

# Michael Bukur

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## Education

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### **Loughborough University** LOUGHBOROUGH, UK

October 2021 – present

School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences (SSEHS), PhD

### **University of Westminster** LONDON, UK

January 2019 – January 2020

Cultural and Critical Studies, MA; Distinction

### **New York University** NYC, USA

September 2015 – January 2019

Media, Culture, and Communication, BSc; Producing, Minor; Magna Cum Laude

## Professional Experience

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### **Universidad Politécnica de Madrid: Visiting Researcher** MADRID, ES

October 2023 – present

- Conduct and analyze participant feedback via observations and semi-structured interviews for the running races San Silvestre Vallecana and the Valencia Marathon, understanding the central value proposition and key improvements needed for an enhanced event experience.

### **Applied Inspiration: Research Assistant** REMOTE, UK

February 2023 – present

- Conduct program evaluations through the collection and analysis of customer perspectives via interviews and focus groups, while also leveraging feedback quantitatively through surveys.
- Analyze stakeholder-provided secondary data related to organizational design and structure, internal reporting metrics, and strategic planning to tailor recommendations for enhanced customer success.
- Craft comprehensive research reports to communicate findings and recommendations directly to clients for effective implementation.

### **Loughborough University: Research Assistant** LOUGHBOROUGH, UK

January 2022 – July 2022

- Collaborated with Professor Cristian Vaccari to review literature and compile longitudinal census data from Understanding Society and the British Household Panel Survey.
- Analysed variables via R to explore the links between media, politics, and health and wellbeing to support a future funding application.

## Teaching Experience

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### **Freelance: Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL)** REMOTE, GLOBAL

October 2021 – present

- Tailored conversational lessons for children, adolescents, and adults, specializing in academic and business English. Expertise in English exam preparation (Cambridge, Duolingo, TOEFL, EOI) alongside general fluency and proficiency enhancement.
- Utilize innovative, culturally sensitive teaching methods that focus on students' experiences and interests. Boost their confidence to effectively use English in a range of personal and professional situations and contexts across the world.

## **Loughborough University: University Teacher** LOUGHBOROUGH, UK

January 2022 – present

- Research Methods: Data Analysis (Spring 2023)  
Co-led undergraduate review lab sessions which included using SPSS to facilitate statistical analyses of case studies and key issues in sport, exercise, and health sciences.
- Conceptualising Sport (Spring 2022, Spring 2023)  
Co-created and delivered undergraduate seminars and marked essays to support learning related to the integration of core philosophical concepts and theories in sport science.
- Sport & Social Sciences (Spring 2022, Spring 2023)  
Co-created and delivered undergraduate seminars and marked essays to support learning related to the application of core concepts and theories in the social sciences to sport.
- Research Skills and Methodologies (Autumn 2022)  
Delivered seminars which trained undergrads in core research methods with a particular focus on qualitative and mixed methods including research design and analytical approaches.

## **Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (AFHEA): AdvanceHE** UK

September 2023

- Awarded a national teaching fellowship which recognises effectiveness of practice in teaching and support of learning in British higher education.

## **Spanish Ministry of Education: Language Assistant** MADRID, ES

October 2020 – June 2021

- Implemented immersive language and cultural education sessions with secondary school students at a bilingual public school in the Community of Madrid across the subject areas including Art, Biology, English, Music, Physical Education, Social Studies, and Technology.
- Coordinated debate training sessions to develop critical thinking and reasoning skills.
- Facilitated political and scientific discussions across various contemporary topics such as freedom of speech, the role of monarchy, and the use of gender pronouns.

## **120 hours TEFL (TESOL) Masterclass – TQUK Endorsed Level 3: One Education** UK

April 2020

- Completed a 120hr masterclass which explored concepts in linguistics and pedagogical approaches to language education to become certified to teach English as a foreign language.

## **Publications & Outputs**

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**Bukur, M** and Ashurst, S. (2022). 'Football: For Fairies or Future Heroes?', Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Blog, Loughborough University.

**Bukur, M.** (2022). "'We love gay": Yassification and Appropriation in Mainstream Culture', LGBT+ Staff Network Blog, Loughborough University.

**Bukur, M.** (2017). 'Bridging the Gap: Celebrities and Fans', From Plato to Pixels: Honoring the Past. Celebrating the Present. Shaping the Future. Villa Roma Resort & Conference Center, Callicon, 13-15 October, New York State Communication Association.

**Bukur, M.** (2014). 'Love Letters: Da Region', *HuffPost*, BuzzFeed Inc.

## **Administration**

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### **Queer East Midlands Film Festival: Director** LOUGHBOROUGH, UK

November 2022 – present

- Created and coordinate a grassroots film festival focused on stories of queerness and identity with a particular focus on the U.K. and the East Midlands.
- Received over 1000 submissions in the inaugural year with shorts and features from experienced and novel filmmakers from across the world.

### **Loughborough Open Research Collective: Executive Committee** LOUGHBOROUGH, UK

November 2021 – December 2023

- Networked and led events and training with university stakeholders and leaders in the field of open research to facilitate knowledge sharing and cross-institutional conversations via hybrid events and social media engagement.

### **Pint of Science: Events Manager** LOUGHBOROUGH, UK

December 2022 – September 2023

- Organized a community science event which brought together university academics and experts in conversation with over 100 community members for three days of talks and presentations.

### **UNESCO Sport, Physical Activity and Education for Development Network** LOUGHBOROUGH, UK

December 2022 – September 2023

- Led community workshops and events around mobility infrastructure, multilingual knowledge sharing, sustainability, and LGBT+ sport to advance knowledge, policy, and practice in the sport and physical activity industries.

### **Loughborough LGBT+ Staff Network: Collaborations Lead** LOUGHBOROUGH, UK

August 2022 – September 2023

- Developed strategic collaborations and events with university, industry, and community partners to improve the LGBT+ staff experience.

## **Awards**

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### **STAR Award for Outstanding Contribution (Doctoral Researcher)**

July 2023

- Recognized by the Loughborough University School of Sport, Exercise and Health Science for outstanding contributions to the school over the 2022-2023 academic year.

### **Doctoral Travel and Developmental Bursary**

May 2023

- Awarded £1000 in funding for key developmental opportunities which was then used to travel and live in Madrid, Spain for six months to undertake a research stay and a subsequent research project at the Polytechnic University of Madrid to explore the development of popular running races in Spain.

### **Sport and Exercise Research and Innovation Fund**

November 2022

- Received £100 in Amazon vouchers via an internal call at Loughborough University for a participant incentive for completing a questionnaire about physical activity habits for my PhD project.

### **Doctoral College Kickstarter Travel Fund**

June 2022

- Awarded £1000 in funding from the Loughborough University Doctoral College to live in London for a summer to facilitate a more embedded, ethnographic approach to data collection for my PhD project.

### **Loughborough University PhD Studentship**

October 2021

- Awarded a Loughborough University three-year full studentship to undertake research related to how to better engage individuals and groups of lower socio-economic status in health and wellbeing.

## **Skills**

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- **Languages:** English (native), Spanish (B2)
- **Programming:** R, HTML (basic)
- **Software:** Google Suite, Microsoft Suite, Notion, NVivo, InDesign, Photoshop, Premiere Pro, Qualtrics, WordPress