Haifa, 15.06.2020.

Letter of invitation for Dr. Viola Alianov-Rautenberg

It is a pleasure for me to write this recommendation for Dr. Viola Alianov-Rautenberg, whom I have known personally for more than 5 years. I am familiar with her excellent research on the gender history of the migration of German Jews to pre-state Palestine from talks she delivered at conferences, her award-winning dissertation, as well as her published articles on the subject. Dr. Alianov-Rautenberg’s work in Jewish gender history and Jewish migration history makes an important contribution to the field. In addition, I followed her work at the Institute for the History of the German Jews in Hamburg, where she recently organized a highly successful international conference on immigration. Most recently, she received the prestigious fellowship at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Alianov-Rautenberg’s research project entitled, “Practice, Discourse, and Memory of German-Jewish Housework in Emigration,” fits perfectly to the research agenda of the Bucerius Institute, namely our focus on 20th century German history in global context, with a special emphasis on Jewish-German history, German-Israeli relationships, and emigration and exile studies. Dr. Alianov-Rautenberg’s fellowship at our institution would contribute tremendously to the research done at the Bucerius Institute and we would be thrilled to serve as her host institution.

As the director of the Bucerius Institute, I can assure you that our institute would be the perfect place to conduct her proposed research project. First, our institute hosts researchers annually and is therefore well-aware of all the needs of foreign researchers. For example, this year, Prof. Marcus Funck (Technische Universität Berlin) spent one month as avisiting research fellow at our Institute and we were planning for Dr. Philipp von Wussow (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt) to come as a visiting research fellow for the second semester. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 outbreak made his fellowship at our Institute impossible at this time. Dr. Viola Alianov-Rautenberg will receive an office, a computer, printing facilities, and full library access. We would also be able to support her with a research assistant for evaluating archival material and transliterating oral history interviews. The institute can also support her cost of travelling to various archives throughout the country, as well as to conferences.

From an academic perspective, let me briefly explain how Dr. Alianov-Rautenberg’s research would be integrated with the research developed at our Institute. The Bucerius Institute is a dynamic and collegial research institution, bringing together the best of local and foreign scholarship on contemporary Germany, with a special emphasis on German-Jewish history. The Bucerius Institute currently has twelve research fellows and organizes at least twenty-five academic events every year. These events include research seminars, workshops, conferences, guest lectures, and academic courses, involving distinguished German and international scholars, faculty members from Israeli universities, and young Israeli researchers and students. Dr. Alianov-Rautenberg will not only be invited to participate in the academic events of the Bucerius Institute, but she will be asked to develop, with our support, a research seminar to present her current research and engage in dialogue with other scholars in the fields. In regards to her field of research, emigration and exile studies, she will find among the fellows of the Institute several colleagues like Dr. Orr Scharf, Dr. Yotam Hotam, Dr. Sharon Livne, Dr. Natasha Gordinsky, Mrs. Behrendt and myself who all deal with German Jewish emigration and exile in their research. We can add to this stimulating environment other specialists in Jewish emigration at the University of Haifa such as Prof. Gur Alroey.

Dr. Alianov-Rautenberg’s research projects fit well in the Bucerius Institute, yet it clearly broadens our approach of German-Jewish migrations by studying the process of homemaking in German-Jewish history, combining gender, cultural, and social-historical approaches. We see Dr. Alianov-Rautenberg’s research as an important contribution to the research of the Institute and this is the reason why we have chosen to host her, in the hopes that she will receive the prestigious Minerva fellowship.

In view of the exceptional qualities of Dr. Alianov-Rautenberg and the new perspectives odeveloped by her research project, I am pleased to invite Dr. Alianov-Rautenberg to be a research fellow at our Institute for the next academic year and I strongly recommend her application for a Minerva Fellowship.

With my best regards,



Dr. Cedric Cohen Skalli Director – Bucerius Institute for

Research of Contemporary German History and Society

University of Haifa