

ESERA Early Career Researcher Travel Award 2023 – Recipient Report

Applicant: Shakked Dabran, Faculty of Education in Science and Technology, Technion - Israel
Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel

Host: Dr. Alexander Büssing, Institute of Science Education, Leibniz University Hannover, Germany

Visit dates: 01.03. - 11.03.2023

To the ESERA President's Travel Award Committee, Board of Directors, and Early Career Researcher Travel Award Committee,

I want to express my gratitude for granting me the Early Career Researcher Travel Award in 2023. This award allowed me to visit the Institute of Science Education in Hannover and provided me with an opportunity to learn about research culture in other countries, meet other researchers, discuss our work, think about new research directions, and share ideas.

In an age where misinformation and conspiracy theories are becoming increasingly common and accessible online, My Ph.D. research under the supervision of Prof. Ayelet Baram-Tsabari, examines how science literacy is helping address misinformation. The Institute of Science Education in Hannover is involved in a large interdisciplinary research project about the role of social media for climate change (www.someclics.com) and becoming a part of this project allowed me to broaden my knowledge in this field.



The research visit was an enriching experience both professionally and personally. On a professional level, I worked with Dr. Alexander Büssing, Soraya Kresin, and Rebecca Kunze to conduct a comparative study examining which criteria are more effective in identifying misinformation online in English, German, and Hebrew. As part of the study, we evaluated the search results for two common climate change conspiracy theory queries that appeared on the first three results pages of Google. We found that the importance of understanding what scientific consensus is, the importance of lateral reading, and the importance of critical evaluation are essential when dealing with misinformation in the online space. However, we also discovered that language differences may affect people's abilities to

critically interact with information, even if they have information evaluation skills. For example, the author's background was helpful in identifying misinformation in Hebrew and English, but not in German (in fact – we saw the opposite effect!).



These findings were presented at a Leibniz University symposium on *Social Media and Climate Change from the Perspective of Science Education*. In addition, as part of the symposium, I was a member of a panel discussion, which addressed important issues related to science education in an age characterized by social media and their effects. Therefore, the research stay was also important for fostering my communication skills. Our collaboration will continue as the research will be part of an edited volume the organizers plan to submit to the ESERA book series.

The stay was also successful on a personal level, as I had the opportunity to meet new colleagues and learn about intercultural aspects, including insights into the German education system. We also did several trips around the city of Hannover. For all these experiences, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Alexander Büssing and all members of the Institute of Science Education at the Leibniz University in Hanover for their warm welcome, hospitality, and the opportunity to collaborate.



Finally, I would like to thank the ESERA Travel Award Committee and ESERA for giving me the opportunity to create this collaboration during my Ph.D.

Best regards,

Shakked Dabran

Ph.D. Student

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