



## 2019 Annual Report of Activities for the Board of Trustees of the Academia Europaea

March 29, 2020

PARTNERS of the AE-BKH:



Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament d'Empresa i Coneixement  
Secretaria d'Universitats i Recerca



Ajuntament de  
Barcelona





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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: 2019 ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

### 1.1 The Barcelona Knowledge Hub (AE-BKH)

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub (AE-BKH), founded in 2013, is the node of Academia Europaea (AE) in southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. Its main aim is to promote activities of interest for AE Members in this area and for the scientific community in general, with the end goal of helping consolidate a genuine European area of re-search, education and innovation.

The AE-BKH office is located at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) in downtown Barcelona. Its staff consists of: an Academic Director, Prof. Ricard Guerrero; a Hub Manager, Kimberly Katte; a Webmaster and Social Networking Manager, Rubén Duro; and a team of external collaborators, namely, Carmen Chica, Mercè Berlanga, Mercè Piqueras and Maite Sánchez. The following organisations from Barcelona and Catalonia are AE-BKH's partners: the Government of Catalonia (Universities and Research Secretariat), the Barcelona City Council, and "la Caixa" Banking Foundation.

### 1.2 Annual programming in 2019

During 2019, the AE-BKH increased its annual programming by building on previous collaborations with the goal of turning them into regular, stable activities. As in previous years, many activities included educational and social outreach events open to the general public. A special effort was made to focus on social diversity and general equality in the content. These activities included:

- AE-BKH Women's Week 2019: "Woman, science and culture"
- Summer Course, "Barcelona Dialogue 2019"
- "Ciudad Infinita" documentary film
- Co-organisation of the Fernando González Bernáldez Lecture and Prize
- *Disputatio* of Barcelona 2019: "A new humanism for the 21st century? Specialisation vs. Generalisation. A debate on the future of knowledge"

### 1.3 Building Bridges 2019, the 31st Annual Conference of AE

Following the large success attained the previous year, the AE-BKH hosted the 31st Annual Conference of the of the Academia Europaea (AE) and 8th of the Young Academy of Europe (YAE), "Building Bridges 2019", at different venues in Barcelona on the 23rd and 24th of October. This event brought together leading scholars in a variety of academic fields, including a Nobel Laureate and Balzan Prize winners, and was attended by a record number of 250 delegates from Europe and beyond (34 countries total). The post-conference field trip this year included cultural visits to the medieval city of Montblanc and the Cistercian monastery at Poblet.

### 1.4 Hypatia Prize

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, the first edition (Science and Technology) of the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize was awarded by Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona, to Dr. László Lovász, mathematician and President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. This newly created prize, awarded by the Barcelona City Council in collaboration with the AE-BKH, seeks to spotlight science and humanities and to promote, support and enhance the value of excellent research conducted in Europe and of its impact on society. As part of the Barcelona Science Plan, it also represents a strategic action of



both the AE-BKH and the city, as it projects Barcelona as a European node of research and innovation. At the end of 2019, the Barcelona City Council and the AE-BKH opened the call for the second edition of the prize (Life and Health Sciences).

### 1.5 Other activities

In 2019, the AE-BKH conducted activities many activities in collaboration with key scientific and/or academic partner institutions, thereby strengthening its network of contacts. These included:

- Session and film screening, “The Evolutionary Role of Symbiosis”, produced by Hummingbird Films, NYC, USA
- Session on “Mind and Matter: The Symbiotic Conscious Thought of Raimon Panikkar, Ramon Margalef and James Lovelock”. Concert by Lidia Pujol
- Collaboration on the TV3-C33 documentary, “Associar-se a l’ecosistema terra,” for the public television TV3-C33, programme *Latituds*
- Co-organisation of the sixteenth edition of the RECAM (Annual Scientific Meeting in Microbiology), with the University of Barcelona

### 1.6. External activities

In 2019, the AE-BKH also increased the quantity and quality of its activities within its area of influence (primarily Spain, Portugal and southern Europe), with the goal of consolidating Barcelona as a scientific hub in southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. These included:

- Attendance at the inauguration of the AE Tbilisi Knowledge Hub
- Celebration of Portugal’s National Scientists Day in Ponta Delgada, Açores
- Signature of a Joint Letter of Intent between the AE-BKH and the Confederation of Scientific Societies of Spain (COSCE)

### 1.7 Communication and social networking

Finally, in 2019 the AE-BKH witnessed strong growth in the audiences reached through its communication tools and social networking platforms. Its activities go beyond managing its website and social media accounts to create audiovisual features on its ‘Barcelona in Action’ channel.

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In conclusion, 2019 was a year of spectacular development for the AE-BKH, both in terms of the quantity and quality of its activities. We consider that these activities have successfully achieved their objectives and have positioned our Hub for continued growth in the year 2020.

**Ricard Guerrero**, Academic Director

**Kimberly Katte**, Hub Manager

Academia Europaea-Barcelona Knowledge Hub



## 2. OVERVIEW

The present Annual Report provides a detailed look at the activities of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of Academia Europaea (AE-BKH) during the year 2019.

### 2.1 Mission and Vision of the AE- Barcelona Knowledge Hub



**Academia Europaea** (AE) is a pan-European, non-governmental association acting as an Academy. Its members are scientists and scholars who collectively aim to promote education and research. Founded in 1988, it currently has approximately 4,000 Members, leading experts from a variety of different fields including the physical sciences, technology, biological sciences, medicine, mathematics, literature, humanities, social sciences, cognitive sciences, economics and law. The **Barcelona Knowledge Hub** (BKH) is the AE's branch office for the **Mediterranean and Southern European region**, including Turkey and Israel.

The main goal of AE-BKH is the promotion of activities of interest for the Members of AE in its area of influence, and for the scientific community in general, with **special emphasis on multi-disciplinary activities** that include **transversal perspectives of the natural and exact sciences, the social sciences and the humanities**. The vision of AE-BKH is to **help consolidate a genuine European area of research, education and innovation**.

While the AE-BKH has conducted, since its early days, most of its activities in Barcelona, it has begun to organise an increasing number of activities taking place in cities in Spain and Portugal; this is reflected in the information gathered in the present Annual Report.

### 2.2 History, main objectives and area of influence

In 2012, the Government of Catalonia (Generalitat de Catalunya), the Barcelona City Council (Ajuntament de Barcelona) and the "la Caixa" Banking Foundation (Fundació Bancària "la Caixa") created the Barcelona Knowledge Hub (from then on, AE-BKH) to promote activities of the AE in southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. These three organisations from Barcelona are partners of the AE-BKH, while the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) houses and supports the Hub's office within its central headquarters located in the old city, holding historical ties with local medical and scientific institutions.

In 2013, the AE-BKH began its operations and held its first activities, many of which have, over time, become staples in its annual programming, such as Women's Week and the *Disputatio* of Barcelona (see corresponding sections).

## 2.3 Current specific objectives

The current specific objectives of the AE-BKH include:

- Increasing the quantity and quality of its programming
- Strengthening collaborations and partnerships with academic and research institutions in its area of influence
- Recognising and supporting excellent research conducted by individual scholars
- Improving the visibility and impact of its actions

## 2.4 Office, staff and collaborators

The AE-BKH office is located on the premises of the IEC, a mid-17th century historical building very conveniently located in the centre of the city of Barcelona. Since August 2014, Prof. Dr. Ricard Guerrero of the UB, Emeritus, and Adjunct Professor of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, serves as Academic Director. In 2019, Kimberly Katte continued to serve as Hub Manager, overseeing the daily operations of the Hub and planning and implementation of activities, while Rubén Duro continued to manage the website, digital content, social media, and the audio-visual section (i.e., AE-BKH “Barcelona in Action” Video Channel). External collaborators providing support for different activities organised by the Hub were Carmen Chica, Mercè Piqueras, Mercedes Berlanga, and Maite Sánchez. The administrative and technical support provided by the IEC staff to the AE-BKH is excellent and constitutes an essential part of its daily operations.

Academic collaborators working with the AE-BKH include the following Members of Academia Europaea: Alexander Fidora, Genoveva Martí, Kathrin Golda-Pongratz and Xavier Costa-Guix.



Panoramic view of the Cloister of the Institute for Catalan Studies. (Photograph by Mercedes Berlanga for the AE-BKH)

### 3. ANNUAL PROGRAMMING IN 2019

#### 3.1 SEVENTH ANNUAL AE-BKH WOMEN'S WEEK 2019 (5–7 MARCH 2019)

##### An annual activity of the Academia Europaea-Barcelona Knowledge Hub

##### Woman, science and culture: a symbiotic connection

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea (AE-BKH) celebrated its annual Women's Week during the first week of March 2019 (WW2019), at three different locations in Barcelona, under the general title of "Women, Science and Culture: A Symbiotic Connection".

Since 2013, the AE-BKH has organised activities surrounding International Women's Day in early March. In line with similar celebrations around the world, AE-BKH Women's Week has served, on the one hand, to recognise the important contributions made by women, many of which have gone unnoticed, to the different fields of human knowledge; and, on the other, to claim women's rights and promote gender equality and empowerment, in order to help advance society.



Logo of the AE-BKH WW by M. Berlanga

The seventh annual edition of Women's Week, WW2019, began on Tuesday, **March 5th, at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC)** with the session "Lynn Margulis and Music", consisting of a concert, documentary and talks by members of the academic community in homage to the biologist Lynn Margulis, known for her theory of endosymbiosis, on the occasion of her birthday. For the event, the chamber ensemble Kaimerata Concerts performed the Cello Quintet in C major (D.965) by Franz Schubert (1797-1828), Lynn's favourite composer.

It then continued on Wednesday, **March 6th, at the Royal Academy of Medicine of Catalonia (RAMC)** with the session, "The other half of science: the women of the Periodic Table of Elements". Lectures by scientists Silvia Simon, Mercè Piqueras and Núria Salán celebrated the essential role that women has played in science and technology, in particular, in the development of the Periodic Table of Elements, commemorating the UNESCO International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT2019), on the 150th anniversary of this important scientific achievement.

Finally, the cycle concluded on Thursday, **March 7th, at the historical site of the University of Barcelona (UB)** with the session "Women and Cities", in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair in Women, Development and Cultures. With the support of the AE-BKH, the session was coordinated by its director, Mònica Rius-Piniés. The session focused on two different urban models –one local, the other from a different continent– as seen from the perspective of two women in the fields of urban planning and communications. Following the screening of the documentary "Ciudad Infinita- Voces de El Ermitaño" (2018) filmed and directed in Lima, Perú, a round table discussion took place among its director, Kathrin Golda-Pongratz, MAE, local journalist Marta Ballesta, and those in attendance.

The AE-BKH is very pleased with the overall success, both in scientific terms and level of participation, of WW2019, and considers Women's Week to be a consolidated strategic action of our Hub.

Thus, a newly designed logo was created by Mercè Berlanga for use in promotional materials for both this year's edition and in subsequent editions of Women's Week. A photo gallery with images from the sessions comprising the cycle were uploaded onto the AE-BKH website.

## Programme of the Women's Week 2019

### ***March 5th. 18:00-20:00h. Coromines Hall, Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC), Barcelona***

#### **"Lynn Margulis and Music"**

18.00 h. Kimberly Katte. Introduction to WW2019

18.05 h. Romà Escalas. Presentation of Kaimerata

18.10 h. Cello Quintet in C major (D.956) by Franz Schubert (1797-1828). Performed by Kaimerata Concerts.

19.15 h. Ricard Guerrero. "Lynn's favorite music. Ständchen/Stanza"

19.30 h. Carme Puche. "In search of the truth" (an intimate documentary on Lynn Margulis)

19.45 h. Carmen Chica. "Lynn and Emily: 'Tell all the truth but tell it slant'. The diffusion task of Lynn".

### ***March 6th. 19:00-21:00 h. Royal Academy of Medicine of Catalonia (RAMC), Barcelona***

#### **"The other half of science: the women of the Periodic Table of Elements"**

19.00 h. Kimberly Katte, AE-BKH. Presentation of the session

19.05 h. Sílvia Simon, UdG. Women and the Periodic Table

19.35 h. Mercè Piqueras, AE-BKH. The other half of science. The role of women in the crucial advancements of science

20.05 h. Núria Salán, UPC. The empowerment of women and the education of girls and adolescents

20.35 h. Colloquium with the public

### ***March 7th. 19:00-21:00 h. Professors' Room, Fac. of Philology. UB Lecture Hall, Barcelona***

#### **"Women and Cities"**

19.00 h. Mònica Rius-Piniés, UB. Presentation of the session and the activities of the UNESCO Chair in Women, Development and Cultures.

19.10 h. Brief introduction and screening of the documentary, "Ciudad Infinita-Voces de El Ermitaño", (2018) filmed in Lima, Perú.

19.50 h. Dialogue between Kathrin Golda-Pongratz, architect and urban planner, UIC, and Marta Ballesta, journalist

20.30 h. Colloquium with the public.



Session, "Women and Cities". From left to right: M. Ballesta, R. Guerrero, K. Golda-Pongratz and M. Rius-Piniés.





## THE AE-BKH WOMEN'S WEEK, YEARS 2013 TO 2019

 	
<b>UN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (March 8<sup>th</sup>)</b>	
<b>AE-BARCELONA KNOWLEDGE HUB</b>	
<b>2013</b>	
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>InterSection Workshop: "Two cultures, three cultures, or one only culture?"</b> Convenor: Nicole Skinner, AE-BKH. With the participation of: Dacha Atienza, Museum of Natural Science of Barcelona, Mercè Berlanga, University of Barcelona, and Genoveva Martí, Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA).
<b>2014</b>	
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Distinguished lecture: "Arab Spring, or long desolate Arab Winter?"</b> By Nadia El-Awadi, Egypt, former president of the World Federation of Science Journalists.
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>InterSection Workshop: "The Earth is our body. Lynn Margulis and Gaia".</b> Convenor: Carmen Chica, editor of the book <i>Once Upon a Time</i> . With the participation of: Isabel Esteve, Marta Estrada, Ricard Guerrero, Juli Peretó, Mercè Piqueras, Anna Omedes, Carme Puche, Joandomènec Ros and Nicole Skinner.
<b>2015</b>	
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>InterSection Workshop: "Women and the academic ladder"</b> Convenor: Lynn Kamerlin. With the participation of: Clara Corbella, Margaret Luppino, Maryam Ghafouri, M. Dolors Garcia-Ramon and Lourdes Beneria.
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Short film "In the search of truth. In memory of Lynn Margulis"</b> . Convenor: Anna Alberni, (ICREA). Comments by the director of the film: Carme Puche. <b>Distinguished Lecture: "Empowerment of women in the academic world"</b> . By Lynn Kamerlin, University of Uppsala, chair of the Young Academy of Europe (YAE). <b>Music Concert: "Women's Sephardic Songs"</b> . By Olga Miracle, soprano, accompanied by Noemí M. Agell and Pere Olivé, string and percussion instruments.
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Guided visits:</b> Visit to the Museu Blau, the new Natural Science Museum of Barcelona. Guided by Marta Punseti. Visit to the Cercle del Liceu Pinacothèque. Guided by María Jiménez de Parga.
<b>2016</b>	
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Distinguished Lecture: "Women and cultural transmission. The essential role of translation"</b> . By Mary Ann Newman, Farragut Fund for Catalan Culture in the USA.  <b>Lecture: "Greater than Life. In remembrance of Lynn Margulis (1938–2011)"</b> . By Ricard Guerrero, Academic Director AE-BKH. <b>Documentaries:</b> <i>"Symbiotic Earth"</i> . Documentary produced for the TV. Directed by John Feldman, Hummingbird Films, New York. <i>"Lin in Spain. How she stood our Spanish-Catalan accent."</i> Several documentaries selected by Rubén Duro, AE-BKH. <b>Concert: "Songs from Syria and Kurdistan, a Nation without a State."</b> By the Gani Mirzo Band: Neila BenBey (vocals), Francesc Puig (clarinet), Juan Jose Barreda (flamenco guitar), and Gani Mirzo (ud, buzuk, composer).



<b>March 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<p><b>InterSection Workshop: “Women, migrations and war”.</b> Convenor: Mitsi Ito. With the participations of: Mitsi Ito, Maryam Ghafouri, Pere Castaño, Carmen Chica, Salvador Giner.</p> <p><b>Lecture:</b> Commemoration of the International Year of Global Understanding. By Silvia Pellicer, University of Zaragoza.</p> <p><b>Art exhibits:</b> Digital art: Photomontage by Teresa Gironès: <i>“The Book of Beasts. Palmira 2015. Reflections of the dangers of power and the horrors of war.”</i> Paintings by Trini Sotos: <i>“Women/Dones/Mujeres. Reflections and aesthetics of female emotions.”</i></p>
<b>2017</b>	
<b>March 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<p><b>Experts Meetings: “Open Access policy in academic institutions”.</b> Convenors: Ricard Guerrero and Mercè Piqueras. With the participation of Marie Farge, Ignasi Labastida, Ernest Abadal, Lluís Anglada, Michaela Bertero, Regina Revilla, Pastora Martínez Samper, Jordi Mas and Lluís Rovira.</p>
<b>March 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<p><b>Distinguished Lecture: “Scientific knowledge as a commons: How to improve the peer review and dissemination of research outputs”.</b> By Marie Farge, Directrice de Recherche at CNRS and École Normale Supérieure, Paris and Member of the Council. Member of Academia Europaea.</p>
<b>2018</b>	
<b>March 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<p><b>Concert: “Polorum Regina. Women as a reference for freedom”.</b> By vocalist Lídia Pujol and her ensemble. Presented by Romà Escalas.</p>
<b>March 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<p><b>Screening of the documentary “Symbiotic Earth: How Lynn Margulis rocked the boat and started a scientific revolution”</b> directed by John Feldman and produced by Susan Davies at Hummingbird Films.</p>
<b>March 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<p><b>InterSection Workshop: “Symbiotic Science. The legacy of Lynn Margulis”.</b> Coordinated by Carmen Chica and presented by Ricard Faura, Speaker of Science and Technology section, Barcelona Athenaeum. With the participation of: Marta Estrada, Magdalena Albero, Sandra Montón, Dolores Grillo-Bosch. Also featuring an excerpt from the film “Symbiotic Earth” (see above).</p>
<b>2019</b>	
<b>March 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<p><b>Concert and session: “Lynn Margulis and Music”.</b> Coordinated by Kimberly Katte. Presentations by Ricard Guerrero, Carme Puche and Carmen Chica. Performance of Schubert’s Cello Quintet in C major by Kaimerata Concerts. Introduction to concert by Romà Escalas.</p>
<b>March 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<p><b>Symposium: “The other half of science: the women of the Periodic Table of Elements”.</b> Coordinated and moderated by Kimberly Katte. Presentations by Sílvia Simon, University of Girona (UdG); Mercè Piqueras, AE-BKH; and Núria Salán, Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC).</p>
<b>March 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<p><b>Documentary screening and round table: “Women and Cities”.</b> Coordinated and moderated by Mònica Rius-Piniés, UB and UNESCO Chair in Women, Development and Cultures. First public screening of the documentary “Ciudad Infinita-Voces de El Ermitaño” (Lima, Perú, 2018). Dialogue between the director of the documentary, Kathrin Golda-Pongratz, architect and urban planner, UIC, and Marta Ballesta, journalist.</p>

## 3.2 SUMMER COURSE, “BARCELONA DIALOGUE 2019” (27 MAY – 18 JUNE 2019)



**Northeastern University**  
College of Arts, Media and Design

### • The Summer Course

The third edition of the “**Barcelona Dialogue**” summer course was hosted by the Barcelona Knowledge Hub (AE-BKH), in collaboration with Northeastern University (Boston, USA), at the former Convalescent Home, home to the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) in Barcelona. This *Dialogue* offered a group of 25 students, hailing from 14 different academic disciplines and 9 different nationalities, an introduction to contemporary achievements in design, art and architecture in the Barcelona context. Additionally, the programme benefitted from partnerships with the Mies van der Rohe Foundation and the Enric Miralles Foundation, also located in Barcelona. Students were able to develop preparatory work and final presentations at all three venues.



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Participants in the Barcelona Dialogue Summer Course. On the right, R. Guerrero and X. Costa-Guix, faculty leader.

The Barcelona Dialogue was conceived within the pedagogical framework of experiential learning at the root of Northeastern University’s many academic programmes. This philosophy of higher education is based on the pedagogical premise that a complete education requires a diversity of experiences on a global scale that go beyond the boundaries of the traditional campus, drawing from the latent synergies between social progress, innovation and scholarly research.



Barcelona is a city that has strongly believed in the transformative power of design. As a 19th-Century industrial centre, Barcelona's entrepreneurial class fostered a dramatic expansion of the existing city through Ildefons Cerdà's new "Eixample" (Expansion) section of the city, where a disruptive architecture emerged in the work of Antoni Gaudí, Lluís Domènech i Montaner and Josep Puig i Cadafalch, to only mention some of the most recognized designers. The city and its industrialist elite also supported an unprecedented and diverse creativity in many fields, ranging from graphic design to literature, from the visual arts to technology.

#### • Students and topics

Students participating in the *Dialogue* were introduced to these many faces of Barcelona in its recent history, and also to the role creativity plays today, an essential force behind the city's culture, economy, and international projection. They looked at the evolution of design and architecture during the last few decades, with a focus on the present and immediate future. They also studied how design methodologies translate into business models, into new forms of communication and problem solving with high emotional and intellectual impact. Emphasis was given to the work of designers who have successfully doubled as entrepreneurs in different fields, such as visual communication, fashion, product design, architectural innovation, gastronomy, or applied technology. Finally, participants visited the Temple of the Sagrada Família, Park Güell, the Picasso Museum and Miró Foundation, all in Barcelona, as well as the Dalí Museum and Púbol Castle, outside the city.

Topics of the seminar included the writings of Walter Benjamin on mechanical reproducibility, Nikolaus Pevsner on the pioneers of modern design and architecture, Sigfried Giedion's research on the impact of industry and mechanization on designers, and Reyner Banham's concept of design within a "second machine age." Recent contributions featured were the writings of Tim Brown on "design change," Manuel Castells on "the network society", William McDonough on "sustainable design", Rem Koolhaas on "generic cities," and Richard Florida on "the rise of the creative class".

#### • Local and invited faculty

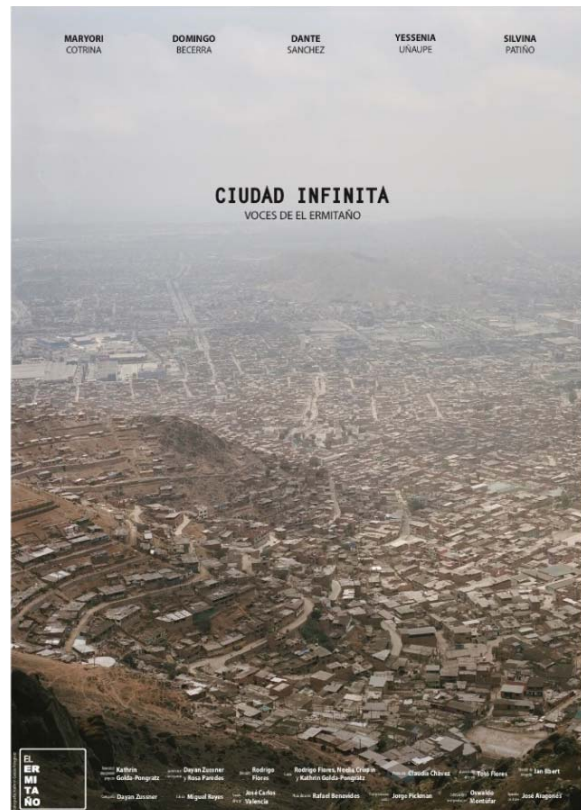
Local and invited faculty giving lectures in Barcelona included: **Dana Mueller** and **Alejandra Carles-Tolrà** (photography); **Ricard Guerrero**, MAE (two lectures: Introduction to the course, and Science and the anniversary of the Periodic Table of Elements); **Suzanne Strum** (Barcelona's markets); **Kathrin Golda-Pongratz**, MAE (Public space and urban memory); **Kimberly Katte**, Hub Manager (Urban sociology and planning in European and American contexts); and **Xavier Costa-Guix**, MAE (Urban development and transformation of the city), who also coordinated the programme as faculty leader.

### 3.3 “CIUDAD INFINITA” DOCUMENTARY FILM (JUNE 2019)

The AE-BKH was honoured to collaborate on the documentary film, “Ciudad Infinita – Voces de El Ermitaño”, under the direction of **Kathrin Golda-Pongratz**, MAE, and assisted with the subtitle preparation during 2019, enabling this unique, award-winning project to reach a larger international audience. The subtitles, in English, were prepared and inserted in the film by Carmen Chica and Rubén Duro, from the AE-BKH.

Lasting 29 minutes, the film is based on an investigation of the urbanisation and place-making processes in the neighbourhood of El Ermitaño (Independencia / Lima), in collaboration with British architect John F C Turner, who depicted and theorised about the self-construction of Peru in the 1960s. A rediscovery made in Turner’s files of an historic documentary filmed in El Ermitaño in 1964, and its later return to and screening in the place where it had been filmed, in 2016, helped to activate collective memory and trigger work on a new documentary.

“Ciudad Infinita – Voces de El Ermitaño” seeks to portray the current challenges facing the El Ermitaño neighbourhood as told by its residents. The film reactivates memories of its roots, in particular, of its different identities of migratory origin. The documentary furthermore helps raise awareness of the concerns and efforts of its people, while providing ideas of possible incentives for similar initiatives aimed at improving and consolidating neighbourhoods such as El Ermitaño.



Poster of the documentary “Ciudad infinita”.

The documentary was selected for the *Festival de Lima* (Lima / Perú) and shown in the “Muestra Itinerante” in August 2019. (In March 2020, it was distinguished as “Official Award Winner” in the section “Social Issues” and selected among the six films “Best of Show” at the *Docs Without Borders International Film Festival*, USA.)

### 3.4 CO-ORGANISATION OF THE 12<sup>th</sup> FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ BERNÁLDEZ LECTURE AND PRIZE (16 OCTOBER 2019)

As in previous years, the Hub collaborated with the Fernando González Bernáldez Foundation, as part of the extension of the Hub’s activities in different Spanish cities. This time in Madrid. Rubén Duro represented the AE-BKH in this collaborative event.



Prof. María Novo. (Photograph by Fundación Residencia de Estudiantes-CSIC)

Prof. **María Novo**, UNESCO Chair in Environmental Education (UNED), delivered the prestigious **12<sup>th</sup> Fernando González Bernáldez Lecture** at the historic *Residencia de Estudiantes* in Madrid, with the title, “*La educación ambiental como proceso de transformación socioecológica*” (“Environmental education as a process of socioecological change”). This distinction, organised by the Fernando González Bernáldez Foundation for Natural Spaces in collaboration with the Academia Europaea-Barcelona Knowledge Hub (AE-BKH), has the goal of maintaining the legacy of Spanish ecologist Fernando González Bernáldez, a pioneer in the studies on plant ecology, wetlands ecology, and environmental education in Spain

The **Fernando González Bernáldez Foundation** is a non-profit organisation founded in 1996 thanks to the initiative of three Spanish universities (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, and Universidad de Alcalá) which joined forces for the purpose of promoting and disseminating scientific research in the fields of ecology, biodiversity and nature conservation.



Organisers of the 12<sup>th</sup> Fernando González Bernáldez Lecture and Prize. (Photograph by Fundación Residencia de Estudiantes-CSIC)

Moving beyond academia, the foundation also connects with conservation practitioners, providing them with interdisciplinary training through its long-standing partnership with EUROPARC-Spain, a federation of Spanish parks and governing bodies responsible for the planning and management of protected natural areas.

The prize, the first to be awarded to a woman, was held at the historic *Residencia de Estudiantes* (Residence for Researchers) of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) in Madrid. The ‘Residencia’ has been a hub of scientific and cultural exchange in Spain. In 2015, it was awarded the EU’s European Heritage Label. The lecture was well-received by both scholars and members of the numerous public in attendance.

### 3.5 DISPUTATIO OF BARCELONA 2019 (13 NOVEMBER 2019)

#### An annual activity of the Academia Europaea-Barcelona Knowledge Hub

##### About the *Disputationes*

In the scholastic system of education of the Middle Ages, the *Disputationes* offered a formalized method of debate designed to uncover and establish truths in theology and in sciences. Fixed rules governed the process: they demanded dependence on traditional written authorities and



the thorough understanding of each argument on each side. The famous *Disputatio of Barcelona*, called in the summer of 1263 by King James I of Aragon, was the most important and well-known of the inter-faith *Disputationes* that took place between Christian and Jewish theologians in the late Middle Ages. In 1263, the disputants were Friar Paulus Christianus (Dominican, and a convert rabbi from Judaism) and rabbi Moses ben Nachman (also known as Nachmanides, or Benastruch Sa Porta), from Girona's communi-

ty, the most important scholar of Judaism in his time. They discussed theological questions in front of the king and his court, in the presence of the most important men of the prosperous and influential city of Barcelona.

##### The modern-day *Disputatio of Barcelona*, 2013–2018

The modern *Disputatio of Barcelona* has been successfully recovered. In **November 2013**, the AE-BKH celebrated its inaugural event by commemorating the 750th anniversary of the medieval *Disputatio*, and organised a modern-day *Disputatio* on “**Social and state-of-the-art Medicine**”, featuring philosopher **Thomas Pogge** (Yale University; leader of the Health Impact Fund) and neuroscientist **Mara Dierssen** (Centre for Genomic Regulation, UPF, Barcelona, and president of the Spanish Society for Neuroscience).



Logo of the *Disputatio* of Barcelona 2019. (By Mercedes Berlanga, on behalf of the AE-BKH)

After the success of the first modern-time *Disputatio* of Barcelona (2013), the AE-BKH organised on **November 27, 2014**, a second modern-day *Disputatio of Barcelona*, together with the United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM). The topic was “**The Mediterranean, bridge of cultures**”. The *Disputatio of Barcelona* 2014 was held at the Saint Pau Historic Site, where the UNU-GCM is located. Two MAE, **Maria Paradiso** (geographer, Professor of Geography and Planning at the University of Sannio, Italy), and **Enric Banda** (geophysicist,

Director of Science and Environment at the “la Caixa” Foundation, Barcelona), presented many different aspects of the Mediterranean history, culture, opportunities and present difficulties.

On **December 9, 2015** the third modern-day *Disputatio of Barcelona* was held in the Royal Chapel of Sainte Agatha, in the Gothic Quartier. This *Disputatio of Barcelona 2015*, was also a success. Two scholars, **Núria Sebastian** (vice-president of European Research Council), and **Ulises Cortés** (from the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre), discussed on “**Natural vs. Artificial Intelligence**”.

On **November 21, 2016** the fourth modern-day *Disputatio of Barcelona*, was held at the Palau de la Generalitat, under the presidency of the president of the Government of Catalonia, M. Hon. Carles Puigdemont. It was devoted to the topic: “**Natural Life vs. Synthetic Life**”. Two scholars, **Anna Veiga** (Centre for Regenerative Medicine, Barcelona) and **Ricard Solé** (Complex Systems Lab, PRBB, Barcelona), debated on the new challenges that the current scientific advancements present to human societies. The impressive knowledge both *disputantes* allowed them to clearly expose their ideas to the audience. An active debate among the public and the speakers helped to better understand several critical questions previously exposed by the speakers.

On **November 23, 2017**, the fifth modern-day *Disputatio of Barcelona* was held at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) in the Prat de la Riba Hall. The *Disputatio* debated on “**Supercomputers: An instrument for science, technology and the progress of society.**” The two *disputantes* were **Mateo Valero**, director of the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre, who presented the “science and technology” aspects, and **Alison Kennedy**, director of the STFC Hartree Centre (Daresbury, Warrington, UK), who presented the “progress of the society” aspects.

On **November 28, 2018**, the sixth modern-day *Disputatio of Barcelona*, entitled “**Competition vs. Cooperation: Two economists’ points of view**”, was again held at the Institute for Catalan Studies in the Prat de la Riba Hall. The session was moderated by **Salvador Barberà**, Professor Emeritus of Economics at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and featured Prof. **Hervé Moulin**, Donald J. Robertson Chair in Economics at the University of Glasgow, and Prof. **Gabrielle Demange**, Director of Studies at the School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS) in Paris, as invited *disputantes* (debaters). All three are Members of Academia Europaea, in the Economics, Business & Management Sciences section.

The modern-day *Disputationes* are nowadays a distinctive feature of the AE-BKH and should be continued in the coming years.

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## The *Disputatio of Barcelona 2019*

From Plato’s famous circle of learning (*enkyklios paideia*) to the *Studium generale* of the Middle Ages and the *uomo universale* of the Renaissance, education was conceived of as an integrated deployment of one’s capacities that embraced all fields of knowledge. The ever-growing complexity of our knowledge, however, and the ensuing professionalisation of epistemic practices during the last centuries have challenged this humanist ideal: today, highly specialised exper-



*Disputatio of Barcelona 2019. From left to right: Maciej Lewenstein, Silvia De Bianchi, and Alexander Fidora.*





tise in terms of narrowly defined regional competences is required in virtually all domains. This trend has not only increased the gap between the humanities and the sciences, but it raises fundamental questions about how we wish to understand ourselves as knowing subjects.

The seventh modern-day *Disputatio of Barcelona*, organised by the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of Academia Europaea and held at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) in Barcelona on November 13<sup>th</sup>, was therefore devoted to the question, “**A new humanism for the 21st century? Specialisation vs. Generalisation. A debate on the future of knowledge.**” The *disputantes* were Prof. **Silvia De Bianchi**, Ramón y Cajal Fellow at the Department of Philosophy and Centre for the History of Science, Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), and Prof. **Maciej Lewenstein**, MAE, ICREA Research Professor and Quantum Optics Theory Group Leader at the Institute of Photonic Sciences (ICFO). During the session, they discussed key notions of this debate such as specialisation, generalisation, interdisciplinarity, humanities, science, development and realisation of the individual etc., offering us their analyses of the present as well as their visions for the future. Serving as moderator and coordinator was Prof. **Alexander Fidora**, MAE, ICREA Research Professor, Department of Ancient and Medieval Studies, UAB.

The topic was approached in a multidisciplinary manner, revealing complementary and contrasting facets. As usual, the *Disputatio* was open to the general public and welcomed questions from the audience, leading to an interactive, dynamic colloquium among those in attendance.

# DISPUTATIO OF BARCELONA 2019

**A NEW HUMANISM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY?  
SPECIALISATION VS. GENERALISATION**

**A DEBATE ON THE FUTURE OF KNOWLEDGE**



**SILVIA DE BIANCHI**  
(UAB)



**MACIEJ LEWENSTEIN**  
(ICREA-ICFO)

**MODERATOR: ALEXANDER FIDORA (ICREA-UAB)**

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**November 13th, 2019 18.30 h-20.30 h**



**Institut  
d'Estudis  
Catalans**

**Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC)**  
Prat de la Riba Hall  
Carrer del Carme, 47  
08001 Barcelona

- Open to public
- English (no simultaneous translation)
- Cava and refreshments to follow

**More information:**  
<http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/>

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Partners of the AE-BKH:



Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament d'Empresa i Coneixement  
Secretaria d'Universitats i Recerca



Ajuntament de  
Barcelona



la Caixa

Poster of the *Disputatio* of Barcelona 2019.

## 4. BUILDING BRIDGES 2019 (23-25 OCTOBER)

### 4.1 THE 31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub (AE-BKH) was pleased to host the **31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Academia Europaea (AE) and 8th of the Young Academy of Europe (YAE), “Building Bridges 2019”**, at different venues in Barcelona on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2019. Participation was exceptionally strong: 250 delegates participated in the conference, including a record number of 161 new Members, while 34 different countries were represented.

#### Building Bridges 2019



Logo of the Building Bridges 2019, by M. Berlanga for the AE-BKH.

As in the previous edition, registration took place on-line in the months prior to the event, on the conference website, <http://www.buildingbridges-acadeuro.org/>, where the scientific programme and other relevant information were posted. Logistics were again handled by the company Manners Conferences & Events Barcelona, a local professional conference organiser.

#### 22 October 2019

Prior to the start of the conference, the AE Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, in the centre of Barcelona. The YAE, for its part, held its Annual General Meeting on this day at the nearby Residència d'Investigadors.

#### 23 October 2019, at the IEC and Ateneu Barcelonès

The first day of the conference, Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, began with parallel Class workshops at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC), involving the four AE Classes (A1-Humanities, A2-Social and Related Sciences, B-Exact Sciences and C-Natural Sciences). Each of these meetings began with a welcome by its corresponding Class chair and introductory remarks by its respective Section chairs, while the bulk of the time was devoted to having new Members briefly introduce themselves and their research. One highlight worth mentioning was the joint round table session of Classes A1 and A2, featuring a presentation by Dame **Marilyn Strathern**, MAE. A total of 185 Members took part in these meetings, with the largest group corresponding to Class B, followed by Classes A1, C and A2, respectively. Meanwhile, the YAE continued sessions at the Residència d'Investigadors.



Welcome Ceremony for New Members,  
at the Ateneu Barcelonès.

In the afternoon, the historic Ateneu Barcelonès, a centre of intellectual life and thought in Barcelona for over 150 years, hosted the Welcome Ceremony for New Members, featuring a record number of new Members elected in 2018 and 2019. This was immediately followed by the presentation of the AE Erasmus Medals and Heinz-Nixdorf Foundation Lectures, which this year recognised **Aleida Assmann** MAE and **Sonia Livingstone** MAE. The session concluded with an outdoor cocktail reception for all.

## The first President's Dinner (23 October 2019), at Restaurant Norai, Royal Shipyards

In the evening of 23 October, Prof. **Sierd Cloetingh**, President of Academia Europaea, hosted the President's Dinner at Norai Restaurant, next to the Gothic building of the Royal Shipyards. 170 delegates, mostly consisting of new Members, enjoyed this all-new social event, which, despite requiring a separate registration and fee, sold out several weeks prior to the conference. During the dinner, **Svend Erik Larsen** was honoured for his many years of service to the AE Board of Trustees.



President's Dinner at Norai Restaurant, Royal Shipyards.

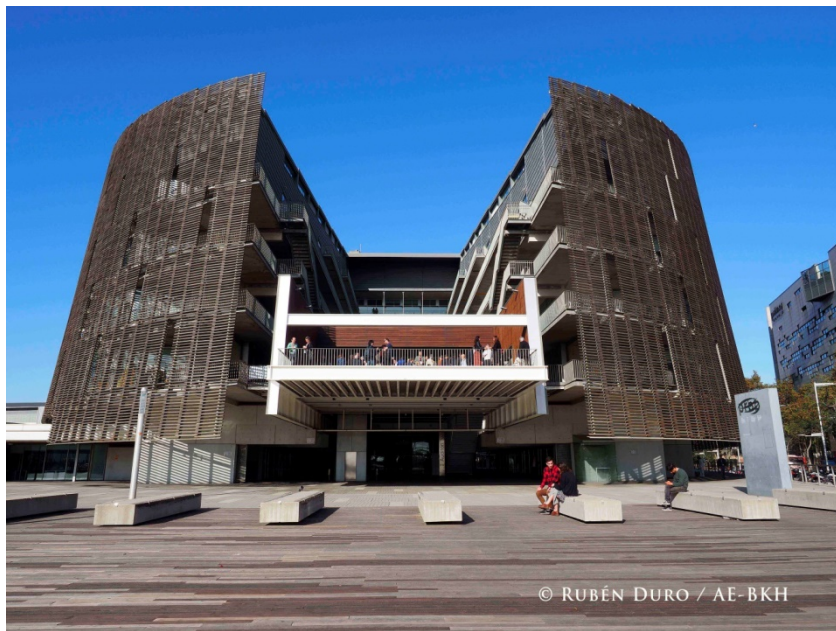
## 24 October 2019, at the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB)

The second day of the conference took place at the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB), which overlooks the Mediterranean Sea and houses some of the most prestigious research institutions in Barcelona and in all of Southern Europe. Plenary sessions featured leading scholars from Europe and beyond, in fields ranging from science and technology to the humanities and social sciences, as well as on the current challenges of research and academia as a whole. These renowned expert speakers included recipients of prestigious honours, for example: Detlef Lohse and Dame Marilyn Strathern MAE, Balzan Prize winners; Ray Dixon, recipient of the 2019 Adam Kondrosi AE Prize for Advanced Research; and Janusz Bujnicki, awardee of the YAE Andre Mischke Prize.

Within the framework of the Academia Europaea Distinguished Lecture, Nobel Laureate Konstantin Novoselov (Physics, 2010) delivered a fascinating lecture on graphene, while a discussion panel organised by the Young Academy of Europe, involving European science advice and academy officials, addressed the future challenges and opportunities facing young scholars. As in previous years, additional lectures explored interdisciplinary research networks funded by COST Actions, an EU collaborative programme; this year, the inDust project was featured in a presentation by Anca Nemuc. Finally, the conference concluded with the Building Bridges 2019 Distinguished Lecture, which was presented by Luc Steels MAE and focused on the question of superintelligent AI. Afterwards, delegates said their goodbyes at a farewell reception on the terrace of the PRBB, with views of the sea.

The AE-BKH was pleased by the scientific quality of the sessions and strong participation in the conference. A post-conference survey confirmed that a majority of participants gave the meeting

the highest rating possible in the categories of: registration process; support offered by staff, both prior to arrival and on-site; welcome to new members; PRBB venue; catering; duration; and post-conference field trip. In addition, a majority of participants confirmed that they planned to attend the following year's conference, further confirming the success of the event. The AE-BKH is already making preparations for the next conference and hopes for continued improvement.



Two views of the PRBB Building.

#### **4.2 POST-CONFERENCE EXCURSION TO MONTBLANC AND POBLET (25 OCTOBER 2019)**

On Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, a record number of nearly 70 conference delegates participated in the traditional post-conference field trip to the walled ducal city of Montblanc and Poblet Monastery. Participation required a separate booking and payment of the corresponding fee, during the on-line conference registration process.

Traveling on two coach buses, the group first travelled about 100 km. southwest to Montblanc, near the Prades mountain range and many geological sites. The city's position as an important trading centre in medieval times is reflected in its many Gothic architectural gems, and also its Jewish Quarter (call), which was well-known in the Middle Ages all over the Iberian Peninsula. Along the Cistercian Route, medieval Montblanc is full of legends, monuments, traditions, craftsmanship and gastronomy. The guided tour included St. Francis' convent, St. Michael's church, the city's main street, Jewish quarter, main square, Cal Malet medieval quarters for measuring grain, St. Mary's main church, St. George's portal and the city's walled enclave.

The group was, unfortunately, unable to visit the medieval bridge, which had suffered considerable damage due to major flooding in the area just two days earlier. However, by coincidence, they were able to enjoy the dynamic ambiance of the city on its weekly market day, with stalls, buyers and sellers filling the streets.



Post-conference excursion. Participants at the entrance of the Cistercian monastery of Poblet.

Next, the group continued for another 10 km onward to the 12th-century Cistercian monastery of Poblet, declared a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO in 1991. Near the vineyards surrounding the monastery, the group briefly stopped to discover the geology of the region through a tasting of its mineral-rich waters at the Abbot Ramon of Siscar Fountains. They then enjoyed a traditional Catalan lunch at the restaurant inside the monastery's '*hostatgeria*', or hotel built on the grounds where the monks, as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century, ran a guest house for the homeless and for pilgrims. After lunch, the group took a guided tour of the monastery's majestic architecture, which is structured as three enclosures surrounded by a defensive wall, and includes a fortified royal residence as well as the pantheon of the kings and queens of Catalonia and Aragon.

After a group photo and brief opportunity to visit Poblet's museum, wine cellar and gift shop, participants then boarded the coach buses again to return to Barcelona, arriving at the scheduled time. It was indeed a very memorable day for all. We can say that this traditional post-congress excursion has been the most successful ever, both by the number of people participating (that made necessary to hire two coach buses) and by the activities developed, fighting the weather and the difficult state of roads and bridges due to the catastrophic rainfall of the previous days.

Our excursion to Montblanc coincided with the visit to the area devastated by flooding of the president of the Catalan Parliament, M.H. Roger Torrent, who briefly departed with Kimberly Katte, our Hub Manager, and knew about the Academia Europaea and the Barcelona Knowledge Hub activities.



M.H. Roger Torrent, president of the Catalan Parliament, with Kimberly Katte in Montblanc. In the back, the president of AE, Sierd Cloetingh.

## 5. HYPATIA PRIZE

### 5.1 AWARD CEREMONY OF THE BARCELONA HYPATIA EUROPEAN SCIENCE PRIZE, FIRST EDITION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (5 FEBRUARY 2019)



Dr. László Lovász, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, at the *Saló de Cent*.

On Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, **Dr. László Lovász** received the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize in its 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, in the category of Science and Technology, from the hands of the Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau. The Selection Jury chose to award the prize to Dr. Lovász in recognition of his outstanding career and research conducted at the highest international level, which has generated social impact in Hungary and abroad, putting mathematics as a scientific discipline to the service of society. Dr. Lovász is a renowned mathematician and President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and his career especially stands out in the fields of combinatorial optimisation, algorithms, complexity, graph theory and random walk (RW).

During the award ceremony, Dr. Lovász delivered his distinguished lecture entitled, “Graph Theory – From puzzles to a new paradigm”, and speeches were given by: **Gerardo Pisarello**, First Deputy Mayor of Barcelona for Economy and Labour, Digital

Technologies and International Relations; Dr. **Sierd Cloetingh**, President of Academia Europaea; and Dr. **Eva Kondorosi**, of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, who presented the *laudatio* for the winner of the prize.

The Mayor of Barcelona, **Ada Colau**, reminded all in attendance that Barcelona is a city that “loves and science and wants to position itself in the world as a city of reference for science, technology and innovation”. Ms. Colau referred to recent initiatives implemented by the Barcelona City Council, such as the City and Science Biennial or the Hypatia Prize, part of the Barcelona Science Plan, a strategic project. She also highlighted how science can be a “tool for reaffirming the values of democracy and improving people’s lives, as science is our instrument for overcoming the global challenges we face. Investing in science is not just investing in a better future; it’s investing so that there is a future”.

For this first edition, the five members comprising the Selection Jury were: Dr. Sierd Cloetingh, Jury President and also President of Academia Europaea; Dr. Ricard Guerrero, Jury Secretary; and Dr. Anna Omedes, Dr. María Josefa Yzuel, and Dr. Ignasi Casanova, Jury Members. Also in attendance, having a voice but not a vote, was Ms. Kimberly Katte, Manager of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea.

### 5.2 THE PRIZE WINNER, DR. LÁSZLÓ LOVÁSZ MAE, HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Considered one of the best mathematicians alive, Dr. Lovász has made innovative discoveries in mathematics. His main contributions include the weak perfect graph conjecture, the Lovász local lemma, and the Lenstra–Lenstra–Lovász (LLL) lattice basis reduction algorithm.

Dr. Lovász has received numerous awards and prizes, such as the Fulkerson, Grünwald, Pólya, Kyoto, John von Neumann, Gödel, Széchenyi, Knuth and Wolf prizes, and he has been appointed to more than a dozen academic and scientific societies, in the United States, Europe (Academia

Europaea), Germany (Leopoldina), Holland and Sweden. As former President of the International Mathematical Union, he promoted collaborations with mathematicians and the public acceptance of mathematics as a scientific discipline to the service of society.

As President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences since 2014 and current President of the World Science Forum (WSF), Dr. Lovász has been a champion of scientific freedom, having made significant, lasting contributions toward dialogue between science and society throughout the world.

### 5.3 THE BARCELONA HYPATIA EUROPEAN SCIENCE PRIZE, FUTURE EDITIONS

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The Barcelona City Council, in collaboration with the Academia Europaea-Barcelona Knowledge Hub (AE-BKH), launched this first edition of the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize within the framework of the “Barcelona City of Science” programme, which seeks to project the city as a European capital of research and innovation. The main goal of the Prize is to spotlight science, as well as to promote, support and enhance the value of excellent research conducted in Europe and of its impact on society. The AE-BKH is responsible for organising and managing the prize call.

The Hypatia Prize features a monetary award of 30,000 euros and will be awarded annually, rotating each year among three major areas of knowledge: Science and Technology (call held in 2018); Life and Health Sciences (call opened in 2019 and closes in early 2020; see below); and Humanities and Social Sciences (call to open in late 2020). The name of the prize, Hypatia, was chosen in homage to Hypatia of Alexandria (c. 355-415), a woman philosopher and scientist who successfully bridged and disseminated all scholarly disciplines known during her time and who, for this same reason, was assassinated by the forces of ignorance and fanaticism.

The Hypatia Prize constitutes one of the main programmes of the **Barcelona Science Plan**, a strategic initiative of Barcelona City Council to promote research and innovation infrastructures of the city. Its main objective is to consolidate Barcelona as a European capital of research and innovation.

### 5.4 PREPARATION AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE SECOND EDITION (LIFE & HEALTH SCIENCES)

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At the very end of 2019, the Academia Europaea-Barcelona Knowledge Hub (AE-BKH) announced the Call for Nominations for the second edition of the **Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize**, awarded by the Barcelona City Council in collaboration with the AE-BKH. This Prize, in the amount of 30,000 euros, recognises an outstanding researcher who has achieved a career of excellence at the highest international level in Europe and has made a significant contribution toward different fields of knowledge, as well as a positive impact on society.



The second edition of the Prize will recognise a research career focused on the **Life and Health Sciences (LHS)**, including other related sciences and technologies giving support to LHS, such as biochemistry, bioengineering, etc. More information will be shared by the AE-BKH on its website as soon as it becomes available.

## 6. OTHER ACTIVITIES DURING 2019

### 6.1 SESSION ON “THE EVOLUTIONARY ROLE OF SYMBIOSIS” (3 APRIL 2019)

On 3 April, at the Institute of Catalan Studies (IEC), a screening of the film, “Symbiotic Earth” took place, followed by a talk given by its director, John Feldman.

This session, organised by the Academia Europaea – Barcelona Knowledge Hub (AE-BKH) and coordinated by Carmen Chica (Centre d’Investigacions Microbiològiques, and AE-BKH), focused on the all-important concept of symbiosis -interaction between two different biological organisms- from various angles.

First, filmmaker and director John Feldman of Hummingbird Films (USA) offered personal insight on why he chose to make the documentary, “Symbiotic Earth”. A screening of fragments from the film then followed, reflecting Lynn Margulis’ emphasis on the vital importance of bacteria and symbiosis for all living systems.

Next, Prof. Eva Barreno of the University of Valencia spoke on lichens as the epitome of the evolutionary role of symbiosis. Documentary producer Rubén Duro, Communications Manager of AE-BKH, also gave a presentation on symbiosis as seen in scientific images, while biologist and science writer Mercè Piqueras (ACCC, AE-BKH) offered a unique look at Beatrix Potter, author of Peter Rabbit, as a frustrated lichenologist. Interaction with the audience and refreshments followed.

### 6.2 SESSION ON “MIND AND MATTER: THE SYMBIOTIC CONSCIOUS THOUGHT OF RAIMON PANIKKAR, RAMON MARGALEF AND JAMES LOVELOCK”. CONCERT BY LÍDIA PUJOL (14 MAY 2019).

#### In collaboration with the Biomimetics Sciences Institute (BSI)



Logo of the *Mind and Matter* session, by Mercedes Berlanga on behalf of the AE-BKH.

On 14 May, the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of Academia Europaea (AE-BKH), along with the Biomimetics Sciences Institute (BSI), co-organised the session and concert, “**Mind and Matter: The Symbiotic Conscious Thought of Raimon Panikkar, Ramon Margalef and James Lovelock**”. This event, open to the general public and held in Prat de la Riba Hall of the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC), demonstrated the interest of both institutions to collaborate on various scientific dissemination activities with the goal of bridging science and society, specifically, those activities related to nature and/or symbiotic connections between society and the natural environment.

The first part of the programme consisted of a brief introduction to the vision and mission of the event, with presentations by both co-organising institutions (BSI and AE-BKH), while the second part encompassed a series of brief academic talks on Ramon Margalef and James Lovelock on the centennial anniversary of their births, in memory of their panoptic view of nature and theory on Gaia, respectively. These talks are available on the ‘Barcelona in Action’ channel.



The third part entailed a musical concert lasting more than one hour, performed by singer Lúdia Pujol and her ensemble, in homage to philosopher and theologian Ramon Panniker, on the centennial anniversary of his birth. His work shows ties to biomimetics in that it reflects a unique consciousness of the dualities found in East–West, body–spirit, and finite–infinite, etc., with strong roots in nature.

**Programme:**

18.00h – 18.30h. Part 1: Vision and objectives: Perspectives

- Manifesto of the Biomimetics Sciences Institute. Pere Monràs
- Objectives of the Academia Europaea and future prospects. Ricard Guerrero

18.30h – 19.15 h. Part 2: Academic session: Presentations

Presentations. Jordi Carrasco, featuring works by various contemporary artists

1<sup>st</sup> presentation. Mercè Piqueras. “The universe of James Lovelock, on the happy and fertile occasion of his centennial birthday.”

2<sup>nd</sup> presentation. Mercè Berlanga. “Symbiosis and the holobiont. How the microbiome changes over the life course.”

3<sup>rd</sup> presentation. Ricard Guerrero. “The astronaut’s thumb: how 1968 changed our view of the world”

19.15h – 20.30h. Part 3: Concert-homage to the life and work of Raimon Panikkar (1918-2010), by Lúdia Pujol and her musical ensemble. “Panikkar, poet and hoe-heaver. I am East and West.”

Introduction to the concert by musicologist Romà Escalas

Featuring: Lúdia Pujol (vocals, compositions and production); Dani Espasa (keyboard); Guillermo Rizzotto (guitar); Xavi Lozano (flute, percussion). Afterwards, attendees enjoyed refreshment in the Mercè Rodoreda Baroque hanging garden of the IEC.

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### 6.3 FIRST SCREENING OF THE TV3-C33 DOCUMENTARY, “ASSOCIAR-SE A L’ECOSISTEMA TERRA”, AT THE MUSEU BLAU (3 JUNE 2019)

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This documentary, directed by **Jordi Vilardell**, was produced for the C33 channel of TV3 (Public Television of Catalonia). Lasting 72 minutes, the film shows different aspects of the work made by members of the staff of the AE-BKH and researchers related to the Barcelona Hub on early ecosystems of microbial mats in both the Ebro Delta (Catalonia) and the delta of river Rhone (La Camargue, south of France). The first screening was held in the Museu Blau, MCNB (Forum). On 5 June, the documentary was shown in the public TV of Catalonia, reaching a great audience.

## 6.4 CO-ORGANISATION OF THE RECAM 16, WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA (15 NOVEMBER 2019)

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The sixteenth edition of the RECAM (*Reunió Científica Anual de Microbiologia*, or the Annual Scientific Meeting in Microbiology), was held in November 15, 2019 at the IEC. The RECAM 16 was organised by the Academia Europaea-Barcelona Knowledge Hub and the University of Barcelona (UB), in collaboration with researchers from the following centres: University of Girona (UdG), Autonomous University of Barcelona (Bellaterra, UAB), University Rovira i Virgili (Reus, Tarragona; URV) and the Institute for Marine Sciences, Barcelona (ICM). The meeting was coordinated by **Mercè Berlanga**, from the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences, UB, and by **Jordi Urmeneta**, from the Faculty of Biology, UB.



The main objectives of the RECAM are to discuss recent advances in microbiology, to favour networking among several groups working in different microbiological sciences and to promote collaborative activities among laboratories, departments, research centres and universities in Catalonia. These meetings are aimed at microbiologists from both academia and industry, including teachers and other professionals interested in the advances of microbiology, and also students from various branches of life sciences interested in microbiology.

This year, eight researchers from different universities and research centres and industry participated in the event: Emili Montesinos, Lluís Banyeras and Jesús Garcia-Gil (UdG); Joaquim Vila and Laura Baldomà (UB); Albert Mas (URV); Ramon Massana (ICM-CSIC); and Gemma Barceló (from Danone Industries). Eighty people attended the meeting, demonstrating the high interest of the different topics of microbiology that were presented, which focused this year mainly on ecology and human health. Ecological aspects included the bioremediation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, bioplaguicides, electroremediation, and the role of marine protists in the cycling of matter. Topics in the health sciences included food security issues, probiotics and human intestinal microbiota. This is the second year that the AE-BKH co-organises the RECAM meeting, achieving great success both in terms of the high quality of the lectures and in terms of the high level of participation of scholars from different universities in Catalonia.

The excellent results obtained confirm the intention of the AE-Barcelona Knowledge Hub to continue this collaboration with the University of Barcelona and other universities and research centres in Catalonia on future editions of the RECAM.



## 7. EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

### 7.1 TBILISI, GEORGIA. ATTENDANCE AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE TBILISI HUB (24 APRIL 2019)

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the fifth hub of Academia Europaea (AE), the Tbilisi Knowledge Hub, was inaugurated at Tbilisi State University, with the Georgian Prime Minister, **Mamuka Bakhtadze**, in attendance, along with several AE officers and hub directors, including **Ricard Guerrero** MAE, from the AE Barcelona Knowledge Hub.

The Tbilisi Knowledge Hub was founded thanks to a collaborative agreement between AE and Tbilisi State University, signed by the President of AE, **Sierd Cloetingh** MAE, and by the Rector (President) of Tbilisi State University, **George Sharvashidze** MAE. Representing Georgia, the South Caucasus and beyond, the hub will focus on bio-cultural diversity in its activities.

### 7.2 AÇORES AND LISBON, PORTUGAL. CELEBRATION OF PORTUGAL'S NATIONAL SCIENTIST DAY IN PONTA DELGADA, ORGANISED BY CIÊNCIA VIVA, LISBON (16-18 MAY 2019)

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, **Ricard Guerrero**, Academic Director of the Academia Europaea Barcelona Knowledge Hub (AE-BKH), participated in the activities planned within the framework of Portugal's National Scientists Day, in Ponta Delgada, São Miguel island, Açores. These activities, presided by **Manuel Heitor**, Portuguese Minister of Science, commemorated the Portuguese Day of Scientists, in honour of José Mariano Gago (died in April 2015) and included a lecture by Dr. Guerrero on the Mediterranean Deltas.

Following the events, meetings with **Rosalía Vargas**, Director of Ciência Viva, the Portuguese Agency for Science and Technology, were held in Lisbon, with the goal of fostering relationships between Portugal and the AE-BKH. In particular, these meetings focused on implementation of the EU science advice for policy-making programme, SAPEA, in Spain and Portugal.

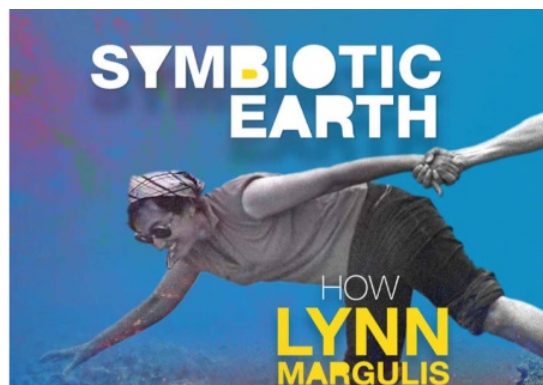
### 7.3 MADRID. SIGNATURE OF A JOINT LETTER OF INTENT BETWEEN THE AE-BKH AND THE CONFEDERATION OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES OF SPAIN (COSCE) (6 JUNE 2019)

Laying the foundation for future collaboration between their respective institutions, **Perla Wahnón**, President of the Confederation of Scientific Societies of Spain (COSCE), and **Ricard Guerrero**, Academic Director of the AE-BKH, signed a joint letter of intent at the Historic Library of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid on June 6, 2019. COSCE is a federation of 82 Spanish scientific societies, and 45,000 members. COSCE contributes to the scientific and technological development of Spain, acting as a single voice both in society and in public agencies by promoting the role of science and contributing to its dissemination as a necessary and essential ingredient of culture. The letter of intent highlights the common objectives of the two institutions to promote the recognition of scientists as active and necessary agents in the socioeconomic development of society, in Spain and in the whole of Europe.

A more specific agreement is to be developed, outlining the main aspects of the collaboration between COSCE and the AE-BKH.

## 7.4 VALENCIA. COLLABORATION ON THE SCIENTIFIC MEETING “SYMBIOTIC EARTH”, ORGANISED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF VALENCIA (11-12 DECEMBER 2019)

On December 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, scientific sessions with the title, “Symbiotic Earth: How Lynn Margulis Started a Scientific Revolution,” took place in Valencia, Spain, featuring films, screenings, lectures and a round table discussion on the life and career of evolutionary biologist Lynn Margulis and her contributions to the theory of symbiosis.



Poster of presentation of the film.

Coordinated by Prof. **Eva Barreno**, the sessions were organised by the Cavanilles Institute of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Biology of the University of Valencia, together with the Scientific Culture and Innovation Unit of the university. In representation of the AE-BKH, **Rubén Duro** participated and introduced the documentary film that was screened during the event (“Symbiotic Earth: How Lynn Margulis Rocked the Boat and Started a Scientific Revolution”, Hummingbird Films, NYC, USA).

## 8. COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL NETWORKING

### 8.1 SOCIAL NETWORKING: WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA, & AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATIONS

During 2019, the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea (AE-BKH) remained very active in promoting and sharing news of its various activities using several different communications tools, mostly online. As in the past, scientific communications specialist Rubén Duro continued to serve the Hub as webmaster and manager of digital content, social media, and audiovisual communications. Highlights from 2019 in these areas include:

#### Updates on the website <http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/>

During 2019, **29 new pages** were created and **350 upgrades** made to the AE-BKH website.

Approximately the same amount of upgrades were made to the Building Bridges website (<http://www.buildingbridges-acadeuro.org>), a website that was initially managed by Manners Conferences and Events, a Barcelona-based company with extensive experience in professional conference organisation, but actually managed by the AE-BKH during preparations for Building Bridges 2019.

In addition, **11 new photo galleries** were incorporated into the “Barcelona in Action” page (see below), with a selection of **891 photographs** of the different activities organised by the AE-BKH during the year 2019.

## AE-BKH photography and video activity

In 2019, the Communication and Social Networking team covered seven AE-BKH events:

- **Hypatia Prize** on February 04-05, 2019
- **AE-BKH Women's Week 2019** on March 05,06,07, 2019
- **The evolutionary role of symbiosis** on April 03, 2019
- **Mind and matter** on May 14, 2019
- **Northeastern University Summer Dialogue 2019** on May 27, 2019
- **Building Bridges 2019** on October 22,23,24,25, 2019
- **Disputatio of Barcelona 2019** on November 13, 2019

During the aforementioned activities, a total of **4,252 photographs** and a total of **17 hours, 51 minutes and 6 seconds of video recordings** were taken.

As a result of this work, **6 videos were produced** for the “Barcelona in Action” channel on Vimeo, incorporated into the AE-BKH website:

- **On Math and Society** (00:15:37) <https://vimeo.com/318550508>
- **On Academies in Europe and Hungary** (00:09:34) <https://vimeo.com/318629263>
- **Mind and matter 01** (00:19:34) <https://vimeo.com/343913681>
- **Mind and matter 02** (00:17:12) <https://vimeo.com/343940399>
- **Mind and matter 03** (00:17:10) <https://vimeo.com/344180769>
- **Mind and matter 04** (00:16:18) <https://vimeo.com/344395541>

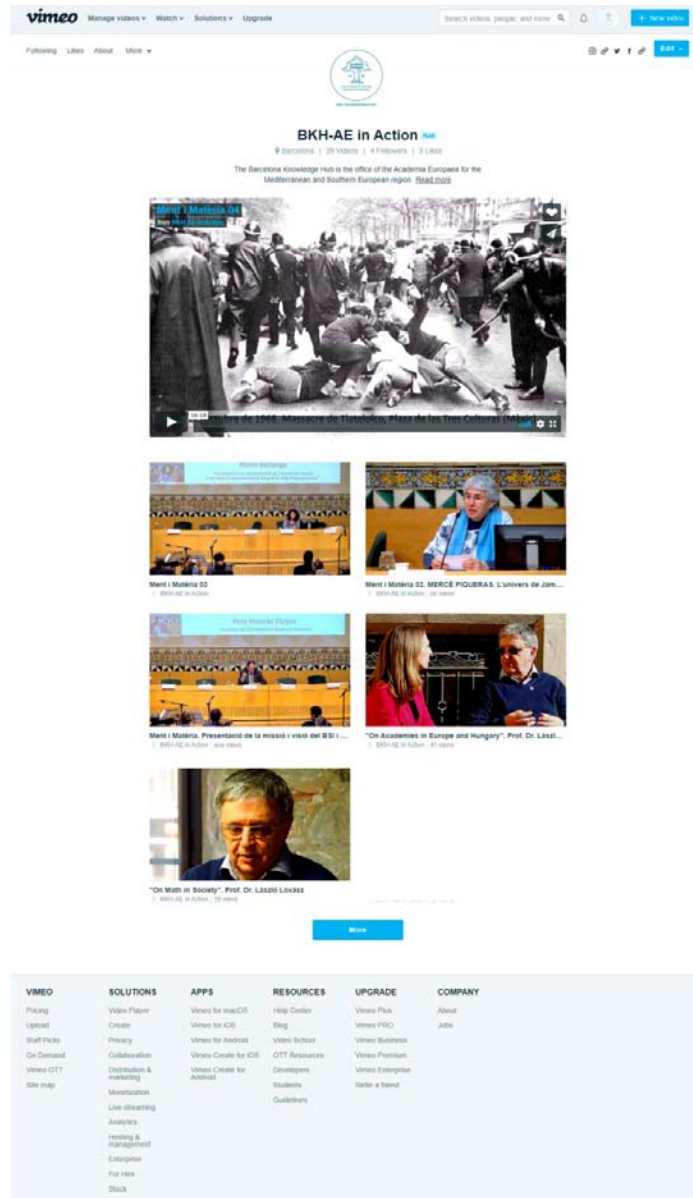
In addition, in 2019 a special project was undertaken by the Communication and Social Networking team, together with close collaborator Carmen Chica. This consisted in assisting **Kathrin Golda-Pongratz, MAE**, with the editing of the graphics, video and audio, as well as subtitling in English and re-mastering, of the documentary “**Ciudad infinita. Voces de El Ermitaño,**” for view in Full HD format.



Documentary “Ciudad infinita. Voces de El Ermitaño” (Lima, Perú, 2018),  
directed by Kathrin Golda-Pongratz.

## AE-BKH “Barcelona in Action” video channel

The AE-BKH “Barcelona in Action” video channel, running on the YouTube and Vimeo platforms, features videos about the activities organised by the AE-BKH, as well as videos from other institutions related to the Academia Europaea.



During 2019, **6** new videos were added to the channel for a total of **29 videos**, most of them on the Vimeo platform, which received **2,237 views**.

The total time of videos viewed during 2019 was **8 hours, 35 minutes and 45 seconds**, with an average time per session of 3 minutes and 2 seconds. The most viewed video during that period was **“On Academies in Europe and Hungary”**, featuring Dr. László Lovász, winner of the First Edition of the Barcelona Hypatia Science Prize, interviewed by Kimberly Katte, Hub Manager of the AE-BKH (<https://vimeo.com/318629263>). This video reached **95 impressions with 40 views**.



## 8.2 WEBSITES MANAGED BY THE AE-BKH TEAM

The AE-BKH office communicates information about its various activities through the [barcelona.acadeuro.org](http://barcelona.acadeuro.org) and [buildingbridges-acadeuro.org](http://buildingbridges-acadeuro.org) websites.

### AE-BKH Website

By the end of 2019, the AE-BKH website reached more than **48,000 total visitors** and almost **750,000 page views**. The most visited page has been the **HOME** page, with **57,598 visits**.

The website was visited by **131 countries**. The **United States, with 9,848 views**, and **Spain, with 6,122 views**, were the main sources of visitors.

Welcome to the **Barcelona Knowledge Hub**, the Southern European and Mediterranean Office of the **Academia Europaea**.  
Our goal is to contribute to the consolidation of a genuine European area of research, education and innovation.

**AE-BKH WOMEN'S WEEK 2019**  
**"Woman, science and culture: a symbiotic connection"**  
 From March 5 until March 7, 2019 the AE-BKH celebrated its annual Women's Week with three different activities in different locations of Barcelona.  
 Access to the photo-gallery  
 More information

**NEWS**  
 Hungarian mathematician László Lovász receives the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize  
 Dr. László Lovász received the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize, in the category of Science and Technology, from the hands of the Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau.  
 More information

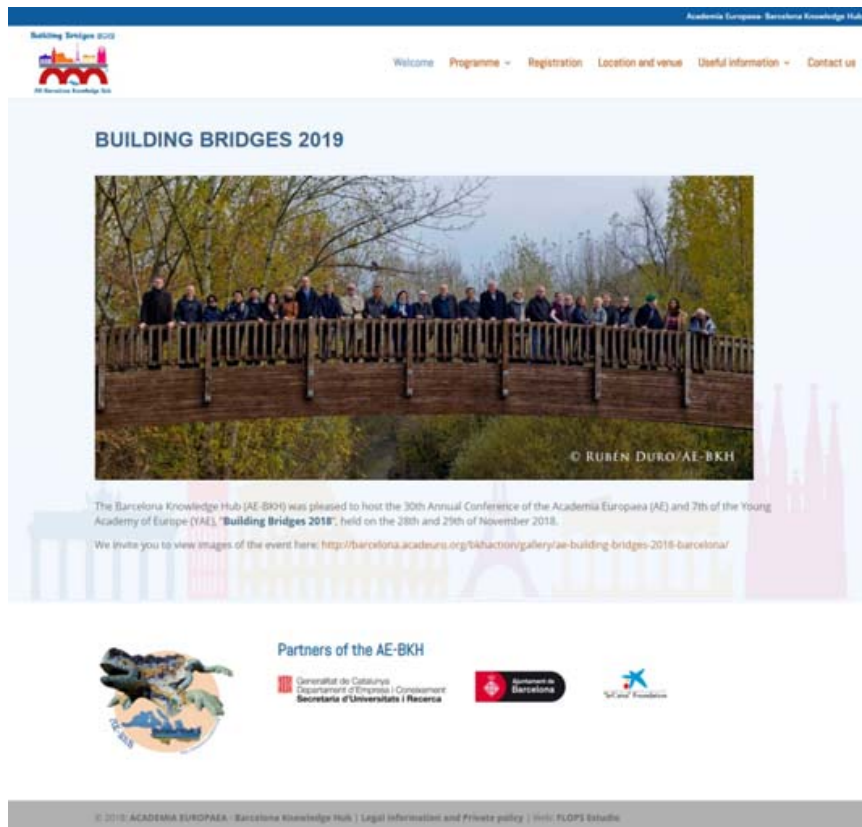
**BUILDING BRIDGES 2018**  
 The Barcelona Knowledge Hub (AE-BKH) was pleased to host the 30th Annual Conference of the Academia Europaea (AE) and 7th of the Young Academy of Europe (YAE), 'Building Bridges 2018', held on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2018.  
 The first day of the conference, held at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC), consisted of **SectionClass Workshops**, a **meeting of AE Hubs**, the **Annual Business Meeting** and the **Welcome to New Members**, followed by the **Disputatio of Barcelona 2018 debate**. On the second day, the multidisciplinary **Building Bridges 2018 Scientific Dissemination Event** took place at CosmoCaixa and featured leading scholars from Europe and beyond, in fields ranging from science and technology to the humanities and social sciences, as well as on the current challenges of research and academia as a whole. The programme concluded with a spectacular **concert** of Mediterranean music by the Gavi Mirra Band at the Royal Academy of Medicine of Catalonia, followed by a **farewell cocktail reception** at the Institute for Catalan Studies.  
 Finally, dozens of delegates participated in the traditional **Post-Conference Field Trip** on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, which featured a boat ride on Banyoles Lake, a visit to the nearby Isera Roman, a traditional Catalan meal and wine and olive oil tasting, a bag-of-war tournament, and a tour of the Medieval and Jewish Quarters of Besalú.  
 We look forward to seeing you in Barcelona next year at Building Bridges 2019!

CONTACT OUR WEBMASTER AND SOCIAL COMMUNICATION MANAGER  
 Rubén Duro  
 communication@acadeuro.org  
 Updated March 11, 2019, at 13:20 h

The total amount of visits received from the area of influence of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub (Mediterranean and Southern European region, including Israel and Turkey) was 6,824: 6,679 from territories in the north of the Mediterranean, and 145 from territories in the south.

## Building Bridges Website

The **Building Bridges** website was used for communicating information regarding the Building Bridges 2019 conference (programme, venues, etc.) and to manage registration. Thus, it was active only for six months during the year.



## 8.3 SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS MANAGED BY THE AE-BKH TEAM

### Facebook profiles

The Webmaster and Social Media Manager of the AE-BKH manages two Facebook profiles:

- **Barcelona Knowledge Hub**, @ae.bkh
- **Disputatio de Barcelona**, @DisputatioBarcelona

**Barcelona Knowledge Hub Facebook profile** (@ae.bkh)  
(<https://www.facebook.com/ae.bkh/>)

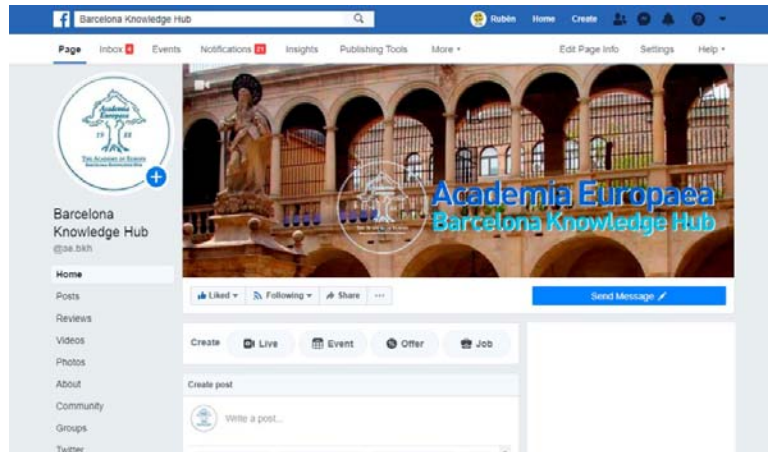




This profile is the more active of the two and is where public information about AE-BKH activities and events is posted.

The year 2019 started with 215 followers, which steadily rose to a total of **235 followers** by the end of the year. This represents an **increase of 9.3%** during this period.

The followers of the BKH Facebook profile are 47% women and 49% men, with a 4% undefined in their profiles. Among women, the age group including most followers was that of 35-44 years old, representing 13% of all women followers. Among men, the age group including most followers was that of 45-54 years old, representing 17% of all men followers.



Most followers were from Spain (161), mainly from Catalonia (98), followed by Italy (12) and the United States (10). Spanish was the most frequent language of followers, followed by English and Catalan.

The total amount of **posts** published using this Facebook profile during 2019 was **48**, of which 46 were of original production, while 2 were shared from other profiles.

The year 2019 started with a total of 216 “likes” for the page, which rose to a total of **233 “likes”** by the end of the year.

The total number of **people reached** by posts was **4,123**, with an average of **85.89** people reached per post. The total number of **engagements** with publications posted on our Facebook page was **580**, with an average of **12.08** engagements per post. Most of the posts published on the AE-BKH Facebook page reached **between 30 and 50 people** (19), with some rare exceptions reaching **over 500 people** (1).

During 2019, **two events** were created on this Facebook page:

- **“Mind and Matter”**
- **“The evolutionary role of symbiosis”**

The **“Mind and Matter”** event reached a total of **134** people, with **25 event page views**, whereas the **“The evolutionary role of symbiosis”** event reached a total of **78** people, with **22 event page views**.

**Disputatio of Barcelona Facebook profile** (@DisputatioBarcelona )  
(<https://www.facebook.com/DisputatioBarcelona/>)



This profile was created exclusively to provide information about the annual *Disputatio* of Barcelona event organised by the AE-BKH. This, its activity is relatively low and is limited to the dates near the celebration of the event.

The year 2019 started with a total of 43 followers, which rose to a total of **47 followers** by the end of the year. This represents an **increase of 9.3%** during this period.



Data regarding the gender and age of the followers of the *Disputatio* Facebook profile are not available, however, these are estimated to be similar to those of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub profile on Facebook.

The total amount of **posts** published using this profile during 2019 was **5**, all of which were of original production. The year 2019 started with a total of 41 “likes” for the page, which rose to a total of **45 “likes”** by the end of the year.

The total number of **people reached** by posts was **354**, with an average of **70.80** people reached per post. The total number of **engagements** with publications posted on our Facebook *Disputatio* page was **43**, with an average of **8.6** engagements per post.

## Twitter profile

The Webmaster and Social Media Manager of the AE-BKH manages one Twitter profile: **Academia Europaea** (@ae\_barcelona) ([https://twitter.com/ae\\_barcelona](https://twitter.com/ae_barcelona))



The total number of **tweets** published using this profile during 2019 was **26**, generating a total of **42,968 impressions, 555 engagements, 1262 profile visits** and **64 mentions**.

By the end of 2019, the AE-BKH Twitter profile had a total of **788 followers** and was **following 5** other profiles:

- **AE Tbilisi Regional Knowledge Hub** (@AeTbilisi)
- **Cardiff Knowledge Hub** (@aecardiff)
- **Academia Europaea** (@acad\_euro)
- **ALLEA** (@ALLEA\_academies)
- **Young Academy of Europe (YAE)** (@yacadeuro)

## 9. PARTNERS OF THE AE-BKH

In 2012, the Government of Catalonia, the Barcelona City Council and the “la Caixa” Banking Foundation decided to become partners of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea (AE-BKH), which was launched the following year.

Since then, the aforementioned institutions have acted as the main sponsors and promoters of the AE-BKH, in order to consolidate Barcelona as a hub of science and innovation in southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. Their continued support also helps provide the AE-BKH with the stability needed to undertake new activities and to plan for future growth and expansion. The AE-BKH wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude to its partners.

PARTNERS of the AE-BKH:



Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament d'Empresa i Coneixement  
Secretaria d'Universitats i Recerca



*For more information:*



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