

# Mária Žuffová

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<b>Research interests</b>	Transparency, Information and Media Policy, Media Freedom, Gender	
	Substantive research interests in (1) transparency and accountability reforms with a special focus on access to information and digital government policies, (2) gender representation, gender equality, and gender-based violence, and (3) media freedom, with focus on the safety of journalists.	
<b>Academic positions</b>	<b>European University Institute, Florence, Italy</b>	
	Research Fellow at RSCAS (EGPP)	2024 -
	Research Associate at RSCAS (CMPF)	2020 - 2024
	<b>University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, United Kingdom</b>	
<b>Fellowships</b>	Research Associate at the School of Social Work & Social Policy	2018 - 2019
	<b>re:constitution Fellow</b>	2025 - 2026
	Forum Transregionale Studien & Democracy Reporting International	
	<b>Luis Moreno Visiting Fellow</b>	05-06/2025
	Spanish National Research Council - CSIC	
	<b>Human-Centric Cyber-Security Partnership Fellow</b>	01-06/2025
	Electoral Integrity Project	
<b>Education</b>	<b>Visiting Research Fellow</b>	02/2023
	Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Geneva, Switzerland	
	PhD, <b>University of Strathclyde, Glasgow</b> , Political Science	2020
	Supervisors: Prof Brandenburg, Prof Greene	
	MA, <b>Central European University (CEU), Budapest</b> , Public Policy	2010
<b>Public engagement activities</b>	MA, <b>Comenius University, Bratislava</b> , Journalism	2008
	<b>Policy engagement</b>	
	1. Peer-review of the Slovak Whistleblower Protection Office's analysis, 2022	
	2. Written evidence to <b>the UK Parliamentary Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee</b> on The Cabinet Office Freedom of Information Clearing House, 26 October 2021	
	3. Oral evidence to <b>the UK Parliamentary Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee</b> on The Cabinet Office Freedom of Information Clearing House, 26 October 2021	
	<b>Selected blog posts and opinion pieces</b>	
	1. I governi devono considerare le leggi sull'accesso agli atti come opportunità, non come minacce. La Repubblica, 28 September 2023	
	2. Access to public-sector information remains challenging in many European countries. CMPF Blog, 28 September 2023	
	3. Better data and responsible political leaders are urgently needed to tackle violence against women journalists. CMPF Blog, 25 November 2021	
	4. The experience of journalists with the FOI process is often marked by delays,	

unresponsiveness, or refusals on unverifiable grounds. LSE British Politics and Policy Blog, 25 May 2021

## Presentations

### Invited talks

**Instituto de Ciencia Política, Universidad Católica de Chile** 2026

**European University Institute:** European Governance and Politics Programme (EGPP) Seminar Series, EGPP Annual Conference, Applied Data Science for Social Research Working Group Seminar Series, **Electoral Integrity Project:** Fellows Seminars, **Spanish National Research Council:** IPP Seminars 2025

**European University Institute:** CMPF's Book Launch 2024

**European University Institute:** CMPF's Online School for Journalists and Media Practitioners, **Comenius University:** PhD seminar series 2021

**Scottish Information Commissioner's Office:** Freedom of Information Conference 2019

### Professional associations' conferences

European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) 2019, 2020, 2021

European Political Science Association (EPSA) 2018, 2020, 2021, 2025

### Practitioner events

mySociety webinar - Putting transparency to the test 2025

UNESCO Artificial Intelligence for Information Accessibility Conference 2024

UNESCO World Press Freedom Day Conference 2024

Annual Media Pluralism Monitor Conference 2021, 2022, 2023

The Impacts of Civic Technology Conference 2016, 2018

### Presentations at workshops and summer schools

Summer Institute in Computational Social Sciences in Bologna 2024

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies Joint Sessions of Workshops 2024

DATA & SOCIETY Workshop (*virtual*) 2021

Swiss Summer School of Democracy Studies (*Zurich*) 2019

Government and Public Policy Departmental Colloquium (*Glasgow*) 2017 - 2019

Oxford Internet Institute Summer Doctoral Programme (*Oxford*) 2017

## Teaching

### Undergraduate level

L2305: Research Methods for Political Scientists, University of Strathclyde 2016-17

Focus: quantitative and qualitative methods, research design, ethics

L2103: Politics 1b, University of Strathclyde 2016

L2102: Politics 1a, University of Strathclyde 2015

### PhD level

Illiberal media policies and resistance to them, EUI and SNS Summer School 2025

Writing for Publication, Matej Bel University 2024

Career Outside Academia, Matej Bel University 2024

Quantitative Text Analysis, University of Strathclyde 2020

## Awards, scholarships and grants

EUI Widening Europe Programme (€28,130) 2026

re:constitution Fellowship (€15,000) 2025

IPP Visiting Fellowship, Spanish National Research Council (€1,300) 2025

Electoral Integrity Project (€1,500) 2025

CIVICA Faculty Short Visits, CEU (€600) 2024

Summer Institute for Computational Social Science, University of Bologna 2024

ECPR Political Communication Best Paper Award 2021

Travel grant, University of Lucerne 07/2019

Spring school bursary, University of Oxford 2018, 2019

Fellowship, Zurich Summer School for Women in Political Methodology	07/2018
Full IPPI/GPP PhD Scholarship, University of Strathclyde (€52,000)	2015 - 2018
Full CEU Budapest Foundation Doctoral Fellowship (€63,000)	declined
New Europe 100	2015
Full Magyar Telekom MA Scholarship, CEU	2009 - 2010

## Skills

### Research skills

Quantitative methods (quantitative text analysis, surveys and survey experiments)  
Qualitative methods (conducted over 60 interviews and several focus groups in sensitive contexts in the UK and Slovakia, e.g. with civil servants and investigative journalists)  
Experience with ethics applications that required the use of sensitive data

### Software

R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, SPSS, Qualtrics, MS Office

### Languages

Slovak (native), English, Czech (fluent), French, Italian (intermediate)

## Professional experience outside academia

**Affiliated researcher, IRM, Open Government Partnership** 2014 - 2020  
Evaluating the Slovak government's commitments in the transparency and accountability area.  
Regularly liaised with the Slovak government and the public administration on its progress with the government commitments.

**Researcher and project manager, Slovak Governance Institute** 2010 - 2015  
Conducting research on access to information, coordinating civic tech projects (What-DoTheyKnow and FixMyStreet equivalents), organising events

**Intern, Center for Media, Data and Society at CEU** 06 - 09/2010  
Assisting the organisers of the Google CEU conference Internet at Liberty 2010: The promise and peril of online free expression

## Service to the profession

### Service to the community

Member of the Harassment Policy Committee, EUI 2024 -  
Organisation of the Media Pluralism Monitor Final Conference 2022 - 2023  
Member of the Athena Swan Committee, University of Strathclyde 2017 - 2018  
Associate Editor for *Political Research Exchange* 2025 -  
Reviewer for *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*; *Journalism*; *Journalism Practice*; *Problems of Post-Communism*; *Media, War & Conflict*; *Politics in Central Europe*; *Cogent Social Sciences*; *Feminist Media Studies*, *Media International Australia*, *Studies in Communication Sciences*

## References

**Prof Erik Jones**, European University Institute, erik.jones@eui.eu  
**Joanna Wielgo**, Project Manager, European University Institute, joanna.wielgo@eui.eu  
**Prof Zachary Greene**, University of Strathclyde, zachary.greene@strath.ac.uk  
**Prof Gregory Michener**, Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV-EBAPE), gregory.michener@fgv.br