



# OCUFA

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations  
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario

## 2016-2017 OCUFA TEACHING AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS

CITATION FOR DR. MIRA SUCHAROV



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## **CITATION FOR DR. MIRA SUCHAROV**

*Prepared and read by Alastair Woods, Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario*

“It’s crazy how much she cares about what we say.”

Those were the words one student recalled hearing from a classmate in their letter of support for Dr. Mira Sucharov, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Carleton University, to receive a 2017 OCUFA Teaching Award. Undergraduate life is a tumultuous and transformative experience. So, in a period of tremendous intellectual and emotional turbulence, one of the kindest gifts an undergraduate student can receive is the focused, sincere and empathetic attention of their professor.

With that in mind, it comes as no surprise that Dr. Sucharov is considered by so many to be an outstanding teacher worthy of recognition.

Political science can be fraught with passion, polarization and discord - particularly when studying controversial subjects such as the Israeli-Palestine conflict. Many professors might seek to avoid the emotional weight of such issues. But Dr. Sucharov encourages students to embrace such feelings, interrogate them and question how they inform their interpretation of important political debates.

Dr. Sucharov’s “whole person” approach to education stresses the importance of subjectivity and empathy in pedagogy. For example, she is explicit about the role mental health plays in teaching and learning, going so far as to disclose her own challenges to students. Honesty and forwardness that is not only an act of extreme humility, but one of tremendous emotional and intellectual value.

Combining emotional intelligence, self-reflection, openness, kindness, innovative teaching and an unlimited supply of empathy for her students, her peers, herself and her courses’ subject matter makes Dr. Sucharov a truly rare kind of educator – someone who is not simply an effective teacher, but a compassionate friend. And in the emotionally bumpy period of student life, there is perhaps nothing more worthy of recognition than an educator who not only teaches her students to navigate complex academic topics, but also the murky depths of their inner lives.