

The EU Centre travel grant has enabled me to travel to Auckland to attend and present at the EU Centres Joint Conference on 23 and 24 November 2015.

My attendance at the EU Centres Conference has meant that I was able to give my first ever conference presentation at a small conference with a very supportive audience which has made the experience much less daunting. It also meant that I was able to get more extensive feedback on my presentation.

My attendance at the EU Centres Conference also provided encouragement to expand the focus of my research from the Australian asylum seeker debate to Germany's response to the European refugee crisis. This has broadened my understanding of global responses to refugees. It has also deepened my understanding of my own research topic.

I have also found it beneficial to be able to listen to presentations outside of my area of research which has expanded my knowledge.

I have also benefitted from meeting other Australian and international PhD candidates and researchers, and I have found it beneficial to have the opportunity to get to know two Uni SA researchers who focus on refugee issues who had travelled to the conference with me.

While my school also provides some funding for conference attendances, the EU Centre travel grant has enabled me to attend an additional conference which would not have been covered by the funding from my school. I am confident that the additional conference presentation will be beneficial for future job applications.

I am grateful for having been selected as a recipient of the EU Centre travel grant and for Nicola Pitt's support during our time in Auckland.