

## **A&S Graduate Ombudsperson Report for July 2020 - June 2021**

Evgenia Smirni, Professor, Computer Science

A total of nine graduate students and one graduate director contacted the ombudsperson for consultation for a wide-range of issues including student-teacher conflicts, complaints about conduct, student collegial conflicts, work relationships, advisor-advisee relationships, and allegations of psychological abuse and retaliation.

In all cases, the ombudsperson helped graduate students devise solutions that would serve the graduate students' best interests. Specifically, the ombudsperson provided relevant information, acted as mediator, and proposed possible courses of action.

The time-scale of meetings varied widely, with the simplest matters resolved in a week or so, and more complex matters requiring several weeks of meetings and discussions.

Smirni participated in the bi-weekly meetings of the Committee on Graduate Studies (COGS) throughout the academic year, with the goal of maintaining close contact with the graduate programs of Arts and Sciences.

All but one case have been resolved.