CoronaNet
Research Project

02/03/2021

Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

The CoronaNet Research Project recognizes **Caress Schenk** for their outstanding contributions as a Research Assistant (RA). Caress Schenk worked from 2020-04-01 to 2020-10-09 for the project. Without their support documenting and updating government policies in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, CoronaNet would not have been able to provide systematic and detailed information on how the government of Russia responded to the pandemic. We appreciate the dedication and incredible effort put into volunteering for this data collection effort in a time of truly exceptional global uncertainty.

The CoronaNet Research Project collates data on government responses to the COVID-19 crisis. Its primary objective is to collect as much information as possible about the diverse actions governments are taking to contain the spread and effects of COVID-19. This includes not only gathering information about which governments are responding to the coronavirus, but who they are targeting the policies toward (e.g. other countries), how they are doing it (e.g. travel restrictions, banning exports of masks) and when they are doing it. Together with over 500 political, social and public health science scholars from all over the world, CoronaNet makes publicly available an initial release of a comprehensive hand-coded dataset of more than 50,000 separate policy announcements from governments around the world visible since December 31st 2019. For more information, see www.coronanet-project.org.

- Caress Schenk collected an impressive number of policies and became a country expert for Russia. To fulfill this role, Caress Schenk participated in our online training session, identified information on government policies made in response to COVID-19 from various information sources including government websites and newspaper articles and documented the government policies that they found following the procedures and classification scheme outlined in the CoronaNetCodebook. They further contributed to the CoronaNet community by posting and reading questions and comments on the CoronaNet Slack channel and participating in CoronaNet's weekly RA Zoom meetings.
- Data validation: This role involved re-coding data previously collected by other RAs. The RA reentered the data without seeing prior entries. If the new entries matched the original data, then the data is considered accurate. If not, then the data needs to be rechecked by a third RA for resolution of errors. This task requires high expertise in coding and knowledge of the codebook
- Regional Manager: This role comes along with the responsibility of leading a group of RAs. It involves the oversight and support of RAs as well as the conduction of regular performance and activity appraisals to guarantee the development of a consistent and up-to-date dataset. The RAs can approach the regional manager for research related questions and organizational issues. The role requires a profound knowledge of the construction of the dataset and strong leadership skills in order to contribute to the development of a certain team spirit among the RAs.

Caress Schenk has invested substantial time and effort in collecting up-to-date information of great value to policy makers, scientists and the global community. We appreciate them for their exceptional sense of solidarity and their contribution to this important public good and are deeply thankful to Caress Schenk for being part of this project.

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Luca Messerschmidt, Principal Investigator

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