

Ting-jung CHEN – 2016



Dear Duke of Arenberg,

Dear Rectors and Members of the Executive Board,

Dear representatives from the Coimbra Universities,

It is a genuine honour to be nominated for the 2016 Arenberg-Coimbra Group Prize. When I first entered university in Taiwan, my professor said, “University is the shrine of knowledge”. Though we were just starting to recognise Cyrillic letters one by one, which seemed very distant from the so-called knowledge. Little by little, from letters to reading *War and Peace* in Russian, the essence of

knowledge reveals itself: knowledge is the joy of discovery. University is where discovery multiplied with joy. European universities are blessed with the proximity with one another and hence the abundant opportunities of cooperation and interactions.

My master programme, the Erasmus Mundus Master of Arts Euroculture brought me first to Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, where unrestricted discussions liberate thoughts and ideas. Later in Uppsala universitet, abundant archives render the foundation of innovative breakthroughs. Throughout the access to different languages and the pursuit of enlightenment, acknowledging the differences between conceptions, prescriptions and the differences of the two is highlighted. Thus, I decided to analyse the foreign policies of the European Union and the Russian Federation, their conceptions, prescriptions and the differences between the both. It is more than an obligation, but an accumulation of multicultural experiences.

It is an absolute pleasure to receive the 2016 Arenberg-Coimbra Group Prize. It is an illuminous encouragement for me, and a grand finale for my master studies. Finally, I would like to thank the Duke of Arenberg, the Executive Board, the Coimbra Group, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen and Uppsala universitet, my master programme the Erasmus Mundus Master of Arts Euroculture, Director Knudsen and Ms von Richthofen from Göttingen.

Thank you!

Photo: Ting-jung Chen and Duke Léopold of Arenberg, Poitiers, 10 June 2016