

ESERA Early Career Researcher Travel Award 2023

Institute for Science Education & Communication (ISEC) at the University of Groningen

Host: Dr. Lucy Avraamidou, Director of ISEC

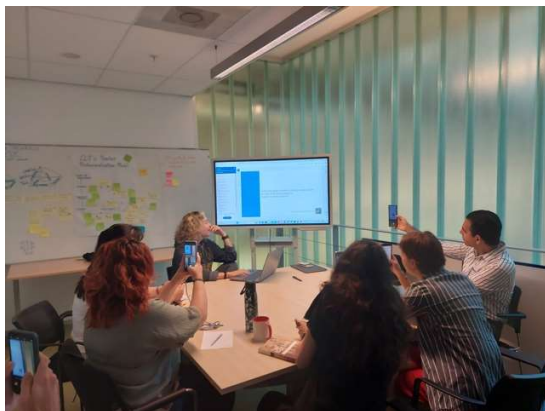
Visit Dates: June 13 - 27, 2023

Recipient: Brenda Guerrero, Teaching & Learning Department at Florida International University in Miami, FL, USA

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

I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to visit the Institute for Science Education and Communication (ISEC) at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. This visit allowed me to engage with the ISEC research team, participate in their research meetings and writing workshops, and receive one-to-one mentoring from Dr. Lucy Avraamidou.

My doctoral research focuses on the participation of university scientists in science communication, particularly those researching issues of water quality and security -- socioscientific issues directly relevant to the public. My research seeks to foster a more integrated approach to science communication as part of the scientific process using identity theory and narrative inquiry methodology, ultimately contributing towards public discussion efforts on science-related matter. My visit to ISEC provided an invaluable opportunity to deepen my understanding of the science communication and education fields, refine my research approach, and further align my work with the objective of strengthening the connection between science and society.



During my stay, I delivered an hour-long research presentation to the ISEC research team, comprised of researchers at all stages of their careers, whose expertise aligns with my

dissertation. Their expertise in narrative methodologies and science communication theory provided me with valuable insights that will significantly contribute to the advancement of my project. The discussion that followed, both immediately after my presentation and throughout the remainder of my stay in Groningen, offered fresh perspectives and stimulating ideas that will undoubtedly enhance the quality of my research.

The visit also had a significant impact on my personal growth. I had the privilege of having one-to-one mentoring meetings with Dr. Lucy Avraamidou. Dr. Avraamidou's expertise with narrative methods and identity theory resonate with my research focus on the identity performances of scientists as it relates to their participation in science communication. As an extension of her own hospitality, the ISEC team -- an impressively international team of professionals from the Netherlands, Greece, Spain, Brazil, Iran, Singapore, and the US-- warmly welcomed me into all their group activities. Collaborating with them and learning from their range of experiences enriched my own understanding of the global research landscape. I have great appreciation for Dr. Lucy Avraamidou and the entire team at ISEC for their support during my stay and beyond. Finally, I would like to express my immense gratitude to the ESERA Travel Award Committee and ESERA for providing me with this incredible opportunity to foster these relationships.



Warm regards,

Brenda Guerrero (she/ella), Ph.D. Candidate
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