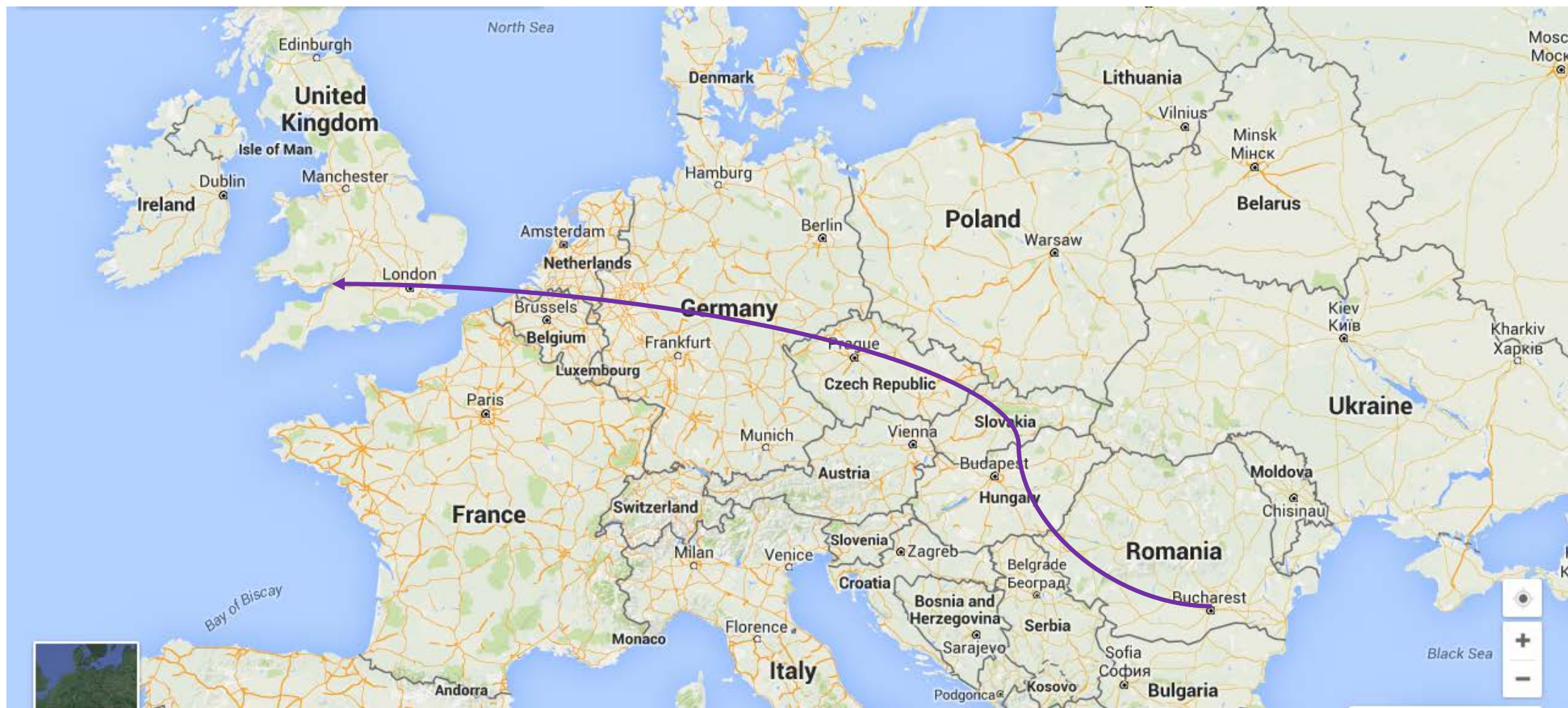
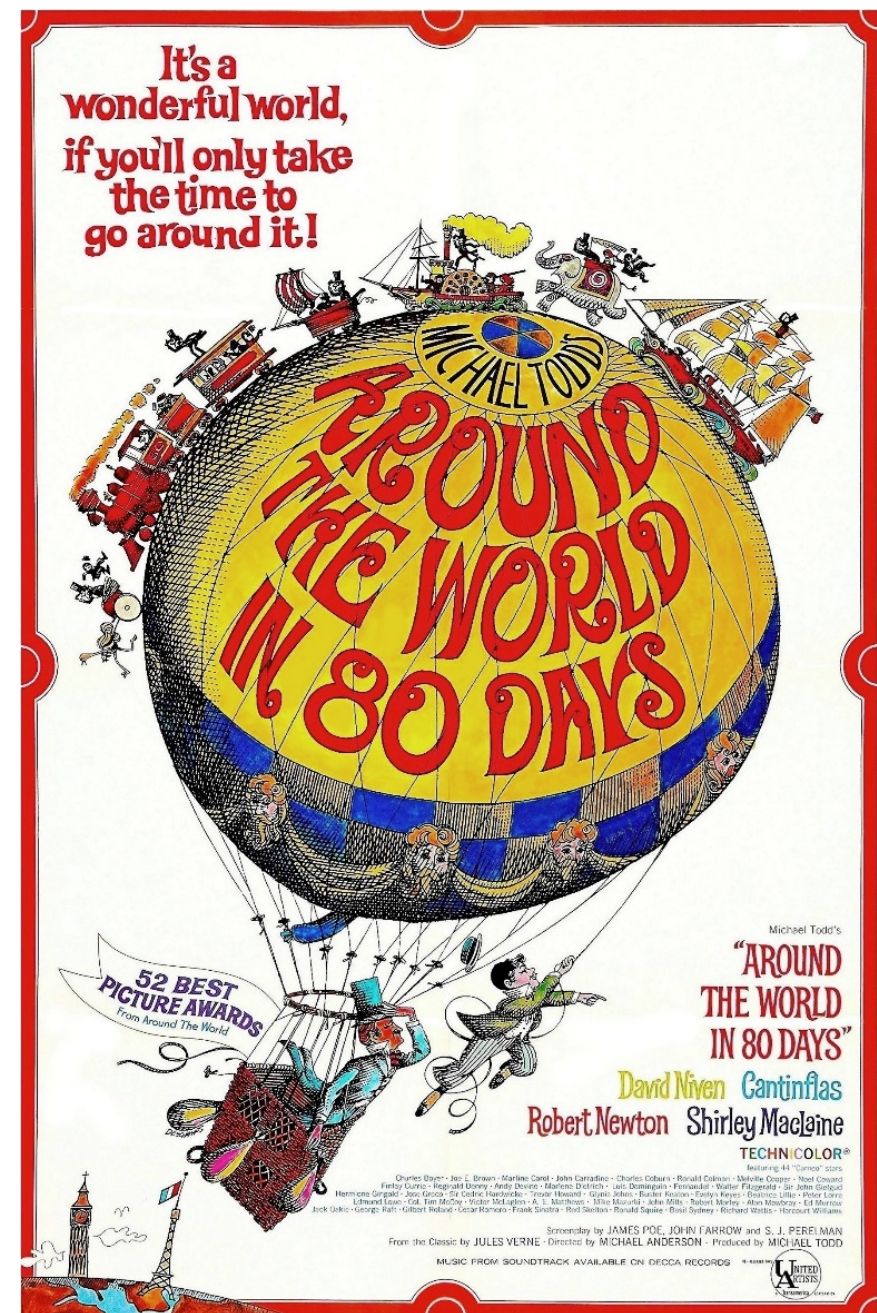


From East of Europe to Britain: a successful scientific journey

by Dr. Magdalena Olmeanu Stanton



Reasons to move: falling in love with a British guy... 😊 Still happening 😊



Time taken to take a fellowship: 04/19/12 at 12:15 PM to 03/01/2014 at 10:00 AM – **2 years!!!!!!!**

Hi Magdalena,

Thank you for your interest in my research group. I donot have funding at the moment.

But I think your qualification is high standard and therefore you can apply for FP7 Intraeurope Marie Curie Fellowship to work in the UK.

There will be 25 pages proposals with deadline this August. Let me know if you are interested so that I can guide you to prepare the application.

Best wishes

Haitao

Dr Haitao Ye

Senior Lecturer in Nanotechnology Science

Aston University

Birmingham B4 7ET

Tel: 01212 04 3526

Fax: 01212 04 3682

web: www1.aston.ac.uk/eas/staff-directory/dr-haitao-ye/

Call: FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IEF MC-IEF (Intra-European Fellowships (IEF))

Total score: 85.20 (S&T QUALIT 3.8, Researcher 4.6)

Acknowledgment: Human Resources in Aston University!!!!!!!!!!

- mike.ashfold@bristol.ac.uk 03/06/13 at 10:22 AM

Dear Professor Ashfold,

Last year I have applied for a Marie Curie IEF position together with a group from Aston. Please, find attached to this e-mail the outcome of this proposal that had a total point of 85.2 (Engineering).

I am also attaching to this e-mail my resume, written in the form that I did for the Marie Curie proposal.

I have the chance to be in Bristol from 25th of March to 5th of April, visiting friends in the area.

I will be very happy to have the chance to meet you and introduce myself (maybe present a seminar) and the work that I am doing now.

I will be very interested to try a new Marie Curie application with you, if this you will find suitable.

Kind regards,

Magdalena

Call: FP7-PEOPLE-2013-IEF MC-IEF (Intra-European Fellowships (IEF))

Total score: **98.80 out of 100** (S&T QUALIT 5.0, Researcher 5.0)

What changed in one year?:

- I decided that the implication of the supervisor in Aston University was not good enough to have success for a further application, did not want to waste another year without having success;
- I wrote to Prof. Mike Ashfold because I found that his theme and equipment will fit with a subject that I was developing at that time in Romania. If I trusted that my subject is valuable is another story 😊
- Mike replied to me 😊 - it is a very important aspect!!
- I proposed the research that I developed in Romania, indicating originality and the ability to create your own subject;
- I had in Prof. Mike Ashfold a supervisor that offered support in writing and correcting the application, showing implication and desire to take the scientist;
- I had an organization that belong to the Russell Group of Universities in the UK;

•[Mike Ashfold <Mike.Ashfold@bristol.ac.uk>](mailto:Mike.Ashfold@bristol.ac.uk)

•11/29/13 at 8:37 PM

To

- magda.ulmeanu@inflpr.ro
- [Thomas Bowker](#)

Message body

Dear Tom (and Magda)

As you will have seen, Magda's application scored spectacularly. Do you recall seeing such a high score before?

I'm away till Tuesday lunchtime next week, then away again for Wednesday/Thursday, then in Bristol continuously through to 18th Dec.

I'll let you know as soon as I have the e-mail telling me how to access the NEF tool.

It would be great if we can get this sent off before the Christmas shut down,

Mike

We did it!!!!!!!

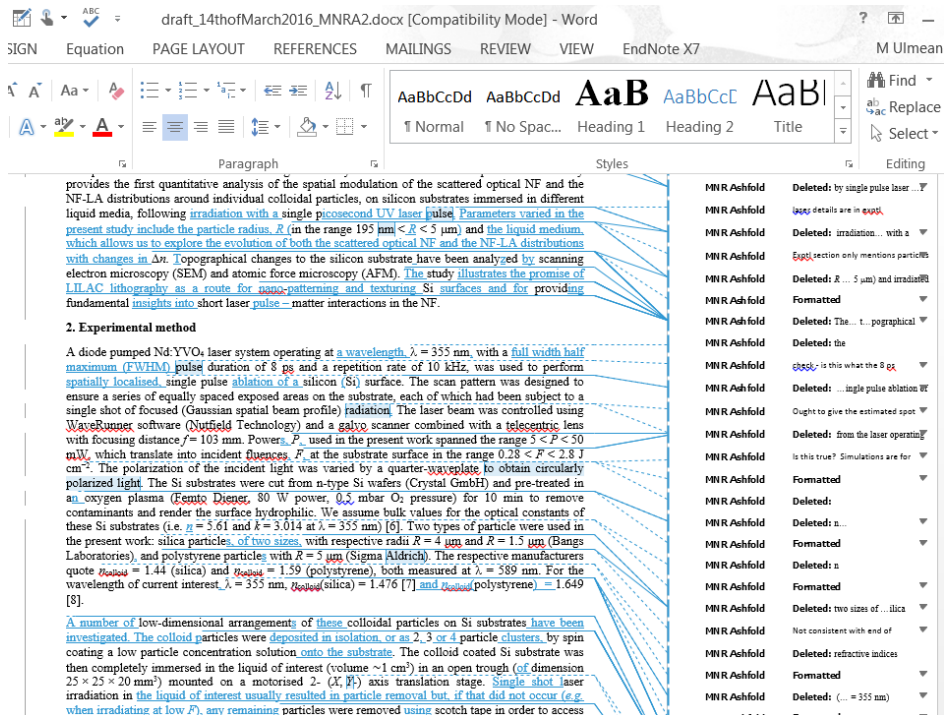
- I moved on 1st of March and on 3rd of March I came to work
- Among the first sentence that I heard: Now, you have to prove yourself here!!!!!!
- I went home intrigued...?! 😊 A friend told me that this is a typical English sentence and attitude... I did not know this 😊
- And I had to start again to develop my scientific story in the new environment 😊

What I have achieved:

1) My first scientific publication in a journal with 3.8 impact factor, created with my own ideas.

2) I am in the final stages of preparing an article that will be submitted to a 6-7 impact factor journal, created with my own ideas.

How my articles look before submission, see below ☺



Why I have achieved this:

- I had in Mike the most supportive supervisor that any scientist can wish to work with ☺

- He never told me that what I was working on is lacking in importance or value; he gave me all the freedom to collaborate or contact any researcher or groups.

- He has helped to finalize quickly and efficiently all my papers, i.e. I never waited more than 2 weeks (the most) for any corrections or progression in my work.

- I had productive talks with Prof. Sandu Popescu and Prof Sir Michael Berry.

- I have used lab equipment at Cardiff University, School of Engineering – Dr. Emmanuel Brousseau and Dr. Petko Petkov

- I have used equipment such as SEM and AFM at University of Bristol – John Jones and Dr. Rob Harniman

EPSRC application, reviewers replies, something to learn from...

While I have no problem with proposing further work on an established and already funded and ongoing work, I seriously failed to find information on how the applicant **plans to move beyond the current and established state-of-the-art**. Therefore, I detect clear weaknesses in relation to novelty, impact and importance of the proposed work. Sadly, **I do not detect ambition and desire for adventure**.

The applicant is keen to highlight new work in the summary for this project in relation to previous publications. I consider this a strange choice when intending to highlighting the novelty of the proposed work. **The proposal does not feel like a fellowship more a research project for a PDR.**

This proposed work would be novel, would explore new areas, and should increase our understanding of the technique. The proposed approaches and methodology are appropriate and the proposal is well written and clearly presented. **The project is transformative in its ambition of developing a sub-wavelength lithographic method that can be used to pattern semiconductors and other surfaces.** 😊

Majority part of the proposed research has, however, been well studied before. **The degree of innovation is therefore limited.**

- I had fantastic 2 years at Bristol University
- I look forward to the future
- Determined
- Courageous
- Choose the best people to work with
- Desire to learn
- Understand the system
- Share and try to improve
- THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!