

ESERA Early Career Researcher Travel Award 2025 – Recipient Report

Recipient: Sergei Glotov, Department of Education and Social work, University of Luxembourg

Host: Prof. Dr. Kristiina Kumpulainen, Department of Language and Literacy Education, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Visit dates: 13.09.2025 – 21.09.2025

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

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the ESERA for awarding the Travel Award and, thus, supporting the research visit to Prof. Dr. Kristiina Kumpulainen at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver, Canada. A week that I spent there provided plenty of opportunities for my own professional development and research exchanges with Prof. Dr. Kristiina Kumpulainen and members of the Faculty of Education.



UBC Campus

I work as a postdoctoral researcher at the SciTeach Center, located at the University of Luxembourg working on the project titled *Our Stories Our Futures*, which brings together sustainability and storytelling within the context of primary school. The aim of the project is to co-design school projects around sustainability and then document their implementation as

a digital story to inspire other in-service teachers as well as pre-service teachers at the University of Luxembourg.

The project's focus on storytelling and the ways it can support sustainability sciences, is the reason for connecting with Prof. Dr. Kristiina Kumpulainen, whose extensive research includes works on ecological literacies and climate change education, imaginative and participatory pedagogies for early childhood, as well as digital media and augmented storytelling.

During my visit, I had exchanges with Prof. Dr. Kristiina Kumpulainen, presenting to her my own work and the work of the SciTeach Center team, discussing common research interests. We also brainstormed an idea for a special issue proposal as well as a conference symposium, thus working on extending our collaboration beyond the research

visit. Prof. Dr. Kristiina Kumpulainen also connected me with other researchers within the Faculty of Education. I met with Dr. Melanie Wong, who is associate professor of teaching and program advisor for the online MEd in literacy education, and we exchanged around place-based education grounded in indigenous cultures, digital tools for pre-service teacher education, and literacy education. I also met Prof. Dr. Jennifer Jenson, professor of digital languages, literacies and cultures, with whom we discussed play-based education, game-based design and storytelling. Finally, I had the privilege of visiting Emerging Media Lab, which is an experimental space where faculty, students, and staff from all disciplines collaborate with industry and the community, with the mission of evolving learning by creating tools and



Meeting with Prof. Dr. Kristiina Kumpulainen



Indigenous Totem art in the Museum of Anthropology and on the campus

techniques using emerging media. In addition to networking, I participated in REACH workshop, a weekly workshop for the faculty members to discuss and reflect on research methods.

The University of British Columbia, Vancouver campus, is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam (x^wməθk^wəyəm) people. As such, there are several opportunities on the campus to connect with Musqueam and other First Nations art, culture and history. In addition to admiring and learning about totems located on campus, I visited the Museum of Anthropology, located on the campus, a place of world arts and cultures with a special emphasis on the First Nations peoples. I also visited the Beaty Biodiversity museum, also located on the campus, that provided insights into the role of nature for indigenous people. Finally, I purchased a book from the university bookstore on indigenous storytelling, which seemed highly relevant to me and the project I am working on.

Beyond the research exchanges and professional learning, I had a chance to visit famous Capilano Suspension Bridge Park, following Prof. Dr. Kristiina Kumpulainen's recommendation, where I explored the new and slightly extreme ways of connecting with nature, crossing a long suspension bridge, walking alongside the cliffs and under the treetops.



Capilano Suspension Bridge

I would like to thank ESERA for providing me with such an opportunity to network with great scholars and experience unforgettable adventures in Vancouver.

With many thanks,

Sergei Glotov

20.10.2025