

# Laia Comerma Calatayud

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Research Fellow at the Social Sciences Division (SSD) of the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER)**

*9 Chalkokondili Street, 10677 Athens, Greece*

**January 2022 – ongoing**

- Do independent research in a specific area of interest;
- Collaborate with other Academic Members of ATINER in preparing research proposals for external funding;
- Organize special panels as part of the conferences organized by the Social Sciences Division;
- Assist with reviewing and editing of ATINER's e-journals and the publications of books.

### **Member of the technical ALDE Policy Advisory Group on China**

**January 2022 – ongoing**

- Design new actionable policy solutions on EU's foreign policy towards China;
- Facilitate learning and best practice sharing between member parties.

### **International Digital Policies Advisor**

**September 2019 – March 2020**

*Ministry for Digital Policies and Public Administration of Catalonia. Via Laietana 26, 08003, Barcelona, Spain.*

- Elaborate bilateral treaties with other regions and countries.
- Coordinate the participation in European programs and projects and forums of interest according to the strategic priorities.
- Coordinate the international activity of the Ministry.
- Update various databases.
- Update international initiatives and directives in the area of digital policies.
- Prepare supporting texts.
- Prepare reports on the issues of interest to the management units.

### **Trainee at the EU Delegation to Hong Kong and Macao**

**June– August 2019**

*EU Delegation. 33 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong.*

- Design communication campaigns according to EU policy guidelines and values;
- Research and analysis of information;
- Draft analytical reports on various policy developments in Hong Kong and Macao;
- Attend and participate in meeting, seminars and conferences on Hong Kong and Macao;
- Support the Section in the preparation of visits, missions and meetings as well as follow-up actions;
- Promote EU's interests and values in the region.
- Monitor, analyse and report on internal and regional economic and trade developments, as well as other policy areas such as climate change, environment and innovation, and write briefing dossiers, speeches, statements, press releases and articles.

### **Trainee at the Catalan Trade and Investment Agency**

**September 2018 – May 2019**

*ACCIÓ. Rue de la Loi 227, 1000 Brussels, Belgium*

- Assist Catalan companies in applying for calls for tender by the EU institutions (H2020, COSME, etc.); draft their application strategies, do networking and identify potential partners and engage with relevant stakeholders in the EU.

- Track the current EU legislation and policy debates on ICT, circular and digital economy, transport, defence and energy sector.
- Attend diverse public events (workshops, debates, conferences, etc.) on the main issues discussed and potential opportunities in terms of business networking.
- Prepare reports and agendas for Catalan companies with interest on specific issues or in meeting policy-makers, consultancies and other relevant partners in Brussels.

**Delegate at the 1989 Generation Initiative Policy Cycle**

**February – May 2018**

*3.12 Cowdray House. LSE European Institute, WC 2AE, London, United Kingdom.*

- Member of the Roundtable of Global Affairs, identifying the main problems for the EU in the international sphere (defence, security, trade, diplomacy, etc.), contributing with policy proposals and identifying the major obstacles and implementation challenges, with its according stakeholder mapping, both during the conference and subsequent seminars, so as to finally write a policy report.

**Member of the Millennium Journal of International Studies Editorial Board**

**February – May 2018**

*3.12 Cowdray House. LSE European Institute, WC 2AE, London, United Kingdom.*

- Critically analyse the articles submitted to the journal, depending on their originality, argumentative coherence, theoretical consistency, their contribution to International Relations as a discipline, their clarity and relevance.

**Internship at the Department of European Funds**

**March – June 2017**

*Generalitat de Catalunya. Carrer de la Pietat 2, 08002 Barcelona, Spain.*

- Monitor the latest calls from European Funds, national funds and regional funds; identify the main stakeholders in Catalonia who may be interested in each call; follow up the ones who had already won a project; follow political and economic news of interest; help and assist in partner research; and elaborate the weekly European Funds magazine.

**Internship at the Spanish Embassy in London**

**September 2016 – January 2017**

*Ministry of External Affairs and Cooperation. 39 Chesham Place, Belgravia, London, SW1X 8SB, UK*

- Tasks at the Cultural Office: organization of events, answer correspondence, data base creation and update, art work, public relations.
- Tasks at the Political Office: write informs, follow political actuality, in-depth analysis of successes.

**Consultor**

**February– June 2016**

*Young Potentials. Interleuvenlaan 62, 3001 Leuven, Belgium*

- Project leader, team organization, crowdfunding campaign creation, MBA design.

**ACADEMIC BACKGROUND**

**PhD Candidate and Researcher in International Relations**

**June 2020 – ongoing**

*Barcelona Institute of International Relations / Pompeu Fabra University.*

Doctoral Thesis: "EU-China cooperation: the multilevel correspondence between the economic foreign policy relations of the two great powers". Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Jacint Jordana.

Research Project: Global Governance and the European Union: Future Trends and Scenarios (GLOBE), Horizon 2020 Programme, European Commission.

**Big Data 1: Data science course.** Computational methods, Python programming, extracció de dades i processament, Machine learning, sentiment analysis and visualisation. By Carlos Arcila (Universitat de Salamanca (12-14 Juliol 2021).

**Case-based methods: a practical introduction to Qualitative Comparative Analysis and Process-tracing methods,** by Pro. Derek Beach, Aarhus University (15-19 Febrer 2021).

**Causal inference in Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs,** by Prof. Daniel Horn, Institute of Economics, Corvinus University of Budapest (25-29 Febrer 2021).

**Postgraduate Degree in Foreign Trade and International Economy**      **September 2019 – July 2020**

*University of Barcelona.*

- Courses in three specializations:
  - International Economy: interdependencies in international economy, international economic institutions, new theories of international trade, structure and evolution of international trade, globalisation, regulation of international trade, integration of international economy, monetary integration, quantitative tools, processes of international economic integration, the Institutionalist School, Spanish economic policy, the juridical framework for international businesses, and development cooperation.
  - International Marketing: new tendencies (big data & AI), analysis and strategy of international marketing, criteria for Incoterms election, international transport and logistics, networking, business creation, international trade networks for SMEs, SME exportation, and positioning strategies and Country Brand Image.
  - and Foreign Trade: import and export in the EU, trade regimes for import and export, international channels of distribution, customs value determination, EU legislation on goods, Value Added Tax, fair trade, price policies for exportation, export promotion & trade missions, budget elaboration for exportation, purchase and sales management in China, and SME internationalisation.
- Master Thesis.

**MSc in International Relations**

**September 2017 – August 2018**

*London School of Economics and Political Science. Average mark: 62.25.*

- Core course: International Politics.
- Specialization courses: Foreign Policy Analysis III and Chinese Foreign Policy.
- Dissertation: “The role of cognition and analogical reasoning in the declaration of Catalan independence”.

**Degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics**

**September 2013 – June 2017**

*Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona; Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, and Universidad Carlos III, Madrid. Erasmus: Katholieke Universiteit van Leuven (courses from the MSc in Business Economics). Average mark: 9.07. First position in 2016-2017 promotion.*

Honorary Scholarships in “Introduction to Political Science”, “History of Political Philosophy”, “Government and Public Policies”, “Ethics”, “Political Analysis and Theories on Democracy”, “Macroeconomics”, “Descriptive Statistics”, “Contemporary Political Philosophy”, “Microeconomic Theory”, “European Politics” & “Technologies of Information and Communication for Development”.

**Professional Degree in Music (Piano)**

**September 2008 – May 2015**

*Conservatory of Music. Vic.*

- Harmony; Chamber; Choir; Musical Language; Concert performance.

- Speciality in Piano. Teachers: Joan Rubinat and Miquel Oliu.

## LANGUAGES

- Catalan (Mother tongue).
- Spanish (Mother tongue).
- English (C2).
- Greek (B1).
- German (B1).
- French (B1).
- Mandarin Chinese (A2).
- Dutch (A1).

## SKILLS

**Job-related skills:** strategic thinking, negotiation and pursuit of a defined objective; public speaking and communication (public speaking course at UPF); data base creation skills; translation skills.

**Organisational skills:** leadership, teamwork and multicultural sensitivity; organization and prioritization of tasks; time management, multitasking; responsibility and perseverance.

**IT skills:** good command of office suite (word processor, spread sheet, presentation software); basic command of photo editing software; basic command of AutoCAD.

**Methodological skills:** certified qualitative (QCA & process-tracing) and quantitative methodologies (STATA, R).