



Visiting PhD Student: Havva Görkem Altunbaş - UCL IOE

The Host Professor: Lucy Avraamidou

The Host University: University of Groningen

Visit Date: 4.6 – 9.6.2023

Subject: Highlights of Visit to Prof. Lucy Avraamidou at the University of Groningen

Dear ESERA President's Travel Award Committee Board of Directors Early Career Researcher Travel Award Committee,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to visit Prof. Lucy Avraamidou at the University of Groningen as part of the ESERA President's Travel Award. It was an invaluable experience that has greatly enhanced my professional development and academic pursuits. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the highlights of my visit and the impact it has had on my research.

Upon arriving in Groningen on Sunday, June 4th, I had the chance to tour the city quickly and I was immediately struck by its beauty and charm. The architectural wonders and the welcoming atmosphere set the stage for a remarkable visit.

The following day, Monday, I was filled with excitement as I met the research team at the university. Dr Mohammed Gharesifard warmly welcomed me at the reception and provided a quick but comprehensive tour of the university premises. During this tour, I was introduced to the research team, who displayed enthusiasm and a genuine interest in my research subject. We wasted no time and began working together on our respective research topics, engaging in insightful discussions that enriched our understanding of the subject matter.

The next day, Tuesday, was another productive day. We continued exchanging thoughts and ideas with the research team. In the evening, we had the opportunity to unwind and bond as a team, as we visited a pizza restaurant. The casual setting allowed for a relaxed and enjoyable conversation, strengthening our professional and personal connections.



On Wednesday, I had a highly anticipated one-to-one meeting with Prof Lucy Avraamidou. This meeting provided me with the invaluable opportunity to discuss my PhD journey and research topic with her. Prof. Avraamidou's expertise and guidance were evident as she provided important feedback that shed new light on my work. I was grateful for her insights, which will undoubtedly contribute to the improvement of my research. In the evening, Lucy graciously organized a dinner for me at a Persian restaurant. Despite a minor setback with a canceled bus, we had a fantastic time together, deepening our professional relationship and enjoying each other's company.



Thursday brought us to a research team meeting, where I was given the opportunity to present my research to the team members, including other PhD students and postdocs. The constructive feedback I received during this session was invaluable, as it provided fresh perspectives and ideas for further improvement. Prof Avraamidou also posed thought-provoking questions, encouraging me to think critically about my research and challenging me to refine my work.

In conclusion, my visit to Prof. Lucy Avraamidou's research group at the University of Groningen was filled with unforgettable highlights. The warm welcome and support from the research team, the engaging discussions, and the mentorship of Prof. Avraamidou have left an indelible impact on my professional and personal growth. This visit has expanded my knowledge, provided me with invaluable feedback, and allowed me to build a network of colleagues and mentors. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity afforded to me through the ESERA President's Travel Award, and I remain committed to contributing to the ESERA community and the advancement of scientific research.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the ESERA Travel Award Committee and the Board of Directors for their support.

Yours sincerely,

Havva Görkem Altunbaş