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10 June 2015

Dear ESRA Committee,

I would like to stand for the position of ESRA prize coordinator, as advertised in your e-mail circulated on 13 May.

I am currently Senior Lecturer in the School of Geographical Sciences at the University of Bristol. Until next month, I am also a visiting researcher at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (in the Research and Expertise Centre for Survey Methodology). Earlier this year, I was also a visiting researcher in the Department of Sociology at Umeå University, in Sweden.

I have been in touch with Patrick Sturgis, and he has encouraged me to put my name forward.

Reykjavik will be my third ESRA conference (after Ljubljana and Lausanne), and from the beginning I have respected the high-quality work presented at ESRA, as well as the particular role that the association plays in the world of European social science. I particularly appreciate that ESRA is home to researchers from a mix of disciplines, as I myself received my training in sociology, but now work in a geography department, and am strongly engaged in debates in political science. I also value the mix of methodological and substantive work that gets presented at ESRA, and I believe that the association has an important role to play in linking methodological innovation to substantive research, to their mutual benefit.

I am organising a session at ESRA next month, and am engaged in a mix of substantive and methodological research projects involving survey data. My own expertise methodologically is on the side of data analysis, particularly multilevel modelling.

I would be pleased to participate in the life of the association as a member of the committee, particularly in order to ensure that substantive research retains a prominent place within ESRA. The recognition provided by prizes and awards plays an important role in defining progress in any field of research, and I would be honoured to contribute as ESRA's prize coordinator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Fairbrother', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Malcolm Fairbrother

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