

# Welcome to the MIRA Newsletter!

*Miami International Relations Association*

## *In This Issue*

### Events

### Opportunities + Resources

### Faculty Spotlight:

Dr. Dina Moulioukova  
*INS Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies*

### Student Spotlight:

Aidan Rowe

### MIRA Executive Board:

**President:** Ajiri Uzere

axul40@miami.edu

**Vice President:** Mariana Pavia

mcn66@miami.edu

**Treasurer:** Aidan Rowe

ajr286@miami.edu

**Social Media Coordinator:** Ava Paynter

acp180@miami.edu

**Outreach Director:** Michael Macharg II

mpm181@miami.edu

**Secretary:** Laura Brueggeman

leb164@miami.edu

**Membership Chair:** Mia Wolosky

maw256@miami.edu

**Faculty Advisor:** Dr. Dina Moulioukova

d.moulioukova@miami.edu



**Miami International Relations Association**

## Issue 1: Welcome!

Hello everyone! The Miami International Relations Association Executive Board welcomes you to the very first issue of the MIRA Newsletter. We hope that this newsletter will help create a sense of community among students who are interested in International Relations. Some of the things we will be including in each newsletter include:

- Relevant opportunities such as internships
- Upcoming events
- Q&As with students and faculty
- Information about courses

We look forward to sharing this newsletter and hearing from you!

## GISday Symposium

November 18, 2020



- Jean Monnet in the U.S.A. Series, #JMintheUS
  - Virtual Briefing on the Transatlantic Relationship after the US Elections (November 12th)
  - Webinar: An Update on Europe-Iran Relations | Panel Discussion with European and FIU experts (November 17th)

## Upcoming Events

- "The EU and Global Trade Policy" with Dr. Beverly Barrett (November 5th)
- Univ. of Miami & Catholic Univ. of America presents: Global Energy, Environmental Sustainability, and Intl. Security: Post-Election Forecast (November 5th)
- UM Virtual GISday Symposium (November 18th)



## Opportunities + Resources

- University of Miami Master of Arts in International Administration
- Spring 2021 European Union Center Internship
  - For more information contact Dr. Goergmaier: [m.goergmaier@miami.edu](mailto:m.goergmaier@miami.edu)
- European Union Center Cognates
- Upcoming European Union Center Events
- Click here to follow the European Union Center on Twitter
- University of Miami European Union Center Director
- University of Miami European Union Center Staff



# Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Dina Moulioukova

*INS Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies*

## Q&A

**How long have you been at the University of Miami?**

For ten years when I joined the PhD program at the Department of International Studies. Since then, the University of Miami has become home. I was fortunate to study in different Universities on different continents, but the University of Miami is a unique place, and I am proud to call it home.

**What do you enjoy most about working in the IR field?**

So many things! I guess I am very curious by nature, and there are so many questions in IR that drive my interest: will China rise peacefully? can Russia become a democracy? how others see the world and why they don't see it the way we do? Also, IR gives you an opportunity to work on what matters and in the twenty-first century, there are many important issues that humankind needs to grapple with: climate change, global inequality, democratic deficits, disruptive technologies and AI, global migration and illicit flows, among many. These issues are at the center of public debate, and it seems that the stakes have never been higher in history. This new globalized world can no longer be understood through the tools of any single academic discipline. International Studies is specifically designed to provide a comprehensive view of our global world, with its multiple disciplinary tools and perspectives.

*cont. on pg. 4*



Dr. Dina Moulioukova is a Lecturer of International Studies and Master of International Administration at the University of Miami and Assistant Director and co-founder of the Global Security Initiative. She completed her PhD at the University of Miami with focus on innovative approaches to security studies. Prior to her studies at UM, Dr. Moulioukova received her Master of Law degree (LL.M.) at the University of Cambridge. Her current research concentrates on different aspects of security, featuring theoretical approaches to our understanding of human and energy security as well as environmental sustainability. Dr. Moulioukova has also widely published on the topics of her research and is currently finalizing her book for publication. In addition to her academic interests, she has been engaged with a number of projects with the United States Agency for International Development and the Library of Congress.

## Q&A cont.

### Why did you become a professor?

Oh so many reasons! I guess it is in my blood. I come from a long family of educators. My great grandfather was a director of a school in Siberia. My grandfather was inspired by him and traveled on the roof of a train to get to the city where he could go to the University. Later he received his Doctorate and taught many generations of students he deeply cared for. Growing up I was surrounded by books, debates and discussions. Looking back, I realize how my family and its stories inspired me. It was not a straight journey though. My first degree is in international law. I was very fortunate to travel for work to many exciting places: India, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Romania, etc. It was so intriguing to see how culture, historic memories, and religion shape how different people see themselves, others and the world around them. I had so many questions and very few answers. I guess this curiosity brought me back to the classroom where we learn, discuss, debate, embrace complexity of issues, push the boundaries and hopefully make a difference. It is a privilege and an honor to be in the classroom! I learn with and from my students every day and honestly I could not see myself doing anything else.

### What is one piece of advice you would give to INS students?

Be kind to yourself and others, find what inspires you and always shoot for the stars.

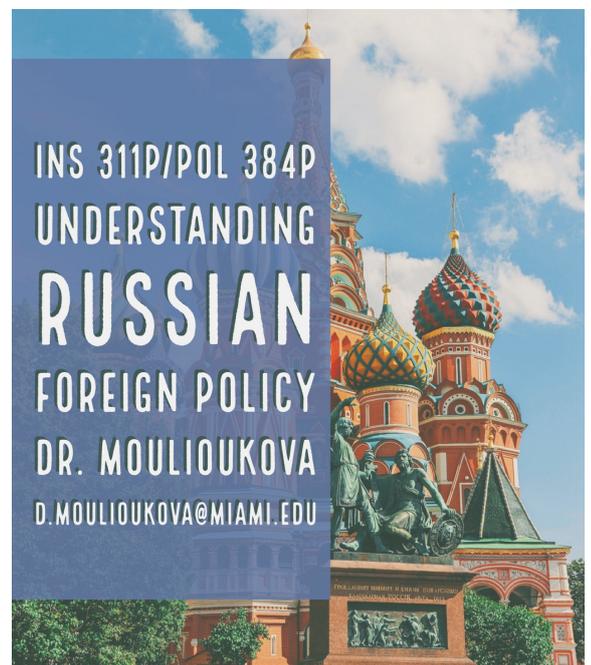
### Who would you consider to be one of your IR-related heroes?

This is a tough one. There are so many incredible historical figures that made and continue making a difference, people we know about and admire. I would probably say “unknown heroes”. Those who choose empathy, care, fight for change when it is not convenient, without the spotlight or expectation of praise. These are my real IR heroes.

### What is your favorite book?

It depends on what currently inspires me. Perhaps *A Natural History of Senses* by Diane Ackermann, which I recently re-read.

*Dr. Moulioukova will be offering a new course in the Spring 2021 semester entitled Understanding Russian Foreign Policy (INS 311-P/POL 384-P)*



# Student Spotlight

Aidan Rowe

**Name:** Aidan Rowe

**Majors:** Political Science and International Studies

**Hometown:** Columbia, MD

**On-Campus Involvement:** MIRA Treasurer



## Q&A

**What is the best advice you have received?**

There's a quote that I love that says "pay attention to the smaller details of the bigger picture." I'm a very detail-oriented person when it comes to school and work, but in my everyday life I tend to get stuck in my own head and I can be oblivious to what's going on around me. It's something that I'm working on because I've realized how easy it is for me to get caught up in my own routine and ignore the little things. When you're always so focused on the bigger picture it can be hard to appreciate what's right in front of you. I feel like that quote is applicable to a lot of different aspects of life.

**What area of IR are you most interested in?**

I love International Studies because it's such a broad field and there are so many unique learning opportunities, but I would say that I'm most interested in IR theory, the global economy, and foreign policy. I think these areas are the most applicable to what I want to do in the future.

**What are your post grad goals?**

After I graduate I hope to go to law school and maybe eventually go into politics. No matter what I end up doing my main goal is to effect positive change in the world.



Follow us on Instagram @umiamimira



[Click Here](#) to Join the MIRA GroupMe

---

[Click Here](#) to Submit Questions for the next Q&A!

---

Questions? Suggestions? Want to submit something for the newsletter? Email [umiamimira@miami.edu](mailto:umiamimira@miami.edu)

---