

The Marie Curie fellowship in the social sciences

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The value of a Marie Curie fellowship

1. Doing comparative research in a globalised world

- The last decade has seen an **explosion of interest in comparative methodologies** within disciplines concerned with urban and regional issues such as geography and applied economics
- We now compare not only similar locales as was in traditional comparative research (e.g. deindustrialising regions) but also different contexts in order to highlight the **variegated geographies of globalisation**
- Compared with conventional post-doc schemes at the national level, **the Marie Curie fellowship is 'naturally' oriented towards cross-national comparative research**

The value of a Marie Curie fellowship

2. Pursuing policy relevance in the social sciences

- In the social sciences, especially those dealing with economic development issues such as regional and urban studies, geography matters when it comes to making an **impact on society** and particularly to informing **decisions made by policymakers** through your research findings
- The Marie Curie fellowship offers the opportunity to many researchers who have been trained overseas or abroad at the doctoral level to get back to Europe – settling in their homecountry or another European country – and, in so doing, to **exert influence on the EU and national policies** through their research activities

My experience as Marie Curie fellow

Becoming part of a broader community of scholars

- In 2003 I was a post-doc Marie Curie fellow at the University of Amsterdam within the framework of the EU-funded **Research Training Network** Urban Europe (Urban Europe between Identity and Change)
- The fact that I was part of a large network comprising 5 different universities (Milan, LSE, SciencePo Paris, Humboldt Berlin, Helsinki) across Europe enabled me to develop a **rich network of researchers** that still endures today
- Moreover, doing urban research in Amsterdam has shaped **my research attitude** driving my curiosity towards the exploration of new research contexts in subsequent years, such as Baltimore, Barcelona, New York City, Belgrade.