



Ionela Maria Ciolan

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About me: An accomplished and highly successful Researcher and Human-Rights Activist, with an outstanding record of achieving academic excellence within US and European-based Universities and leading high-performing research programmes on European Policy developments. Expertise includes writing published academic papers, policy papers, op-eds, case study analysis, background materials, policy memos, briefings and executive studies. Furthermore, have designed/delivered Human Rights Education workshops to over 700 people and can offer a multitude of skills including analytical abilities, leadership of teams, event management and project management. Possesses excellent communication skills with the ability to interface at all levels; culturally astute, incisive, and tenacious with a pragmatic style blending theoretical knowledge with practical skills.

● WORK EXPERIENCE

01/06/2021 – CURRENT – Washington D.C., United States

JAMES S. DENTON TRANSATLANTIC FELLOW – CENTER FOR EUROPEAN POLICY ANALYSIS (CEPA)

- Conducting the fellowship remotely due to the pandemic
- Research and analysis on subjects related to Climate Security, Black Sea security, transatlantic relations and Russian and Chinese interference in Central and Eastern Europe
- Writing and publishing policy materials

01/04/2021 – CURRENT – Brussels, Belgium

RESEARCH FELLOW – EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

- Research and analysis on subjects related to NATO, NATO-EU relations, EU Security and Defence Policy, and Transatlantic affairs
- Organization of events and writing and publishing policy materials

01/10/2014 – 30/03/2021 – Bucharest, Romania

FOREIGN POLICY AND SECURITY RESEARCHER/TEACHING – NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF POLITICAL STUDIES AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (NUPSPA)

Appointed as a Researcher to conduct research activities on the European Union's foreign and security policies, this entailed analysing and writing about a specific subject (academic articles, summaries, policy papers, briefs, op-eds) and presenting findings at national and international conferences. Furthermore, lectured at a University course seminar and acted as a Teaching Assistant for three years, in addition to organising numerous events for the institution.

Additional accountabilities included:

- Contributing to the planning/implementation of academic conferences/workshops; drafting of the content-setting and agenda of several events on topics related to European foreign policy and security architecture
- Participating in four academic research projects financed by either the Romanian Ministry of Education and/or the European Commission
- Monitoring/evaluating political and security developments of the European Eastern vicinity (with a focus on Russia, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, and Georgia)
- Writing academic articles, briefs, public presentations, and op-eds on EU relations with Russia, foreign policy and security progress on the Eastern Flank, and other subjects of interest for the research projects
- Delivering a course titled "Introduction to NATO", this entailed drafting the seminar syllabus and materials, holding the seminars, grading students' essays, and updating the course materials
- Preparing reports/minutes of meetings and presenting research at international conferences and seminars (note-taking and post-event reporting)

Achievements

- Successfully participated in the development/implementation of several research grants including:

i) **Researcher within the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Project: "Structures of interconnectivity in the EU's Neighbourhood"**, co-authoring a book on European foreign policy

ii) **Research Assistant within the project: "The new Cold War in Europe? How Russia is (mis)-using the Balkans to challenge the European order"**, produced an academic article and policy brief (sent to the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Romanian Government), and hosted an academic conference

iii) **Researcher within the European Commission-funded project: "Competitiveness and excellence in doctoral research in the**

domains of political and administrative science, sociology and communication."

- Oversaw the event management for the academic conference attended by 31 foreign scholars and notably, gained coverage in the Romanian press
- Granted and completed the i) New Security Leaders by the Warsaw Security Forum – a key event in Central-Eastern Europe in security and foreign policy ii) the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs Scholarship for Peace and Security – one of 50 young women professionals selected

15/05/2018 – 13/06/2018 – Washington D.C. , United States

POLICY AND RESEARCH INTERN – CENTER FOR EUROPEAN POLICY ANALYSIS (CEPA)

Conducted policy and research activities on subjects around Central-Eastern Europe, assisting affiliated Researchers with documentation, event organisation, and information analysis/summarising. **This entailed:**

- Writing short background analysis and policy briefs on topics related to the security of the Black Sea region, Russia's

interference in the Eastern Flank countries, Romania's foreign policy and security issues, NATO; monitored main political and civil developments in the former Soviet space

- Assisting in organisation and coordination of CEPA meetings and events

Outcome: assisted the Think Tank in improving their understanding of the foreign and security perspective of Romania and security developments in the Black Sea region and wrote an op-ed that was used internally

15/08/2017 – 14/05/2018 – Berkeley, United States

FULBRIGHT VISITING RESEARCHER – UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Conducted research and writing activities and presented findings with the members of the University. **This entailed:**

- Monitoring/evaluating political and security developments of the Former Soviet Space and South Caucasus, transatlantic relations and Chinese interventions in Central-Eastern Europe
- Writing academic articles, briefs, public presentations and op-eds on the above-mentioned topics
- Contributing to the planning and implementation of academic conferences and workshops projects within the Humanities and Social Sciences Association
- Assisting an Associate Editor with peer- review, promotion and event organisation within the Troika Student Journal and drafting of the content-setting and agenda of several events on topics related to foreign policy and security in Europe
- Organising/moderating HSSA Speaker Series event: "Biopolitics and Biopower in Putin's Russia: An Alternative research agenda" by Professor Andrey Makarychev (Johan Skytte Institute of Political Science, University of Tartu-Estonia)
- Acting as co-organiser of the Institute of European Studies and Social Science MATRIX Graduate Student Conference: Fake News and the Crisis of Europe, U.C. Berkeley

Outcome: after receiving the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship, spent a year at U.C. Berkeley and a month at CEPA developing knowledge about transatlantic affairs, furthermore, was selected as one of the four female voices whose short op-eds were published, ahead of NATO Summit in 2018, by the Women in International Security Brussels.

07/07/2016 – 30/09/2016 – Tartu, Estonia

ERASMUS+ VISITING RESEARCHER – THE CENTRE FOR EU-RUSSIA STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

Conducted research and writing activities and presented findings with the members of the University. **This entailed:**

- Research, analysis & policy monitoring; writing short background analysis and policy briefs on topics related to the European Union relation with Russia, the European Neighbourhood Policy, and the Eastern Partnership
- Implementing/developing research projects (including Horizon 2020 Twinning project UKTAKE on building research excellence on the field of Russia and Eastern European Studies; Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs development cooperation project with a focus on Ukraine);
- Organising/coordinating meetings and event

Outcome: successfully delivered two key events i) ECPR Graduate Student Conference with 300 participants ii) Third Summer School "Prospects for Democracy, Stability, and Europeanization in Ukraine: What lessons from the Baltic experience?" with 35 participants

01/10/2015 – 30/01/2016 – Brussels, Belgium

TRAINEE AT THE OFFICE OF VICE-PRESIDENT – EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Monitored political and economic developments and parliamentary activity in partner countries. **This entailed:**

- Following the activities of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs and foreign policy and security themed events in the EP or in think-tanks and reporting on them
- Writing short background analysis and policy briefs on topics related to EU Foreign Policy, European Neighbourhood Policy, European Security and Defence Policy, and NATO

- Preparing documents, writing talking points for the Vice-President and various other ad-hoc administrative tasks
- Following the parliamentary legislative work in the political group and committee meetings and tabled amendments

● EDUCATION AND TRAINING

01/10/2014 – 30/09/2021 – Romania

PHD CANDIDATE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – The National University of Political Studies and Public Administration

01/09/2012 – 30/03/2013 – Italy

ERASMUS MOBILITY, SPECIALIZATION POLITICAL SCIENCE (EASTERN EUROPEAN STUDIES) – University of Bologna

01/10/2011 – 30/06/2013 – Romania

M.A. IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION – The National University of Political Science and Public Administration

01/10/2008 – 30/06/2011 – Romania

B.A. IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND EUROPEAN STUDIES – ‘Babeş-Bolyai’ University

● LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): ROMANIAN

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
ENGLISH	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
FRENCH	A2	A2	A2	A1	A1
SPANISH	C1	C1	B2	B2	B2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

● DIGITAL SKILLS

Microsoft Office | Outlook | Social Media | Team-work oriented | Strategic Planning | Research and analytical skills | Excellent writing and verbal communication skills | Good time management | Excellent organizational planning and solving problems in short time | Project management | Cultural self-awareness to improve personal effectiveness and human relations

● PUBLICATIONS

A Smarter U.S. Approach to Europe

2021

Center for European Policy Analysis, 19 August 2021
<https://cepa.org/a-smarter-u-s-approach-to-europe/>

Kremlin's quest for mare nostrum: Enhancing Black Sea security to stop Russian encroachment

2021

Co-author, in European Policy Centre, 8 June
<https://rb.gy/bgd85f>

From Contestation to Buy-In: the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy as seen from European Capitals

2021
Co-author, in GLOBSEC, 24 May
<https://bit.ly/3fkDEHD>

A Unifying Presidency Amid an Unprecedented Crisis: Evaluating the German Council Presidency"

2021
Co-author, in GLOBSEC, 5 February
<https://rb.gy/sxqhhe>

Technological globalization and economic nationalism. Solutions for a solvable contradiction" (Original title in Romanian: "Globalizare tehnologică și naționalism economic. Soluții pentru o „contradicție solvabilă")

2020

Op-ed. within the Collective book, "Quality of Life", Volume No 5, edited by Marius Stoian, Magor Csibi, and Grațian Mihăilescu, Club Romania publishing, September 2020

Structures of Interconnectivity in the EU's Neighbourhood: Main Factors that shaped the implementation of the ENP - A Handbook

2018
Tritonic, Bucharest
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3357058 – 2018
Co-author of the Structures of Interconnectivity in the EU's Neighbourhood: Main Factors that shaped the implementation of the ENP - A Handbook-, 2018, Tritonic, Bucharest. Within this book, I wrote the chapters dealing with the following case study countries: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel.

The role of the "New Cold War" concept in constructing Russia's great power narrative

2016
CES Working Papers, 2016, vol. 8(4), issue 4
<https://goo.gl/b65k5d>

Security in Central Eastern Europe: Eastern Partnership Looking Towards Riga Summit

2015
Europolity - Continuity and Change in European Governance, Vol. 9, No. 1
<http://goo.gl/Py87QA>

Defining Cybersecurity as the Security Issue of the 21st Century. A Constructivist Approach

2014
The Public Administration and Social Policies Review, year VI, no. 12/ June
<http://goo.gl/LZT>

How Social Capital is Fostering Organized Crime in Western Balkans?

2014
Journal of East-European and Asian Studies, Vol. 1, No. 1, September 2014

● **AWARDS**

01/04/2019
OSCE – United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs Scholarship for Peace and Security – OSCE & UNODA

20/10/2018
New Security Leaders of the Warsaw Security Forum – Casimir Pulaski Foundation & European Academy of Diplomacy

15/08/2017

Fulbright Research Scholarship (2017-2018) – U.S. Department of State

20/09/2017

Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund 2017 – U.S. Department of State

19/04/2015

Professional Fellowship Programme 2015 – U.S. Department of State

● **PRESENTATIONS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES**

02/04/2019

Is the EU multilateralism failing in the Eastern vicinity?

at the Research Seminar: The EU and the Crisis of the International Liberal Order: Past Mistakes, Present Challenges and Future Policies, organized by the Institute of European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada)

27/03/2019 – 30/03/2019

The Eastern Partnership between multilateralism and power politics within the crisis of the liberal world order

at the International Studies Association Annual Convention, organized by International Studies Association, (Toronto, Canada)

11/04/2018

How Russia has Instrumentalized the European Refugee Crisis

at Institute of European Studies and Social Science MATRIX Graduate Student Conference: Fake News and the Crisis of Europe, U.C. Berkeley (Berkeley, USA)

28/03/2018 – 30/03/2018

Building the European Identity in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia after 2014

at the 25th International Conference of Europeanists, organized by the Council of European Studies at Columbia University (Chicago, USA)

23/03/2018 – 25/03/2018

The Role of Romania and Bulgaria in the Eastern Neighborhood: Between Followers and Influencers in the European Foreign Policy Agenda

at 2018 Midwest Slavic Conference, organized by the Ohio State University (Columbus, USA)

09/05/2017 – 10/05/2017

EU-Georgia bilateral relations from Vilnius Summit to present

at the International Conference: Interconnectivity and EU Foreign Policy Making" within the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence „Structures of Interconnectivity in the EU's Neighbourhood", National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, (Bucharest, Romania)

20/10/2017 – 21/10/2017

The role of the "new Cold War" concept in constructing the image of Russia's great power actorness

at the „Instrumentalizing the Recent Past in Foreign Policy – The Legitimization of External Intervention in the Former Soviet Space" Conference, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, (Bucharest, Romania)

23/06/2016 – 01/07/2017

Between perceptions and realpolitik in an overlapping neighbourhood: a triangle of bilateral relations (Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia)

at the 4th European Neighbourhood Policy PhD Summer School, College of Europe, (Natolin, Poland)

25/02/2016

From common neighbourhood to shared neighbourhood, how the EU foreign policy on Eastern border is changing

at The evolution of foreign Policy in the post-Soviet space Conference, London School of Economics and Political Studies, (London, UK)

22/02/2016

The impact of regional cooperation within the Eastern Partnership

at the Regional Policies and Internalization of local action in the European context Conference, European Parliament (Brussels, Belgium)

● **VOLUNTEERING**

01/11/2011 – 30/12/2020

Founder and President -Amnesty International Bucharest Group

Bucharest, Romania

Founded and led the first group of human rights activists for Amnesty International and initiated the movement of Amnesty International Volunteer Facilitators in Romania. **This entailed:**

- Coordinating 30 human rights activists; drafting/implementing annual strategies of increasing the human rights awareness in Romania; coordinating/supervising human rights education workshops in schools/universities; designing, budgeting, and monitoring the implementation of local, regional, and national human rights campaigns; organising 15 human rights campaigns on subjects as Women rights, Roma rights, LGBTQ rights, freedom of speech, banning torture, sexual and reproductive rights with a reach of 40,000 Romanians
- Representing/promoting the organisation's activities on and offline, and at Amnesty International Germany meetings, speaking at group public events
- Managing stakeholder relations with the International Secretariat of Amnesty International Coordinator for the region and Board and Secretariat of Amnesty International Germany
- Coordinating with the national network of high-school teachers collaborating on various national human rights campaigns and networking/creating partnerships with other Romanian civil society organizations

Achievements

- Elected as Delegate for the International Membership from Europe to participate in Amnesty's International Council Meeting 2015, this is the highest position an Activist can achieve and was also the first Romanian delegate to be selected in the history of Amnesty International
- The human rights campaigns reached over 40,000 Romanians and the education workshops successful taught hundreds of High-School students about why human rights are crucial for protecting democracy
- As a personal recognition for Civil Society work was granted a Professional Fellowship by the US Department of State in 2015 and was part of the first Romanian team who won the prestigious Alumni Engagement and Innovation Fund of the US Department of State in 2017
- Within five years of founding the Bucharest Group, it is now considered as the best example of sustainable grassroots development within Amnesty International and the group with the greatest impact in Europe

