchers, such as



obtaining a visa for the family members. Thus, the most challenging aspect being a female mobile researcher involved making the compromise to be far away from my family. However, being part of the Marie Curie Association (MCAA) - North America Chapter's management team and taking an active role in various activities provided me a sense of community and belonging, which made my family situation more manageable. Our team has been very successful in fostering motivation, networking, sharing experiences and supporting the Marie Curie fellows in their transitions. I feel so privileged to be part of it!

**ENA:** *From your experiences, how does the research environment in Europe differ from that in North America, if at all? And, how do you think EURAXESS North America can further promote research collaborations between Europe and North America?*

**CF:** There are obviously differences in the way the research systems are organized in Europe and North America. While international mobility is becoming a key requirement for most of the EU funding programmes, I believe that the pressures to spend a period abroad may be less for researchers from North America than for others. In addition, the strong interdisciplinary research landscape in Boston area is in particular very attractive and competitive, mainly because of the pioneer spirit and the spin-offs resulting from discoveries made in basic research.

EURAXESS North America is doing an amazing job and it's an excellent source of information for those who want to move to Europe, to work as a researcher and to start a research collaboration in the ERA. I strongly believe that the EURAXESS job portal is a vital tool in helping researchers with their career opportunities and their ability to transfer between institutions, research sectors and different countries. As part of the MCAA North America Chapter, I've developed a close relationship with the EURAXESS North America team, and the chapter is actively involved in organizing Marie Curie training sessions in the EURAXESS' events. I believe that by continuing this fruitful cooperation and co-organizing events, we can further promote research collaborations and scientific networking between Europe and North America.

**ENA:** *What would you tell someone who is hesitant to apply for one of the prestigious and more competitive European research grants like ERC or MSCA found on our portal? (Would be great if you can direct a specific message to female scientists)*

**CF:** My advice to anyone who is hesitant to apply for the Marie Curie fellowships is to go for it, believe in your research idea and yourself, reach out, make connections, prepare in advance, be passionate about what you do, and enjoy the ride!

Where do you begin? How do you do that? Fortunately, there is plenty information on the European Commission's website. Also, National Contact Points and contact persons at the host institution (Research services/EU office) can provide additional valuable support to all the applicants.



“*There is research suggesting that a female researcher has to exceed a male’s researcher productivity by the equivalent of three extra research articles in Nature or Science.*

*Therefore, my advice to female researchers: If you think that you don’t have the ability, think again! Anyone with determination, passion and right support network can prepare a successful proposal.”*

I would like to emphasize the importance of networking far in advance of preparing the application. It’s always helpful to connect with professors and established researchers at various conferences and congresses and pitch your research idea. In case you are unsure where to find collaborators for your research project, a good place to start is EURAXESS, a platform that connects institutions interested in hosting Marie Curie fellows. In addition, I highly encourage those who are planning their research in North America to contact the MCAA-North America Chapter in advance. It’s the chapter’s goal to offer collegiate support to the prospective and new Marie Curie fellows across North America and Europe to settle in these two regions.

**ENA:** *Finally, what’s next for you, where is your research taking you?*

**CF:** I’m finalizing my first year of research mobility in MIT and I really enjoy the journey of learning and growing in a place with people from all walks of life, committed to diverse passions and dreams. I’m still exploring new experimental methods and techniques in molecular biology and biochemistry, learning new ways of analyzing data and exchanging ideas with my colleagues, At the same time, I’m also experiencing the incredible Boston area and the enthusiasm and energy of the people. I’m very excited and look forward to the upcoming research collaboration with one of the PhD students from University of Eastern Finland, my host institution. I’m grateful that this fellowship provides me the amazing opportunity to build the bridge between my host institution, University of Eastern Finland and MIT and strengthen the research collaboration between these two universities. I’m very curious to see how my research unfolds and what I’m able to accomplish by the time I return to Finland next year. Wish me luck!

### 3. Raphaëlle ROBIDOUX

**EURAXESS North America (ENA):** *Could you tell us a bit about your experience as a female researcher in general and more particularly in your field?*

**Raphaëlle Robidoux (RR):** I studied experimental psychology, a field which is stereotypically feminine. As an undergraduate student, I was surrounded by other women; having more than three guys in class was a rare event! Things changed when I continued on to graduate studies. By the end of my studies, almost half of my classmates were men, and over three-quarters of our professors and supervisors were as well. Witnessing this shift as a woman, I felt a mounting pressure to prove myself as a potential professor and researcher. However, I’m very fortunate to have worked alongside a supervisor who steadfastly believed in my capacities and a very tight-knit laboratory, including many fellow women researchers. A strong support system can make such a difference.

**ENA:** *How would you say your experience in ERA has contributed to your personal and professional growth?*

**RR:** My experience in ERA was a wonderful way to connect with like-minded researchers, and to know more about domains of study that may be quite removed from mine. By definition, researchers are highly specialized, and this can lead to such a narrow focus that it becomes difficult to follow research outside



**Raphaëlle Robidoux** has completed her undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Ottawa, in experimental psychology. Specializing in sleep psychology, she has conducted research on a range of topics, including psycholinguistics, the psychology of dreams, and the intersection of literature and dream vocabulary. She now works in industrial psychology, helping develop complex assessment tools for hiring and professional development. Raphaëlle has also been a member of BrainBuddies, a psychology-focused knowledge translation group, for over four years; she creates and delivers talks on new, specialized research for a lay public. Raphaëlle enjoys sharing her own research and learning from others', and is always seeking opportunities to facilitate constructive, informed dialogue between academics and members of the community.

of one's immediate area of expertise. ERA connected researchers together and helped us all learn on a broader scale.

**ENA:** *What is the first experience you think of when you hear "researcher mobility" or "research abroad"? What did you learn from it?*

**RR:** For me, research mobility is an amazing gift. Research is one of those few professions that can truly take you anywhere. Researchers are not limited to a single university, city, or country; they can learn from and share knowledge with fellow academics from the world over. I've always absolutely loved travelling, and research allowed me to discover so many countries. There's also always such a richness in working with individuals from various parts of the world. Different cultures and scientific perspectives can complement each other to ultimately create a stronger, more stable paradigm.

**ENA:** *What would you say is the biggest challenge being a female mobile researcher? How did you overcome it?*

**RR:** Academic success is not a fast process. In a crowded field like psychology, many researchers do not find a stable position until they are in their late thirties. It's difficult to make the decision to have children when you are unsure if you'll still be employed in a year. It's also a challenge to have one's spouse move as contracts come and go, perhaps especially if it's the man who has to go against cultural expectations and start over to follow his wife or partner. This climate can make it quite difficult for women to establish a family. I believe that this partly explains why so many women begin studies in psychology, and yet most professors and established researchers are men. It's very unfortunate, and I do hope that positive change will occur in the next few years, as the scientific community becomes aware of those systemic barriers.

**ENA:** *From your experiences, how does the research environment in Europe differ from that in North America, if at all?*

**RR:** I believe there are some cultural differences between the two continents, which in turn are reflected in the way we conduct research. In my experience, North America has a bit of a more relaxed academic climate. Newcomers and young researchers may feel freer to contradict long-standing experts in their fields, and in my opinion, this can often lead to productive debate. There may also be less of an established tradition in terms of academic hierarchy, so that new ideas may be incorporated with more ease into the structure of university life. But Europe remains the birth place of the modern scientific method, with such a rich history of academic development; North Americans do not necessarily have this deep understanding of the past to inform their future.

**ENA:** *What would you tell someone who is hesitant to apply for one of the prestigious and more competitive European research grants like ERC or MSCA found on our portal? (Would be great if you can direct a specific message to female scientists)*

**RR:** I would tell researchers, and especially women researchers, to take a risk and apply. As women, I believe we may often undervalue the importance and merit of our work. Women are often raised to be humble and to celebrate others'





achievements. That is a beautiful trait to have, but it must be balanced with a healthy appreciation for one's own potential. Its time we women stop selling ourselves short and start reaching for the big prizes. This can only create more positive examples for the next generation of female researchers.

**ENA:** *Finally, what's next for you, where is your research taking you?*

**RR:** I have been exploring the domain of knowledge translation, with the aim of making academic research more available to those who benefit most from it. I give talks in schools, community centers, research facilities, and in partnership with the public and private sectors, to summarize recent research that is relevant to public interests. I might discuss the neuropsychology of aging with older adults, or address the psychology of organizational change with managers who want to implement new procedures for their employees. It's a very rewarding and growing field, which I hope will continue to flourish as we make more efforts to bridge the gap between research and practice. Academia does not operate in isolation; it informs and draws from the worlds of business, education, health, and community outreach. I'm glad to be furthering this dialogue in my own way.

## 3 In case you missed it....

### Event Outlook

Event	When	Where	Organized by	Link
2019 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences	1-7 June 2019	Vancouver, BC, CANADA	Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences and The University of British Columbia	<a href="#">Link</a>
Graduate Career Consortium Annual Conference 2019	26-28 June 2019	New Orleans LA, USA	Graduate Career Consortium	<a href="#">Link</a>

### About EURAXESS North America

EURAXESS North America is a network of thousands of European and non-European researchers, scientists, and scholars throughout North America (USA and Canada). This multidisciplinary network includes members at all stages of their careers. It allows them to connect with each other and with Europe, ensuring that they are recognized as an important resource for European research, whether they remain in North America or return to Europe.

For further information about EURAXESS North America, please visit:

<http://northamerica.euraxess.org>.

To sign up for membership in our network, please go to our [website](#) and click on *Sign up and become a member for free* button.

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