

Narrative Report

Centre for European Studies Research Travel Grant

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The Centre for European Studies and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence at Carleton University funded my research visit to Brussels in June 2019 in order to support my dissertation field research on the European Union and gender equality.

The main purpose of my research was to conduct semi-structured interviews with representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament, as well as feminist NGO's and Lobbyist groups in Brussels. My project, "Advocacy, Austerity, and the Gendering of Crisis: (Re)Conceptualizing Feminist Integration and Post-Crisis Rejuvenation in the European Union", sought access to research subjects who had some knowledge of both the pre- and post- 2009 financial crisis workings of the EU and could speak to implications of this crisis on gender equality pursuits or inclusions almost a decade later. I hoped to uncover the extent to which EU level norms and mandates are enacted and how these have facilitated or affected discourses between civil society actors and the EU. Semi-structured interviews allowed me to engage with the subjects in a way that leans into their insights and expertise, which shaped the processes of the interviews as well as facilitating more targeted findings. The ultimate goal of this part of my research was to better understand the formal and informal relations between the EU and feminist practitioners and unpack how this was or was not reflected in policymaking processes and outputs.

The purpose of my travel was to collect first-hand information on the progress of gender equality in the EU. I plan to use the information I acquired through semi-structured interviews in order to bolster the claims being advanced in my doctoral dissertation as well as establish clear links between the different branches of EU governance on the topic of gender.

During my time in Brussels, I was also able to establish contacts within the European Women's Lobby, which will be useful for updating my research and staying abreast of the impact of the incoming Commission on gender inclusions in EU policymaking.

The funding generously provided by the Centre for European Studies, the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence at Carleton University was critical to enabling me to undertake this research. The interviews that I conducted have helped me to better understand the inner workings of feminists and feminism in the EU as well as validating the core hypothesis of my dissertation. The EU Research Travel Grant has provided me with both educational as well as financial resources that have been and will continue to be integral to my doctoral research.