

## **ESERA Early Career Researcher Travel Award 2022–Recipient Report**

Applicant: Anna Pshenichny Mamo, Faculty of Education in Science and Technology,  
Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel

Host: Prof. Marianne Achiam, Department of Science Education, University of  
Copenhagen, Denmark

Visit dates: 7-18.10.2022

To the ESERA President, Board, and Early Career Researcher Travel Award Committee, I want to thank the ESERA President, Board, and Early Career Researcher Travel Award Committee for granting my application for an Early Career Researcher Travel Award in 2022. This award helped me to visit Prof. Marianne Achiam and her research group at the Department of Science Education, University of Copenhagen. This opportunity provided me with the experience of meeting other researchers, discussing our studies and work, thinking about new research directions, and sharing ideas. It was an inspiring and thought-provoking experience for me.

Prof. Achiam is interested in disseminating the natural sciences in out-of-school learning environments and has significant experience researching natural history museums. As my Ph.D. research deals with the integration of nature of science in natural history museums, I was greatly interested in visiting Prof. Marianne Achiam and her research group to discuss my research and different research methods and directions. This opportunity was an enriching experience on both a professional and a personal level. At the professional level, I had the chance to present my research at the Department of Science Education and discuss different aspects of my research with other scholars and colleagues. My meetings with Prof. Achiam improved and sharpened my understanding of the data collection I conducted in the museums I visited during my stay. In addition, I took advantage of her extensive knowledge and experience in research at NHMs through a professional and in-depth discussion of my research objectives, research tools, and data collection methods. Prof. Achiam helped me to establish a collaboration with the head of learning and public programming at the natural history museum in Copenhagen, the museum's academic research staff, and the audience research manager. During my stay, I collected data from various exhibits both at the zoological museum and the geological museum (both are part of the Natural History Museum), had the opportunity to meet the museum guides, discuss the exhibits and galleries at the museum with them,

and established future collaborations. I met the Interpretation Managers of the new museum galleries that are being built in Copenhagen and had the chance to converse with them about different opportunities for the integration of nature of science in the new museum. Also, Prof. Achiam introduced me to Prof. Jesus Piqueras Blasco from the Department of Teaching and Learning at Stockholm University, whom I met during my visit. I thank Prof. Piqueras for the warm welcome and a thought-provoking discussion about my research, possible collaborations, and educational options at the Swedish natural history museum. I learned a lot from his extensive research experience at NHMs and got meaningful feedback on my research direction. Prof. Piqueras helped me to contact the museum educators working in the natural history museum in Stockholm, and I succeeded in visiting and establishing a collaboration with this museum.

On a personal level, I had the opportunity to meet colleagues from different universities and learn about new cultures and educational systems in Denmark and Sweden. I had the chance to improve my soft skills, such as effective communication, teamwork, critical thinking, and more.

I want to thank Prof. Marianne Achiam for her warm welcome and hospitality and for the opportunity to visit her in Denmark. This visit allowed me to collect data for my study and integrate data from other cultural contexts into my research. I am looking forward to future collaborations and international research! Finally, I would like to thank ESERA and ESERA Travel Award Committee for the chance to visit different institutions and natural history museums during my Ph.D.

Best regards,

Anna Pshenichny Mamo

Ph.D. Student

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