Dear Erika,

This report concerns my activities related to the March 2016 Faculty Research Grant (FRG) for my research project, “Coding and Decoding European Borders: The Fence and the Digital Phone.” The FRG has allowed me to spend the first part of Summer 2016 doing archival research and building a database to allow the identification of main ways of using digital technology among refugees trying to reach the European Union.

During the second part of Summer 2016, with the help of the IU OVPIA Faculty Exchange program, I continued my FRG activities at Hamburg University, Germany, where I was working with Professor Anke Struver and her research collective at the Institute of Geography. Together, we have identified and contacted local agencies and NGOs involved in refugee resettlement such as the Hamburg Refugee Center and Pandeia, to facilitate contacts with the refugee community in order to conduct interviews with refugees to examine how exactly, and to what ends, they have used digital technologies in their journey across national borders. Our collaboration on this research continues, as professor Struver plans to visit us here at IUSB during Summer 2017.

This research project has already produced significant outcomes. Together with several of my colleagues, we have recently published an article-intervention *Interventions on the state of sovereignty at the border*, in the journal *Political Geography* which is the flagship publication in my field. My specific contribution to this collective work is called “Making space for digital technologies: the digital, the limit, and the sovereign”.

At the same time, in February 2017 I have been an invited Speaker for the Erdogan Kumcu Memorial Lecture at Ball State University, with a talk about *The Geopolitics of the Refugee Crisis and the need for more “Europe”*. A second event on the Ball State University campus has consisted of another invited talk *Geographical Imagination 2.0 and the Digitization of State Borders*, as a part of the Department of Geography Colloquium Series.

Furthermore, the results of my research activity during Summer 2016 will also be disseminated at the April 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Boston, Massachusetts, where I am organizing a session *Contextualizing the effects of the European Migration “Crisis”*, and I am contributing a paper called “Digital topologies of migration in Europe”.

Lastly, I already incorporated the findings of my project in my Human and World Geography classes I am teaching this Spring 2017 at IUSB.