

Dr.sc.pol.
Ieva Birka

Brīvības iela 90-71 • Rīga, LV-1001 • Latvia • +371 223 52087
ievagruzina@gmail.com

EDUCATION

University of Latvia (www.lu.lv) Rīga, Latvia

PhD, Political Science, Comparative Politics. October 2009 – June 2014.

Academic specialization in ethnic, integration, and migration issues.

Contributing researcher to the University of Latvia National Research Programme '*National Identity*'.

Academic supervisors Dr. Daunis Auers / Dr. Nils Muižnieks.

University of Leuven in Belgium (KU Leuven) (www.kuleuven.be) Leuven, Belgium

International Scholar at Faculty of Social Sciences. October 2010 – June 2011.

Academic supervisor Dr. Peter Vermeersch.

London School of Economics (www.lse.ac.uk) London, UK

Masters of Science (with Merit), Russian and Post-Soviet Studies. Awarded December 22, 2004.

Concentration in post-Soviet country economic, political and social transition.

Academic supervisor Dr. James Hughes.

University of Rochester (www.rochester.edu) Rochester, NY, USA

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Russian Language minor. Awarded May 18, 2003.

Certificate in Management Studies in Public Sector Analysis.

Vesalius College (www.vesalius.edu) Brussels, Belgium

Semester (September – December 2002) spent in Brussels studying European Legal Systems and Politics of European Integration.

Baltic International Summer School (Vidzeme University College) (www.biss.va.lv) Valmiera, Latvia

Completed courses in Baltic Economy and Politics, July 2000.

EXPERIENCE

University of Latvia Centre for Diaspora and Migration Research (<http://www.diaspora.lu.lv/eng/>) Rīga, Latvia

- **Associated Researcher** 1/2015 – present

Invited to contribute to the work of the Centre with research on topics of migration and diaspora.

University of Latvia / University of Lucerne (<http://www.lu.lv/eng/>) Rīga, Latvia / Lucerne, Switzerland

- **SCIEX Research Fellow** 12/2013 – 12/2014

As a member of the University of Latvia and University of Lucerne cooperation project, conducted a year long research project titled '*Dual Citizenship – Endangering or Strengthening the National Community?*' under the supervision of Dr. Daunis Auers and Dr. Joachim Blatter. Thus far, the project has resulted in two academic publications.

- Developed, implemented, and oversaw the EvaSys internet based survey of dual citizens.

- Responsible for facilitating the scientific cooperation of Latvia and Switzerland, identifying areas of collaboration, and organizing exchange visits for academic staff.

Central Election Commission of Latvia (<http://www.cvk.lv>) Riga, Latvia

- **Member** 03/2012 – 11/2013

The Central Election Commission is a permanently functioning elected public institution the duties of which include preparations and conduct of Saeima, European Parliament and municipal elections, as well as national referendums and referendums on legislative initiatives.

- Election observer Lithuanian Parliamentary elections 2012.
- Election observer United States Presidential elections 2012.
- Host observer delegations at the Latvian municipal elections 2013.

British Chamber of Commerce in Latvia (<http://britcham.lv/>) Riga, Latvia

- **Executive Director** 07/2006 – 02/2010

Promotion of trade and relations between Latvia and the United Kingdom, lobbying and representing interests of member companies, liaison with government representatives, organization of events, seminars, company launches, representations, delegation visits to the various regions of Latvia for British business representatives (Valmiera 2007, Kuldīga 2008, Jelgava 2009) and to the United Kingdom for Latvian business representatives (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009), and international conferences (London 2009 “*Latvia: More Than You Would Expect*”).

- Publication of the *British Latvian Trade Magazine*, including editorial work, writing for the magazine, advertising revenue generation, marketing activities, layout arrangement, and creating distribution networks.

European Commission Representation (http://ec.europa.eu/latvija/news/index_lv.htm) Riga, Latvia

- **Communication Department Trainee** 02/2006-07/2006

Part of the official European Commission Traineeship programme.

Responsibilities included analyzing Latvian political and economic developments and reporting back to the European Commission on the progress of various Directive implementation in Latvia. Overseeing all communications from the various departments of the European Commission, marketing and public diplomacy activities.

Ashoka: Innovators for the Public (www.ashoka.org) Arlington, VA

- **Executive Office Assistant** 02/2005-01/2006

Responsible for research tasks such as composing background research on various issues, following policy and international developments, assistance in preparing research reports focusing on economic development and social entrepreneurship. Engaging corporate supporters in corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities and projects. Responsible for administrative tasks such as drafting of documents and letters, event and meeting organizations, correspondence with interest groups and individuals. Worked with overseas project oversight and management.

Personal Language Tutor to U.S. Ambassador to Latvia Catherine Bailey and Irving Bailey. Louisville, KY, USA 11/2004-01/2005

House of Commons (www.andrewgeorge.org.uk) London, UK

- **Assistant to Member of Parliament Andrew George (Part-Time)** 11/2003-06/2004

Responsible for research regarding Parliamentary policy on Cornwall, university top-up fees, public school curriculum, and Regional Assemblies. Drafted reports on the progress of Area Based

Initiatives (ABI). Attended committee hearings, tracked legislation and policy developments, met with constituent representatives and various other stakeholders, composed briefings and speaking points. Involved in the work of the Committee of Regional Affairs.

European Parliament (www.europarl.europa.eu) Brussels, Belgium

- **Assistant to Member of European Parliament Bill Miller (Part-Time) 09/2002 - 12/2002**
Responsible for research of European Union policies and legal amendments as pertains to the United Kingdom and EU enlargement, meeting with lobbyists, activists, and interest group representatives. Corresponding with businesses, media outlets, and organizations interested in the work of the Regional and Legal Affairs Committees. Overseeing office management, and duties such as tracking media developments, legislation, composing briefings, coordinating meetings, setting business agenda, making travel arrangements, and following European Parliament developments.

Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (www.mfa.gov.lv) Riga, Latvia

- **European Union Department Intern Summer 2002**
Responsible for translation of European Union documents from Latvian to English and from English to Latvian. Responsible for creating public information about the European Union accession, researching, monitoring, and briefing on EU enlargement progress, analyzing EU policy as it pertains to Latvia.

PUBLICATIONS/CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

2015

- Under review article *'Dual Citizenship and Transnational Simultaneity: Is resident country citizenship undermining emigrant's identification with and political participation in the country of descent?'* with Dr. Andrea Schlenker and Dr. Joachim Blatter.
- Forthcoming article *'Evaluation of Dual Citizenship Regulation of Latvia in Accordance with Theories of Democracy'*, University of Latvia, Centre for Diaspora and Migration Research.
- Forthcoming article *'Expressed Attachment to Russia and Integration: the Case of Young Russians in Latvia 2004-2010'*, *Journal of Baltic Studies*.

2014

- Article published *'Russian Speaker Sense of Belonging to Latvia within the Context of Integration and National Identity'* in the University of Latvia academic publication for the National Research Programme *'National Identity'*.
- Swiss Summer School of Democracy Studies, Lucerne, Switzerland.
- Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) 19th World Convention (article presented *'Evaluation of Dual Citizenship Regulation of Latvia in Accordance with Theories of Democracy'*), New York City, USA.
- Latvian expert in the *'Regimes of Ethnicity: A Global Database of Ethnic Demography and Survey of State Policies on Ethnicity'* project survey carried out by the Department of International Relations at Koc University in Istanbul, Turkey.

2013

- Article published *'Ethnicity and Social Cohesion in the Post-Soviet Baltic States'* with Nils Muižnieks and Juris Rozenvalds, *Patterns of Prejudice* Special Issue *Social Cohesion and Social Change in Europe*, Vol. 47/3.
- Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) 18th World Convention (article presented *'External Homeland Influence on Russian Speaker Belonging to Latvia'*), New York City, USA.
- Latvian expert in the *'Parliamentary Procedures'* project survey carried out by the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

2012

- University of Lucerne international conference *New Forms of Multiple Belonging – Multidisciplinary Perspectives* (article presented '*The Role of History for Feelings of Belonging*'), Switzerland.
- Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) 17th World Convention (article presented '*The Politics of Integration and Sense of Belonging: The Case of Latvia*'), New York City, USA.
- Central European University international conference *Living Together in Diversity: National Societies in the Multicultural Age* (article presented '*Living Together in Diversity and Sense of Belonging – Latvia*'), Budapest, Hungary.

2011

- Article published '*Relationship between History and a Sense of Belonging – Russian Speaking Minority Integration in Latvia*' in *Central European University Political Science Journal*, Vol. 6/3.
- International Summer School/PhD Forum *Classifications and the Construction of Belongings* (article presented '*The Sense and Politics of Belonging – Case Study Latvia*'), Essen, Germany.
- Article published '*The Dialogue between Elected Officials and the Electorate*' in the electronic version of weekly magazine *Ir.lv*.
- ASN 16th World Convention (article presented '*Relationship between History and Sense of Belonging – Russian Speaking Minority Integration in Latvia*'), New York City, USA.

2010

- Article published '*Government Formation in Latvia – History Matters*' on Nationalities Blog.
- ASN 15th World Convention, New York City, USA.
- British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies international conference (article presented '*Memory Politics: Impact on National and EU Policy*'), Cambridge, UK.

2009

- University of Latvia international conference *20 Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall* (article presented '*Memory Politics*'), Riga, Latvia.

2006

- IREX/Woodrow Wilson International Centre Symposium (article presented '*EU and NATO Member States and Their Neighbors*'), Washington D.C., USA.

MEMBERSHIPS/CERTIFICATIONS

- Latvian Academy of Science Expert Certification in Political Science and Comparative Politics.
- European Research Framework Programme EVAL-INCO Evaluator.
- Member of the Association for the Study of Nationalities.
- Member of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS).
- Member of the British Chamber of Commerce in Latvia.
- Member of Latvian Young Researchers Association.