



Academia Europaea | Barcelona Knowledge Hub

Annual Report

Activities of 2015



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1. OVERVIEW

1.1 The Academia Europaea

Founded in 1988, the [Academia Europaea](#) (AE) is an international, nongovernmental, not-for-profit association of individual scientists and scholars from all disciplines, recognised by their peers as experts and leaders in the own subject areas. The AE recognises genuine international excellence and supports the culture of European research through dialogue and collaboration.

The Academy is pan-European, with around 3000 elected members drawn from the whole European continent and also from non-European countries. The Academy has 22 thematic sections.

1.2 The Barcelona Knowledge Hub (BHK-AE)

In 2012, the Catalan Government (Generalitat de Catalunya), the Barcelona City Council (Ajuntament de Barcelona) and the “la Caixa” Foundation launched the Southern European and Mediterranean office of the Academia Europaea, the Barcelona Knowledge Hub, from now, BHK-AE. These three organizations have the condition of “partners” of the BHK-AE. The three partners count on the support of the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC).

Located in the building of the IEC and operational since January 2013, the BHK-AE focuses on the promotion of activities of interest for the Members of the Academy and the scientific community in general, with special emphasis on multidisciplinary activities that include the transversal perspective of the natural and social sciences and the humanities.

Office: Since August 2014, Ricard Guerrero replaced Genoveva Martí as Academic Director of the BHK-AE. In September 2015, Núria Radó finished her contract with the hub. In October 2015, Anna Wasmer replaced Ariadna Barcelona and Núria Radó in the BKH-AE office. The administrative and technical support of the IEC is excellent and an essential part in the efficient every-day running of the Barcelona hub.

1.3 The Young Academy of Europe (YAE)

Since 2007 the European Research Council (ERC) has been supporting excellent young scientists in Europe by awarding them ERC Starting Grants under the motto “Supporting the next generation of research leaders in Europe”. In this context, the ERC has also manifested its support to the Young Academy of Europe (YAE) as a bottom-up initiative of a dynamic and innovative group of recognized European young scientists with outspoken views about science and science policy. The YAE shares the objective of the ERC to widen participation across Europe and across the research domains.

The BKH-AE provides administrative support to the YAE since 2013.

PARTNERS of the BKH-AE:





1.3 The International Advisory Committee (IAC)

During the 26th Annual Meeting (held in Barcelona on July 16-18, 2014), the Board and the Council of the AE nominated an International Advisory Committee (IAC) for the BHK-AE. Eleven academics, most of them Members of the Academia Europaea (MAE), from Mediterranean countries and with different fields of expertise were chosen.

In the IAC meeting of 2014 (Barcelona, 29th November) it was discussed the planification of part of the activities that were developed in the year 2015, and they are explained in the following pages, together with those activities initiated and developed during this year. In the IAC meeting of 2015 (Barcelona, 10th December) it was discussed the planification of the activities to be developed in the year 2016.

On April 17, 2015, José Mariano Gago, Member of the IAC, died in his home in Lisbon. From July, Rosalia Vargas, president of *Ciência Viva*, the Portuguese Agency for the Scientific and Technological Culture, incorporated to the IAC.

The members of the IAC are currently as follows:

Enric Banda, Barcelona, Spain, enric.banda@gmail.com

Pedro García-Barreno, Royal Academy of the Language (RAE), and Royal Academy of Medicine, RAMed (Madrid, Spain), pgbarreno@gmail.com

M. Dolors Garcia-Ramon, Autonomous University of Barcelona (Bellaterra, Spain), mariadolors.garcia.ramon@uab.cat

Ramon Gomis, Institute of Biomedical Research Agustí Pi Sunyer, IDIBAPS (Barcelona, Spain) ramon.gomis@idibaps.org

Sergiu Hart, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Jerusalem, Israel), hart@huji.ac.il

Yvon Le Maho, National Centre for Scientific Research, CNRS (Strasbourg, France) yvon.lemaho@iphc.cnrs.fr

Genoveva Martí, ICREA and University of Barcelona (Spain), genoveva.marti@gmail.com

Marc Mayer, University of Barcelona (Spain), mayerolive@yahoo.es

Maria Paradiso, University of Sannio (Benevento, Italy), paradiso@unisannio.it

Regina Revilla, Merck Sharp & Dohme Spain (Madrid, Spain), regina_revilla@merck.com

Rosalia Vargas, *Ciência Viva* (Lisbon, Portugal), rvargas@cienciaviva.pt



2. ACTIVITIES DURING 2015

Activities, collaborations, meetings and processes (in chronological order)

JANUARY 2015

1. Meeting with José Mariano Gago (Lisbon)

Ricard Guerrero on January, 2-3, went to Lisbon to meet José Mariano Gago to prepare the commemoration of the International Year of Light 2015 (IYL), to be held in Lisbon, in July. (JMGago died on April 17, 2015.)

On 20 December 2013, the UN General Assembly 68th Session proclaimed 2015 as the “International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies” ([IYL 2015](#)). The UN stated: “In proclaiming an International Year focusing on the topic of light science and its applications, the UN has recognized the importance of raising global awareness about how light-based technologies promote sustainable development and provide solutions to global challenges in energy, education, agriculture and health. Light plays a vital role in our daily lives and is an imperative cross-cutting discipline of science in the 21st century. It has revolutionized medicine, opened up international communication via the Internet, and continues to be central to linking cultural, economic and political aspects of the global society.”

Each country constituted a National Committee of the IYL 2015. The president of the Spanish Committee was María José Izuel, Professor of Optics, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Emerita. The BHK-AE in agreement with this perspective, decided, along with José Mariano Gago and [Ciência Viva](#), to celebrate the IYL with an International Symposium in July in Lisbon.

Prof. José Mariano Gago (1948-2015) died on April 17. His collaboration with the organization of the IYL in Lisbon, planned for July 2-3 (see p. 14, this Report) was continued by Rosalia Vargas, director of *Ciência Viva*, the Portuguese Agency for Scientific and Technological Culture.



2. European Training Network – Preparation of the ETN Diaphora Project

The BHK-AE has committed to participate as a partner organisation in the Innovative European Training Network [DIAPHORA](#), which is being proposed under the H2020-MSCA-ITN-2015 call (modality: ETN). The project has been granted on May 2015. The BHK-AE shall provide 3 Early Stage Researchers (PhD students) recruited by the Network at least 1-3 months of mentorship each at



some point during their 36 month recruitment (October 2016 - September 2019). To apply, the BHK-AE needed to obtain a Participant Identification Code (PIC).

diaphora

Philosophical Problems,
Resilience and Persistent Disagreement

3. Obtaining of the PIC for the BHK-AE

A Participant Identification Code (PIC) is a unique 9-digit identifier for the European Commission to confirm some organisation's details. This is required to apply for any EU grant programme.

4. Support of the YAE from the BHK-AE

In 2012, the Young Academy of Europe (YAE) and the Academia Europaea agreed to establish a close affiliation to stimulate operational coordination and collaboration through the BHK-AE, according to this, the Barcelona hub will be in charge of providing support to the activities of the YAE since 2013.

The BHK-AE is responsible for giving the necessary administrative support to the YAE. The initial tasks were: a) Implementation of the Database of members of the YAE. b) Building and maintaining the database of the YAE. And c) [Support of the YAE Interview Project](#), organising and holding the interviews (see the activities of October-December; see p. 15, this Report).



5. YAE Open Letter to the European Parliament

On January 30, 2015 the YAE sent an open letter to the European Parliament opposing budget cuts to frontier science. The BHK-AE has elaborated the press release concerning the Open Letter members of the YAE and has distributed it to national and international media.

http://www.yacadeuro.org/news/YAE_MEPOpenletter_2015-01.pdf



FEBRUARY, 2015

1. Obtaining a Digital Signature for documents

This signature will allow the BHK-AE to apply for projects in Spain and the EC.

2. Lecture of John Tolan, MAE, University of Nantes, at the IUC (Barcelona)

On February the 4th at the International University of Catalonia, in the framework of the Law Conference *Institucions del nostredret*, organized by the Catalan Society of Law Studies and the Barcelona Bar Association, John Tolan, MAE, with the BHK-AE support, offered the main lecture, called [La políticareiali la conversiódelsJueus al cristianisme el segle XIII a Europa: Jaume I d'AragóiEnric III d'Anglaterra.](#)

3. Meeting with Ilan Chet, Deputy Secretary General for Higher Education and Research Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (Barcelona)

On February the 24th. As the Barcelona Knowledge Hub is the hub for the countries of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean, its Academic Director, Ricard Guerrero, met Ilan Chet ([UfM](#)) in order to programme a series of activities involving Mediterranean countries. Several activities planned in Mediterranean cities, such as a Meeting in the New Library of Alexandria or in Tunisia, connected to the celebration of the 700th anniversary of the death of Raimundus Lullius, a Mediterranean intellectual that epitomizes the integration of science and the humanities, have had to be postponed, due to the difficult political situation of some countries. We expect to restart these activities once the conflicts are less dangerous. Other activities with the UfM are being prepared.

MARCH, 2015

1. Organisation of the BHK-AE WOMEN'S WEEK 2015 (Barcelona, March 4-6)

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea joined the celebration of the International Women's Day 2015 organising several activities in [Barcelona on 4th, 5th and 6th of March](#). Those [activities](#) were:

Wednesday, March 4, from 5 to 8.30 pm, at Pi i Sunyer Room, Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC, Carme 47, Barcelona)

InterSection Workshop: *"Women and the academic ladder"*

Several talks were offered by women at different positions of the scientific and academic scale: Clara Corbella (UPC, Barcelona), Margaret Luppino (Mt Holyoke, MA, USA; Barcelona), Maryam Ghafouri (Teheran; Madrid), M. Dolors Garcia-Ramon (UAB, Barcelona) and Lourdes Beneria (Cornell; Barcelona). He convenor was Lynn Kamerlin (Uppsala Univ., YAE).



Thursday, March 5, from 6 to 7.30 pm, at Pi i Sunyer Room, IEC

Projection of ["In Search of Truth. In memory of Lynn Margulis"](#), a short film in remembrance of biologist Lynn Margulis (Chicago, IL, 5th March 1938 – Amherst, MA, 22nd Nov. 2011). The projection included comments by director, Carme Puche.



International Women's Day 2015 Lecture: "Empowerment of women in the academic world" by Lynn Kamerlin, Uppsala University, Chair of the Young Academy of Europe. Convenor: Anna Alberni (ICREA, UB).

Thursday, March 5, from 7.30 to 9 pm. At the Royal Academy of Medicine of Catalonia (RAMC, Carme 47, Barcelona)

Women's Sephardic Songs in concert

The historical Anatomical Amphitheatre at the 18th Century building of the RAMC embraced a concert of "Women's Sephardic Songs" by **Olga Miracle**, soprano, accompanied by **Noemí M. Agell** and **Pere Olivé**, string and percussion instruments.




Academia Europaea | Barcelona Knowledge Hub
International Women's Day Activities, 2015

Women's Sephardic Songs

March 5th

PROGRAMME


Olga Miracle, soprano
Noemí M. Agell, tiorba and citola
Pere Olivé, psaltiri and percussions

La mujer de Terah
Ay señor, ay novia
Poco le doy la mi consuegra
Con mucha licencia
Ya salió de la mar
Durme, durme

A la una yo nací
Una malica de ruda
Tres clavinas en un tiesto
Scalerica de oro
Ay kalelumbrar
Buena semana

Time: 7.30 pm – 9 pm
Royal Academy of Medicine
(Carme 47, Barcelona)

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the *Academia Europaea* is joining the celebration of the International Women's Day 2015 organising several activities on March 4, 5 & 6. Today's concert of "Women's Sephardic Songs" is being held in the historical Anatomical Amphitheatre of the 18th Century building of the Royal Academy of Medicine.



<http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/>


The Sephardic Jews were members of the Jewish community installed in the Iberian Peninsula before the Spanish Catholic Kings expelled them (Alhambra Decree, March 31, 1492). The same year, on August 3, Christopher Columbus, probably himself a Jew, embarked for the Unknown from the small port of Palos, not from Cadiz or Seville, as these famous jetties were presently occupied by thousands of Sephardim. It was a real exodus, surely larger than the First One. In 1492, 160,000 Sephardim chose to leave their country rather than give up their faith. Only 50,000 accepted to become Christians. The majority of the exiles (90,000) went to the neighbouring Mediterranean countries, bringing with them their feelings, their traditions, and their songs. Their language and songs have lasted to the present day through oral transmission and because Sephardim maintained their traditions over the years as a sign of identity. These songs conserve the Spanish pronunciation used at that time in the Peninsula. The subjects of the songs reflect the way of living and thinking of a people and an era. Some are about biblical topics; some are about significant facts of life, birth, engagement and marriage, absence of love, etc. In all of them, women play a prominent role: the relationship between mother and daughter, between wife and husband, between lovers, between family members, especially, indeed, mother-in-laws (*la suegra*). Sung by soprano **Olga Miracle** and accompanied by the string instruments of **Noemí M. Agell** and by percussionist **Pere Olivé**, the concert will be held in the 18th Century building of the Royal Academy of Medicine. Let us enter into the fascinating world of old songs and old family relationships, but also into the ever-lasting worlds of feelings and folklore. (R. Guerrero)



Olga Miracle, born in Sacramento, CA, maintains an intense activity as a soloist of the genres Opera, oratorio, *lieder* and early music in local scenarios and international festivals around the world. Interested in musicological research, she founded several groups of early music with historical interpretation criteria. Creator of projects, she manages her own music production company.



Lynn Margulis, née Lynn Petra Alexander, was born in Chicago, IL, on March 5, 1938. From a Ashkenazi family, second-generation American, she died in Amherst, MA, on Nov. 22, 2011. The founder of the endosymbiotic theory, her ideas revolutioned the biological thinking of the second half of the 20th century. She loved Spanish and Spanish-speaking people. Her ashes are scattered in the waters of her cherished Puffer Pond, but her memory is with us for ever. As Francisco de Quevedo wrote:
"Polvo serán, mas polvo enamorado."


 PARTNERS OF THE BKH:    WITH THE COLLABORATION OF: 

Friday, March 6, from 10 am to 12.30 pm. At the Edifici Fòrum, an outstanding building by Herzog & de Meuron (Leonardo Da Vinci 4, Barcelona)

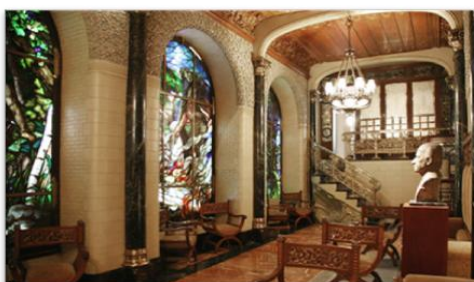
Visit to the Museu Blau, the new Natural Sciences Museum of Barcelona

The Museu Blau is a new cultural icon for Barcelona. The exhibitions of the museum propose a journey through the evolution of our planet Earth and the richness of natural world. The visit was directed by Marta Punseti, from the Museum of Natural Sciences of Barcelona. From 1 to 3.30 pm. At the Cercle del Liceu (La Rambla 65, Barcelona).



Visit to the [Cercle del Liceu pinacothèque](#)

The BHK-AE offered a lunch in honour of the MAE and members of the YAE.





2. Collaboration with “Neuroscience and...” Lectures and colloquia with the CGR, UPF (Barcelona)

Date & Place: 17-20 March 2015 – Institute for Catalan Studies

Within the framework of the [2015 World Brain Week](#), the Centre for Genomic Regulation organized a set of debates surrounding neuroscience. The events, had the collaboration of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub, and were distributed during three days:

- a) Ethics of discoveries in neuroscience. March 17, 19-21 h. “Cómo los descubrimientos en Neurociencia cambian nuestras concepciones éticas.” Lecture by José Ramón Amor, Universidade de A Coruña.
- b) Role of women in science: going forward or backward? March 19, 19-21 h. “Mujeres en Ciencia: ¿avanzando o retrocediendo?” Lecture by Mara Dierssen, from the Centre de Regulació Genòmica de Barcelona.
- c) Human Brain Project: lights and shadows of big projects. March 20, 19-21 h. “El Human Brain Project: luces y sombras de los mega-proyectos”, lectura by Javier de Felipe (CSIC-Technical University of Madrid, and Centro de Tecnología Biomédica, Campus de Montegancedo, UPM).



t

3. Preparation of the IYL 2015 at the Technical University of Valencia

Date & Place: 13 March 2015 – UPV

The BKH-AE Academic Director, Prof. R. Guerrero, presents in Valencia the tentative programme of the International Symposium on the IYL, to be held in Lisbon in July, searching for potential speakers from the UPV.



APRIL, 2015

1. Meetings in London, at the AE's central office (UCL)

The BKH-AE Academic Director, Prof. R. Guerrero, attended several meetings at the AE's central office (located in the Senate House of the University College of London) to discuss the activities of the Barcelona hub and the tentative programme of the International Symposium on the IYL, to be held in Lisbon in July.

2. Lecture by Rodger Bybee: "The 5E (USA) instructional model", at the CCCB (Barcelona)

Rodger W. Bybee, an international authority on science education, designed the 5E model of instruction, which offers a constructivist perspective on science education focused on inquiry-based learning, experience, knowledge building, and discovery. This structure makes it an excellent tool to improve the quality of science education. As the model is now being implemented in Catalonia, the BKH-AE co-organised with Héctor Ruiz, from Science Bits, a lecture by Rodger Bybee at the *Contemporary Culture Centre of Barcelona* (CCCB, Montalegre 5, 08001 Barcelona).

[Rodger Bybee's lecture](#)

MAY, 2015

1. Collaboration with "Memory Frictions: Conflict-Negotiation-Politics. International Conference on Contemporary Narratives in English" (Zaragoza).

The BKH-AE co-organised with Susana Onega (MAE) and Silvia Pellicer (Bergen Scholar of the AE, 2014) on 6–8 May 2015, a conference focused on friction areas related to memory and its literary representation, to bring fresh perspectives which can be added to or set against previous developments in the field. <http://cne.literatureresearch.net/conferences/upcoming-conference>

2. Meeting with the authorities of the Union for the Mediterranean

On 27 May, the BKH-AE Academic Director, prof. R. Guerrero, had a meeting with Anna Terron, Special Representative and Spokesperson for the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, in order to broaden the scope of relations and activities of the BKH-AE.

3. Preparation of the IYL 2015 (Lisbon).

On May 15 and 16, the BKH-AE Academic Director, Prof. R. Guerrero, attended a meeting to continue with the preparation of the International Symposium on the IYL 2015, to be held in Lisbon in July. They were interviews at the Pavilhao do Conhecimento, with Rosalia Vargas, president of *Ciência Viva*, and at the Camara (City Hall) of Lisbon, with the recently elected Mayor, Fernando Medina.

4. Participation in the presentation of Project MEDES, at the Real Academia Española (Madrid, May 26) On

On May 26, the BKH-AE Academic Director, Prof. R. Guerrero, in representation of the AE, attended in Madrid the presentation of the Project MEDES. The meeting was held at the site of the Real Academia Española, in Madrid.



JUNE, 2015

1. Collaboration with the UNU-GCM Conference on “Female Socio-cultural Change” (Barcelona)

On June 11-12, 2015 at the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site. The Barcelona [UNU-GCM](#) hosted a conference on [“Female Agency, Mobility and Socio-cultural Change”](#) in which Maria Paradiso, member of the International Advisory Committee of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub, gave a lecture. The conference examined topics such as female agency, diasporas and transnationalism, labour and decent work, processes of identity construction, the sociocultural reconstruction of home, work and urban spaces and policy responses to female mobility.



Maria Paradiso

2. Collaboration with the IEEC Asteroid Day, “Assessing the nature of asteroid impact hazard to transform it into technological opportunity”, June 30 (Bellaterra)

Within the framework of the [International Asteroid Day](#), [the Institute for Space Sciences](#) and the Barcelona Knowledge Hub organized a conference on June 30, at the Institute for Spatial Studies of Catalonia (IEEC), in Bellaterra (Barcelona), entitled [“Assessing the nature of asteroid impact hazard to transform it into technological opportunity”](#), in which participated Josep M. Trigo-Rodríguez (CSIC-IEEC), Jordi Llorca (UPC), M. Moreno-Ibáñez (CSIC-IEEC) and Mar Tapia (LEGEF-IEC). The key-note lecture was pronounced by Herbert Palme, MAE, in representation of the AE.

3. Nominations of new Members of the Academia Europaea (Munich and London)

On June 22-23, the BHK-AE took part in the nomination process of Classes B and C. Tasks mainly included administration support before the nominations’ meeting, attendance to nominations’ meetings in Munich (Núria Radó) and London (Ricard Guerrero), and drafting of the minutes of both meetings.

The BHK-AE prepared the dossiers and full list of candidates for the Class B Sections, which were available on a stick/cd in advance of the meeting, and asked Section chairs for the summary assessment reports and rankings of the candidates. The staff wrote the minutes of the meeting, showing discussions and any specific recommendations, rejections, deferrals and reasons, etc.



JULY, 2015

1. Organization of the BHK-AE & CIÊNCIA VIVA INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM “LIGHT, FROM THE EARTH TO THE STARS” (Lisbon, July 2-3)

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea commemorated the International Year of Light on July 2-3, 2015. The event was held in the [Pavilhão do Conhecimento](#) (Lisbon). The activity was developed in collaboration with Rosalia Vargas, director of *Ciência Viva*, the Portuguese Agency for Scientific and Technological Culture.

[Programme](#)

[Dennis Weaire talk](#)

[Federico Mayor video-lecture](#)

The Symposium was inaugurated by a lecture of Prof. Dennis Weaire, in representation of the Academia Europaea, and of its president, Prof. Sierd Cloetingh, who was not able to attend the meeting in person.

2. Preparation of the International Conference in Honour of J.M. Gago, for November (at Lisbon)

On July 15-18, Ricard Guerrero, Academic Director of the BKH-AE held different sessions in Lisbon to prepare an International Conferences in honour of J.M. Gago, former Minister of Science of Portugal (deceased on April 17, 2015) for November, to be developed in the Pavilhao do Conhecimento.

SEPTEMBER, 2015

1. Participation in the 27th Annual Congress of the AE (Darmstadt, Sept. 7-10)

On September 7-10, the BKH-AE Academic Director, Prof. R. Guerrero, attended the 2015 Annual Congress of the AE, held in Darmstadt. At the end of the meeting, as it is a tradition in the AE's annual congresses, it was organised an excursion, visiting a site rich in Pleistocene fossil remnants, extraordinary well conserved.

2. Participation in the EPTA Annual Meeting (Paris, September 23-24)

On September 23-24, the BKH-AE Academic Director, Prof. R. Guerrero attended the 2015 EPTA Council meeting, hosted by the French National Assembly. The meeting was held in Paris, in the premises of the Assemblée Nationale, 101 rue de la Université. EPTA is the [European Parliamentary Technology Assessment](#), a body integrated by different committees assessing their respective Parliaments on matter related to science and technology. Prof. Guerrero was invited in his quality of member of the CAPCIT (the Advisory Branch for Science and Technology of the Catalan Parliament).

The 2015 EPTA meeting was devoted to the [“Innovation and climate change: the role of scientific and technological assessment”](#). The main topics discussed were: “Innovation for energy efficiency of buildings”, “Innovation to feed the world whilst reducing greenhouse gas emissions”, “Innovation for transportation and sustainable mobility” and “Citizens’ involvement in the use of smart



technologies". At the end of the meeting was presented and discussed a 104 pages [EPTA's green paper on the topic](#) of the meeting.



3. Participation in the presentation of the Project Latindex (CSIC, Madrid, Sept. 29)

On September 29, the BKH-AE Academic Director, Prof. R. Guerrero, attended in Madrid the presentation of the Project Latindex, by its founder, Prof. Ana Maria Cetto, UNAM, Mexic. The meeting was held at the central site of the National Research Council (CSIC, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas).

OCTOBER, 2015

1. Starting the BarceloNEWS, the BKH-AE Digital Newsletter

The BKH-AE started the publication of a digital newsletter, under the name of BarceloNEWS. See on the link below the issues published in 2015 (four: October 19, November 3, December 1, and December 15).

<http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/newsletter/>

2. Collaboration with the YAE Interviews Project (Barcelona, October 28-30, and Stockholm. December 10)

The Young Academy of Europe (YAE) has been awarded a grant from the Academia Europaea's Hubert Curien New Initiatives Fund in May 2015 to conduct a series of video interviews with outstanding academics and researchers, the majority of whom are also members of the Academia Europaea (MAE). Phase I consisted of four interviews filmed in Barcelona between October and December 2015, as well as a further two filmed in Stockholm in December 2015. The interviews were conducted by members of the YAE, and the questions used at the interviews were collected through an open call for questions sent out to all YAE members. The initial response to this project from both AE and YAE members has been enthusiastic. The first interviews were made in different relevant locations in Barcelona, with the support of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea (BKH-AE). The project is coordinated by Lynn Kamerlin, YAE, University of Uppsala, and it is inspired by the *International Dialogue Project*, directed by Anne Buttimer, MAE, University College Dublin, and currently Vice President of the AE.

The Barcelona interviewees consisted of:

Lourdes Beneria, economist, interviewed by Lynn Kamerlin, at the Library of Catalonia (formerly Hospital of the St. Cross, early 15th c.)



Genoveva Martí MAE, philosopher, interviewed by Marcel Swart, at the Royal Chapel of St. Agatha (early 14th c.; Gothic Quartier)

Salvador Giner MAE, sociologist, interviewed by Alexander Fidora, at the Institute for Catalan Studies (17th c.; formerly Convalescence House of the Hospital of the St. Cross)

Anne Buttimer MAE, geographer, interviewed by Alexander Fidora, at the Cercle del Liceu (19th c.; next to the Barcelona Opera House)

The Stockholm interviewees consisted of:

Michael Levitt FRS, 2013 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, interviewed by Marcel Swart, at the Grand Hotel, Stockholm.

Sven Lidin MAE, 2012-2014 Chair of the Chemistry Nobel committee, interviewed by Lynn Kamerlin, at the Grand Hotel, Stockholm.

The motivation of this project is that as successful senior colleagues, the selected academics have a wealth of experience to share with the broader scientific community in general and young scientists in particular, and it is important to make their voices heard. These interviews will provide a valuable resource not just for academics today, but also for generations to come, and will be useful catalysts for transversal communication across disciplinary, national and generational divides, among different fields of scientists and policy makers.

Once the interviews have been completed, the videos will be made freely available online through both the YAE and BKH-AE Hubs, including through the BKH-AE Video Channel, Vimeo and YouTube.

NOVEMBER, 2015

1. Collaboration with the International Symposium “Visualising Law. Visual Jurisprudence and Literature” (Verona, November 11-13)

In accordance with the terms of the 2015 AE Hubert Curien Fund, the BKH-AE gave administration support to “[Visualising Law. Visual Jurisprudence and Literature](#)”, an International conference held in Verona on 11–13 November 2015, organised by AE member Prof. Daniela Carpi.



2. International Conference in Honour of José Mariano Gago “Science Today and Knowledge as Our Common Future” (Lisbon, November 20).

On the 20th of November the Academic Director of the BKH-AE, Ricard Guerrero went to Lisbon to the [International Conference in Honour of José Mariano Gago. SCIENCE Today and Knowledge as Our Common Future](#). He attended on behalf of the *Academia Europaea* delegated by the President, Prof. Sierd Cloetingh.

[Declaration: Knowledge as Our Common Future](#)



The meeting was useful for the BHK-AE as well, as it reinforced the relations between the BHK-AE and [Ciência Viva](#), the Portuguese National Agency for Scientific and Technological Culture, focused on the communication of science to the society (through projects on schools, national campaigns of science outreach, and a net of interactive museums of science and technology).

The meeting was organised by Manuel Heitor, who was made Minister of Science in early December 2015, by the new Government of Portugal.

3. Meetings in Fundación Ramón Areces, Madrid, to prepare a symposium in honour of JM Gago (Madrid) for June-July 2016

From the 24th to the 26th of November the Academic Director of the BHK-AE, Ricard Guerrero met in Madrid with Federico Mayor, Director of [the Ramón Areces Foundation](#) (a foundation related to scientific patronage, by means of the promotion and diffusion of science), to prepare an International Symposium together the Foundation and the AE, which is planned to take place during the first semester of 2016.

DECEMBER, 2015

1. Organisation of the BHK-AE *DISPUTATIO* WEEK 2015 (Barcelona, December 9-11)

For the Third Modern-Day [Disputatio of Barcelona](#), which was celebrated from 9th to 10th of December, the BHK-AE proposed a discussion around the topic “Natural vs. Artificial Intelligence”, in which the two scholars will debate about the challenges humanity has nowadays, and which could be the possible changes in our behaviour, and sociological relationships due to the present technological progresses in computer science, information technology, Big Data, brain mapping, etc.

This year's *Disputatio* had as *disputantes*, Ms Núria Sebastián, Professor and Researcher at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona) and Vice-President of the Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC), and Mr Ulises Cortés, Professor and researcher at the Computational Sciences Dept. of the Technical University of Catalonia (UPC).

Several activities took place:

a. Disputatio of Barcelona: Natural vs. Artificial Intelligence

December 9, 18-20h (Royal Chapel of St. Agatha, viewing the famous Epiphany altarpiece by Jaume Huguet, 1412-1492)

Speakers: Núria Sebastián, UPF (“Human intelligence: Language to begin with”), and Ulises Cortés, UPC (“Artificial Intelligence: What’s in a name?”). Convenor: Genoveva Martí (ICREA, UB, MAE, IAC).



20.00 h – 21.30 h Concert of Lidia Pujol: “Around the music and concepts of Ramon Llull (1232-1316).” (Royal Chapel of St. Agatha)

Song: [El testament d’Amèlia](#)



b. InterSection Workshop on “The panoptic vision of the world: The influence of technology and humanities on society”

December 11 09.00 h – 17.00 h (IEC, Nicolau d’Oliver).

Speakers: Anne Buttmer, Amadeu Viana, Maria Paradiso, Víctor González Galera, Naba Barkakati, Xavier Maymó, Salvador Giner.

Convenors: Rosalia Vargas, Genoveva Martí, Maria Paradiso.

Homage to José Mariano Gago (1948-2015): Rosalia Vargas, Enric Banda, Ricard Guerrero.



c. Visit to the Super Computing Centre, "Mare Nostrum".

18:00 h – 20.30 h

[The visit](#)

d. Lecture by Alexander Fidora (YAE), on "Ramon Llull, proto-European, and proto-founder of computational sciences."

2. AE Board Annual Meeting (Barcelona, December 9-10)

Date & Place: 9-10 December, IEC Building, PuigiCadafalch Room.

Within the framework of the *Disputatio* 2015, the Annual Academia Europaea Board Meeting was held in Barcelona.

3. IAC Annual Meeting (Barcelona, December 10)

Date & Place: 10 December IEC Building, PuigiCadafalch Room.

Meeting of the International Advisory Committee, in which main objectives and guidelines for 2016 were determined.

4. Proposal of nominations for different prizes:

October: [Jorge Allende](#) (Chile) for the [José Martí Prize \(UNESCO\)](#).

November: [James E. Lovelock](#) (UK) for the [Catalonia International Prize](#) (Government of Catalonia)

December: [Salvador Giner](#) for the [Ferran Soldevila Prize](#) (Fundació Congrés de Cultura Catalana)