

## A position statement

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I would like to be considered for a Regular Executive Board Member position at ECREA. I would like to highlight a number of points from my career profile which I believe will be of particular interest to the Appointment Committee.

Before joining the University of Leicester as a Lecturer in January 2013, I was the Gorbachev Media Research Fellow at Oxford University, UK (2008-2012) and a Research Associate on an AHRC-funded project led by Professor Stephen Hutchings at the University of Manchester, UK (2006-2008). I gave a number of public talks (as reflected in my CV) and organized events at the University of Manchester, Oxford and Leicester. I convened the *Gorbachev Lectures on Press Freedom* held at Christ Church, University of Oxford in 2011. I have a proven track record of scholarly research and publications. I worked on several projects dealing with media representations of Islam as security threat; multiculturalism and inter-ethnic cohesion in Europe; democracy in post-communist Europe; gender, media and emergent forms of post-Soviet identity, nation branding of post-Soviet states. I have extensively published in a peer-reviewed journals and co-authored several monographs. My articles reflect my multidisciplinary background, bridging cultural, development and media studies. I serve as a reviewer for a number of journals including *Europe-Asia Studies*, *The Russian Journal of Communication*, *Communication, Culture & Critique* and *New Media and Society*. I am on the editorial board of the *Digital Icons: Studies in Russian, Eurasian and Central European New Media*.

Working with diverse groups of people, I also developed sound communication and presentation skills, and an ability to lead and to work in a team. For instance, at Leicester I brought together a group of lecturers to develop an innovative inter-departmental PhD module *Globalising Research Imagination*. The AHRC project to which I was attached at the University of Manchester (2006-2008) was an international team involving four people across two institutions.

The main purpose of my application is to contribute to the academic community and strengthen my academic profile, as I am transitioning from an early career researcher to a more mature post-probation academic. I am continuously seeking way to bolster my professional development and share my expertise in analysing media, power relations and the shaping of identities in western and non-western societies. I believe that the knowledge and experience I gained to date can bring a new

perspective to the profile of the ECREA executive board (e.g. the digital cultures and diasporic communication in Europe; marginalised online communities and language of hate; dilemmas of new media ecologies and civic activism, etc.).

I strive to contribute to various knowledge transfer initiatives. I regularly contribute to BBC (Russian Service). I am on the editorial board of *Digital Icons* journal. I am well-connected to various Higher Education Institutions throughout the post-Soviet region (Russia, Belarus, etc.), Eastern and Central Europe (Hungary) and I am able to establish research and other types of collaboration with those institutions. I can exploit the links to media practitioners as a result of my affiliation with the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (University of Oxford, UK), and the contacts made from the Gorbachev Lecture Series. The appointment will partially coincide with my study leave (February-June 2017) and will provide an ideal environment for a further contribution to the Board. It will offer particular opportunities to extend ECREA's international reach as I am going to be a Visiting Fellow at Aleksanteri Institute in spring 2017 (Finland).

I am confident that my expertise in media and digital culture and established contacts make me a very strong candidate for the opening as described.

Please see my short CV and a copy of UK passport enclosed.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Miazhevich', written in a cursive style.

Galina Miazhevich