

Academia Europaea | Barcelona Knowledge Hub



2021 Annual Report of Activities

9 February 2022



2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3-4
2. OVERVIEW	5-6
3. ANNUAL PROGRAMMING IN 2021	7-19
3.1 Ninth Annual AE-BKH Women’s Week 2021 (11 March 2020)	
3.2 Concert, “East-West: A Dialogue Among Souls” (12 June 2021)	
3.3 <i>Disputatio of Barcelona</i> 2021 (1 December 2021)	
4. “BUILDING BRIDGES 2021”, THE 32th AE ANNUAL CONFERENCE	10-11
4.1 Class meetings (virtual)	
4.2 Plenary conference (in-person and virtual)	
5. HYPATIA PRIZE.....	12-14
5.1 Award ceremony, Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize, 2nd edition, Life & Health Sciences (1 June 2021)	
5.2 Video recording of interview with Hypatia Prize Winner Ilaria Capua, and Institutional Visit to the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB)	
5.3 Call for nominations, 3rd edition, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Selection by the International Jury	
6. SPECIAL PROJECTS DURING 2021	15-17
6.1 Collaboration on the Barcelona Science Plan 2020-2023	
6.2 “City Unfinished,” within the framework of +Biennial	
6.3 “Cooperation, an Evolutionary Force”	
7. WEB COMMUNICATIONS, SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL CONTENT	18-19
8. PARTNERS OF THE AE-BKH	20



2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Overview

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 research, 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; and a Communications Manager, Rubén Duro. AE-BKH's partners are the Barcelona City Council and the Government of Catalonia (Universities and Research Secretariat).

1.2 Annual programming in 2021

2021 was the second year of annual programming marked by the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of numerous challenges, the AE-BKH successfully carried out its activities, either by moving them to an all-virtual environment, reducing the capacity of in-person attendance, or combining the use of virtual tools with limited in-person attendance in a 'hybrid' format (such as the Building Bridges 2021 conference, described in point 1.3). As in previous years, the pillars of its annual programming featured educational and social outreach events open to the general public:

- AE-BKH Women's Week 2021, "(Dis)lodged women: theories of domestic spaces and subjectivity"
- Concert, "East-West: a Dialogue Among Souls," part of the "Music in the Cloister" series
- *Disputatio of Barcelona 2021*: "Mental health and pandemics: burden and resilience."

1.3 Building Bridges 2021

Following its cancellation in 2020 due to COVID-19, the 32nd Annual Conference of Academia Europaea (AE) and 10th of the Young Academy of Europe (YAE), was hosted by the AE-BKH at the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB) on 20-21 October. The plenary programme, featuring leading international scholars from a wide variety of academic disciplines, was presented in a new 'hybrid' format that enabled virtual attendance in addition to in-person attendance; a total of 329 attendees (55 in-person, 274 virtual) representing 41 different countries were present. Prior to the plenary programme in Barcelona on 20-21 October, the four Classes comprising AE held their respective preconference meetings in an entirely virtual environment, highlighting keynote presentations by renowned experts and presentations by Members of the AE Class of 2020.

1.4 Hypatia Prize

On June 1, 2021, the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize in its second edition (Life and Health Sciences) was presented to Ilaria Capua, Italian virologist and Director of the One Health



Center of Excellence at the University of Florida in the Gothic Saló de Cent (Barcelona City Council's Main Hall), in front of city officials, representatives from Barcelona's scientific community and Academia Europaea (AE) Members. Also on the occasion of the prize ceremony, a recorded interview with Prof. Capua was conducted by AE-BKH Manager Kimberly Katte on the Living Terrace of the Natural Science Museum of Barcelona, and an institutional visit to the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park with city officials and local scientists was arranged.

1.5 Special projects

In 2021, the AE-BKH developed three special projects in collaboration with key partner institutions:

- Collaboration on the Barcelona Science Plan 2020-2023, launched by the Barcelona City Council as a science and university policy with the goal of turning Barcelona into a European capital for research and innovation.
- Co-organisation of "City Unfinished", within the framework of +Biennial
- Co-organisation of "Cooperation, an Evolutionary Force. Lynn Margulis, 10 years later."

1.6 Web communications, social media and digital content

Finally, given the extensive use of online platforms during 2021 to keep its activities accessible during the COVID-19 pandemic, the AE-BKH witnessed an especially strong growth in the audiences reached through its on-line communication tools and social media platforms. In particular, its websites, Facebook and Twitter accounts and 'Barcelona-in-Action' digital archive saw a large increase in user activity, in particular, near the dates of the Building Bridges 2021 conference.

In conclusion, despite facing numerous challenges during 2021 on various levels, the AE-BKH managed to maintain the overall quantity and quality of its programming. The activities carried out position our Hub for continued growth in 2022, which we hope will move us a step closer to recovering normalcy.

Ricard Guerrero, Academic Director

Kimberly Katte, Hub Manager



2. OVERVIEW

2.1 Presentation

The present Annual Report provides an overview at the activities of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of Academia Europaea (AE-BKH) during the year 2021.

2.2 Mission and Vision

The AE- Barcelona Knowledge Hub

- Introduction and area of influence

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 4,800 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 most activities organised by the AE-BKH have, during its early history, take place in Barcelona, an increasing number of activities has taken place in cities in Spain. This is reflected in the information gathered in the present annual report.

- History and main objectives

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. 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).

The Government of Catalonia and the Barcelona City Council have remained partners of the AE-BKH since its foundation, 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.



- **Current specific objectives of the AE-BKH include:**

- Increasing the quantity and quality of its programming while maintaining sustainability
- 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

- **Office and staff**

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. Ricard Guerrero of the UB, Emeritus, and Adjunct Professor of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, serves as Academic Director. In 2021, 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).

3. ANNUAL PROGRAMMING IN 2021

3.1 AE-BKH WOMEN'S WEEK 2021 (11 MARCH)

(Dis)lodged women: theories of domestic spaces and subjectivity

On March 11th, the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of Academia Europaea (AE-BKH) celebrated **AE-BKH Women's Week 2021**, in commemoration of UN International Women's Day, and in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair on Women, Development and Cultures. In line with similar celebrations around the world, AE-BKH Women's Week serves, on the one hand, to recognise the important contributions made by women to different fields of human knowledge, and, on the other, to claim women's rights and promote gender equality.



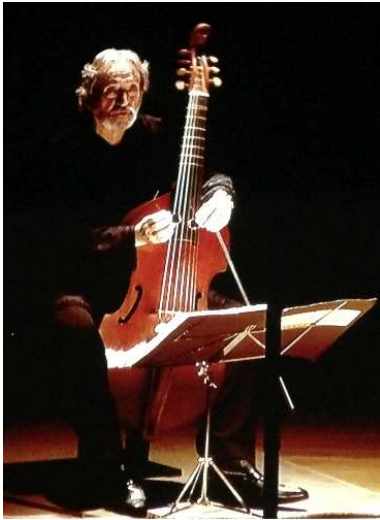
This year's edition, the ninth since the series began in 2013, the same year that the Hub opened, helped consolidate the initiative as one of the main pillars of the AE-BKH's annual programming. Featuring a new collaboration with the UNESCO Chair on Women, Development and Cultures and the University of Barcelona (UB), the all-virtual event was entitled "**(Dis)lodged women: theories of domestic spaces and subjectivity**" and took place (in Catalan) on March 11, 2021.



*Photo: Mesa Verde National Park, Xander Folmer
(Huginn's Heathen Hof LLC)*

Coordinated by **Mònica Rius Piniés**, Director of the aforementioned UNESCO Chair, it began with a conversation between professors **Rodrigo Andrés** and **Cristina Alsina**, members of the UB research group, Troubling Houses: Dwellings, Materiality, and the Self in American Literature. Popular literary topics such as domestic spaces, power, belonging, subjectivity, confinement and gender were then discussed as a mirror of contemporary society, during the debate portion that followed.

3.2 CONCERT, “EAST-WEST: A DIALOGUE AMONG SOULS” (12 JUNE 2021)



Jordi Savall. (Photo credit: FÁWá, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons).

On June 12, 2021, AE-BKH collaborated with the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) on a special concert featuring world-renowned musician **Jordi Savall**, “**East-West: a Dialogue Among Souls**”, organised by the IEC within the framework of the series, Music in the Cloister 2021.

Jordi Savall, on rebab, soprano viola de gamba and rebec, accompanied by percussionist **Pedro Estevan**, invited attendees on a historical and cultural journey exploring the relationships and dialogue among different musical styles native to different cultures in the Mediterranean region, as well as certain musical traditions dating back to medieval times. Anthropological and musicological research has shed new light on how the relationships among these cultures have created the foundation for the development of present-day music in Catalonia and beyond.

More information, including the programme and artist biographies, can be found at <http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/home/annual-programming/music-in-the-cloister/east-west-a-dialogue-among-souls/>

3.3 DISPUTATIO OF BARCELONA 2021

An annual activity of the Academia Europaea-Barcelona Knowledge Hub

“Mental health and pandemics: burden and resilience.”

While the COVID-19 pandemic is considered an important burden for mental health systems worldwide, it also serves as an unprecedented global experiment that provides unique opportunities for understanding genetic pathways shared between infectious disease and neurodegeneration, as well as for studying the predictors and mechanisms of increased resilience to dementia on both individual and societal levels.

In this context, AE-BKH held its *Disputatio of Barcelona 2021* entitled, “**Mental health and pandemics: burden and resilience**,” on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC). With the goal of providing an invaluable dialogue among expert scientists on the relationship between mental health and pandemics, the session sought to find consensus on priorities and possible paths forward. Serving as the two *disputantes* for the debate were: **Arcadi Navarro**, MAE, ICREA Research Professor at Pompeu Fabra University and Director of the Pasquall Maragall Foundation, Barcelona; and **Eider Arenaza-Urquijo**, Research Team Leader at the BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center, Barcelona. **Ricard Guerrero**, MAE, AE-BKH Academic Director, introduced the disputantes and directed questions from the audience to them.

Dr. Navarro began by offering an overview on current research on how COVID-19 may trigger degenerative effects leading to cognitive impairment and even AD symptoms, outlining the main questions that researchers are attempting to answer. Dr. Arenaza-Urquijo, for her part, offered interesting results from ongoing research on how the brain builds resilience against ageing, stress and other risk factors for Alzheimer's disease. Both *disputantes* highlighted the urgency to promote mental health and stress resilience as a means of promoting healthy ageing, notably in the context of pandemics. The role of vaccines was also featured as an important player in improving mental health outcomes.



Disputatio of Barcelona 2021.
From left to right: Arcadi Navarro, Ricard Guerrero and Eider Arenaza-Urquijo.

A video recording of the debate is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/JUVdvptZVo> . For more information, please visit: <http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/home/annual-programming/disputatio-of-barcelona/disputatio-of-barcelona-2021/>

About the *Disputatio of Barcelona* series



The *Disputatio of Barcelona* is a series of annual debates in English organised by the Academia Europaea – Barcelona Knowledge Hub (AE-BKH) and held between two renowned experts (*disputantes*) holding different viewpoints on a common topic of social relevance. The series, inaugurated in 2013, was inspired by the original *Disputatio* held in Barcelona in 1263, a theological debate between Christian and Jewish intellectuals presided by King James I of Aragon.

The nine editions of the modern-day *Disputationes* organised by the AE-BKH have covered a wide variety of topics in the exact, natural and social sciences, following a similar format consisting of a brief exposition by each of the two *disputantes*, followed by questions (total duration between 90 and 120 minutes). As is tradition, the two invited *disputantes* will interact with the audience, comprised of members of the local academic community.

4. “BUILDING BRIDGES 2021”, THE 32th AE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Highlights from Building Bridges 2021



AE President Sierd Cloetingh during the closing of BB2021 at the PRBB.

AE-BKH is pleased to have hosted the AE 32nd Annual Conference and the 10th of the Young Academy of Europe (YAE), **Building Bridges 2021**, bringing together a total of 329 experts (55 on-site delegates and 274 virtual delegates) representing 41 different countries and a wide variety of academic disciplines. Following the cancellation of the 2020 conference due to COVID-19, this year's conference took place in a new hybrid format featuring activities conducted on-site at the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB) and online. Furthermore, the event marked the last annual conference for AE President **Sierd Cloetingh** (Utrecht University), who steps down at the end of 2021 after leading the academy for seven years.

Building Bridges is the name, since 2018, of the annual plenary conferences of Academia Europaea. These conferences aim to engage the interests of all thematic areas of the academy and are therefore broad in scope and of a highly interdisciplinary nature.

The Academia Europaea-Barcelona Knowledge Hub has hosted the AE annual plenary conference on four different occasions (in 2014, 2018, 2019 and 2021, respectively).

4.1 CLASS MEETINGS (VIRTUAL), 14-18 OCTOBER

Prior to the plenary programme in Barcelona on 20-21 October, the four Classes comprising AE held their respective preconference meetings in an entirely virtual environment, highlighting keynote presentations by renowned scholars and presentations by Members of the AE Class of 2020. Class A1-Humanities, chaired by **Poul Holm** (Trinity College Dublin), and Class A2- Social and Related Sciences, chaired by **Björn Wittrock** (Uppsala University and Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study), held a joint meeting on 14 October, organised by the AE Bergen Knowledge Hub and featuring historian and 2006 Balzan Prize winner **Quentin Skinner** (Queen Mary University of London). Then, Class B- Exact Sciences, chaired by **Donald Dingwell** (Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich), conducted its meeting on 15 October, organised by the AE Munich Knowledge Hub and featuring a talk on recent missions to Mars by seismologist and earth scientist **Domenico Giardini** (ETH Zurich). Finally, Class C- Life Sciences, chaired pro tem by **Eva Kondorosi** (Biological Research Centre, Szeged), carried out its online meeting on 18 October from the Barcelona Knowledge Hub facilities. This meeting was organised by the Cardiff Knowledge Hub and featured a talk on mRNA therapies by **Katalin Kariko** (University of Pennsylvania).

4.2 PLENARY CONFERENCE (IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL), 20-21 OCTOBER

The AE sessions comprising the Building Bridges 2021 plenary programme in Barcelona on 20-21 October highlighted leading international academic figures, including: physicist Sir **Roger Penrose** (Oxford University), recipient of the 2020 AE Erasmus Medal (laudation given by Astronomer Royal Lord **Martin Rees** (University of Cambridge)); **Ole Petersen** (Cardiff University), AE Vice-President and recipient of the AE Gold Award; **Susan Trombore** (Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry),



expert on carbon cycle processes and 2020 Balzan Prize Winner; **Quentin Skinner** (Queen Mary University of London), historian of modern political thought and 2006 Balzan Prize Winner; **Mara Dierssen** (Centre for Genomic Regulation), cellular and systems neurobiologist; and **Donald Dingwell**, (Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich), volcanologist. Following a period marked by COVID-19, the aforementioned plenary programme combined on-site and online lectures delivered live with a limited number of prerecorded lectures as a step forward towards regaining normalcy in the programming offered by Academia Europaea.

The YAE, for its part, contributed toward the plenary programme with the André Mischke YAE Prize 2021 for Science and Policy, awarded to **Marian Verhelst** (KU Leuven), who has worked to promote the participation of girls and women in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and mathematics); **Arild Husby** (Uppsala University) provided the corresponding laudation. Also, a panel of experts, convened by YAE Chair **Gemma Modinos**, discussed redefining academic recognitions, which included: **Michael Murphy** (European University Association); **Konstantinos Glinos** (Unit for Open Science, European Commission); **Rebecca Lawrence**, F1000Research; and **Moniek Tromp** (University of Groningen).

More information on Building Bridges 2021, including a link to the corresponding gallery of photos, is available at <http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/home/building-bridges/building-bridges-2021/> (Videos will be added soon.)



5. HYPATIA PRIZE

5.1 AWARD CEREMONY, BARCELONA HYPATIA EUROPEAN SCIENCE PRIZE, 2ND EDITION, LIFE & HEALTH SCIENCES (1 JUNE 2021)



From left to right: Joan Subirats and Júlia Miralles, Barcelona City Council; Ilaria Capua, Hypatia Prize winner; and Kimberly Katte and Ricard Guerrero, AE-BKH.

On June 1, 2021, the **Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize** in its second edition (**Life and Health Sciences**) was presented to **Ilaria Capua**, Italian virologist and Director of the One Health Center of Excellence at the University of Florida in the Gothic *Saló de Cent* (Barcelona City Council's Main Hall), in front of city officials, representatives from Barcelona's scientific community and Academia Europaea (AE) Members.

Presided by Joan Subirats, Deputy Mayor for Culture, Education, Science and Community, the ceremony also featured a previously recorded message by AE President **Sierd Cloetingh**. **Lluís Ferrer**, Chair of the Scientific Advisory Council for the Barcelona Science Plan

2020-2023, introduced Prof. Capua, who delivered a lecture entitled, "**Circular Health: capitalizing on the One Health concept to meet post-pandemic needs**", in which she identified how big data can be harnessed to facilitate a systemic approach to health while improving sustainability.

The Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize in its second edition was awarded to Prof. Capua for her contributions to science policy and leadership in the promotion of open access to genetic information on emerging viruses, and for the social impact that she has made through her contributions to the multidisciplinary concept of "one health". Prof. Capua has taken this concept one step further by identifying how big data technology can be harnessed for the benefit of "circular health" to co-advance human and planetary health.

The five members comprising the selection jury were: **Eva Kondorosi**, Jury President and Member of the Board of Trustees of Academia Europaea; **Ricard Guerrero**, Jury Secretary; **Paola Bonfante**, **Lluís Ferrer**, and **Cristina Pujades**.

About the Hypatia Prize

The Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize is awarded by the Barcelona City Council in collaboration with the AE-BKH. Part of the Barcelona Science Plan, which seeks to boost the city of Barcelona as a European capital of science, the prize, in the amount of 30,000 euros, recognises an outstanding researcher who has conducted her/his career primarily in Europe and at the highest international level, with a strong influence on various fields of knowledge and a positive impact on society.





Candidates for the Hypatia Prize must be nominated by a Member of the Academia Europaea (MAE) (Nominator 1), from any Section, and must have the support of an additional MAE (Nominator 2), also from any Section. Nominator 1 can propose only one candidate. The two nominating MAEs must be from different countries. Although nominators must be MAEs, the candidate does NOT have to be a MAE, nor a native of a European country, but she/he must have developed her/his career mostly in Europe.

The Hypatia Prize follows a three-year cycle and rotates each year among three major areas of knowledge: a) Science and Technology, b) Life and Health Sciences, c) Humanities and Social sciences, as reflected in the current sections of the AE and in the different areas of the European Research Council (ERC).

The first edition of the prize, in the area of Science and Technology, was awarded to mathematician **László Lovász**, Professor at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary; in 2021, Prof. Lovász was named Abel Prize Laureate by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. The winner of the second edition of the prize, centred on Life and Health Sciences, is Italian virologist **Ilaria Capua**, as explained above, while the winner of the third edition, focused on the Humanities and Social Sciences, will be announced in early 2022.

5.2 VIDEO RECORDING OF INTERVIEW WITH HYPATIA PRIZE WINNER ILARIA CAPUA AND INSTITUTIONAL VISIT TO THE BARCELONA BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH PARK (PRBB)



An oral interview with virologist **Ilaria Capua**, winner of the second edition of the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize (second edition, Life and Health Sciences), was conducted by AE-BKH Manager **Kimberly Katte** on the Living Terrace of the Natural Science Museum of Barcelona, on May 31, 2021. In it, Capua reveals her views on circular health, pandemics, women in science, data sharing and interdisciplinarity.

A video recording of the interview if available on YouTube in the Hypatia Prize Video Gallery: http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/home/barcelona-in-action-digital-archive/video_gallery/hypatia-prize-video-gallery/.

Also on the occasion of the prize, an **institutional visit** to the **Barcelona Biomedical Research Park** with city officials and local scientists was arranged.

5.3 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS, 3RD EDITION, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND SELECTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL JURY

The **Call for Nominations** for the 3rd Edition of the **Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize**, in the area of **Humanities and Social Sciences**, opened on July 8, 2021, and closed on September 30, 2021. The Hypatia 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 International Jury responsible for the evaluation and selection of candidates convened on December 3, 2021, once nominations had been validated for compliance with eligibility criteria.

The jury is composed of five academic members proposed by Academia Europaea and by the Barcelona City Council, as follows: **Björn Wittrock** (President), Professor Emeritus at Uppsala University and Founding Director and Permanent Fellow at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study, Sweden, who in addition serves as AE Vice-President ex officio and Chair of Class A2 (Social and Related Sciences); **Genoveva Martí** (Member), ICREA Research Professor at the University of Barcelona, Vice-President of AE, Member of AE Class A1 (Humanities) and Chair of the Section devoted to Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies; **Alexander Fidora** (Member), ICREA Research Professor at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Member of the AE Class A1 (Humanities); **Maria Dolors Garcia-Ramon** (Member), Professor Emeritus at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Member of AE Class A2 (Social and Related Sciences); and Ricard Guerrero (Secretary), Academic Director of AE-BKH.

The winner of the Hypatia Prize will be announced in early 2022, with the prize ceremony set to take place at the Barcelona City Council headquarters within the first trimester.



6. SPECIAL PROJECTS DURING 2021

6.1 COLLABORATION ON THE BARCELONA SCIENCE PLAN 2020-2023



The AE-BKH continues to collaborate with one of its supporters, the Barcelona City Council, on the implementation of the Barcelona Science Plan 2020-2023, a comprehensive science policy developed in conjunction with representatives from Barcelona's research and innovation ecosystem, with the aim of projecting Barcelona as a European capital of science and innovation. Launched in March 2020 just days before the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, the plan was expanded in 2021 to position science at the forefront of Barcelona's post-pandemic recovery.

The plan is built on four main axes: projection of Barcelona as a European capital of science; municipal support for research to tackle urban challenges; promotion of citizen participation in science; and relationships among science, art, innovation and society. The plan lays out 15 specific objectives and 51 actions, with the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize (see Section 5), representing one of those actions.

Also within the framework of the Barcelona Science Plan, in 2021 the Barcelona City Council celebrated its second "City and Science" Biennial on June 8-13, with the goal of bridging science and society through nearly a week of activities, including debates, exhibits, workshops, lectures and performances. This edition focused on the limits of knowledge and science, divided into nine different thematic sections, each led by a curator or expert. Of special interest was the section that explored The Future of Humanity, directed by Ricard Solé, Member of Academia Europaea and ICREA Research Professor at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. With Barcelona as World Capital of Sustainable Food 2021, another section was devoted to the development of sustainable food systems.

For its part, AE-BKH organised an activity as part of +Biennial (see Section 6.2), a programme of complementary activities held at different venues throughout Barcelona; details will be announced later this spring.

6.2 +BIENNIAL: “CITY UNFINISHED”



From left to right: Bettina Bremme, Kathrin Golda-Pongratz and Zaida Muxí.

On June 15, 2021, the AE-BKH held a screening of the documentary, *Ciudad Infinita – Voces de El Ermitaño* (Lima, 2018), in the auditorium of the **Goethe-Institut Barcelona**, followed by a debate on the main topics of the film: public space, community building, housing, memory and identity.

The debate, moderated by journalist and author **Bettina Bremme**, with the participation of architect and urban planner **Zaida Muxí** and urban researcher and *Ciudad Infinita* film director **Kathrin Golda-Pongratz**, MAE, provided thought-provoking insight into the role of public space and housing

in the construction of identity in different cultures, including our own. In this sense, the self-built neighbourhood of *El Ermitaño*. Lima, Peru, provides ideas for incentivising similar initiatives aimed at improving and consolidating neighbourhoods and communities.

This event, which was also streamed live, was featured as part of +Biennial, a programme of complementary activities held at different venues throughout Barcelona, following the conclusion of the second “City and Science” Biennial (June 8-13, 2021), organised by the Barcelona City Council.

6.3 "COOPERATION, EVOLUTIONARY FORCE. LYNN MARGULIS, 10 YEARS LATER"

In commemoration of the tenth anniversary of her passing, between October and December 2021 the AE-BKH co-organised, alongside numerous academic and cultural institutions from Spain, a series of more than twenty activities celebrating renowned biologist Lynn Margulis (1938-2011) and her theory of endosymbiosis, which helped advance evolutionary biology in the late twentieth century.



“Cooperation, evolutionary force. Lynn Margulis, 10 years later” consisted of round tables, lectures, film screenings and an exhibit of texts and photographs, held between 13 October and 3 December 2021, at a number of different venues, including the Contemporary Culture Centre of Barcelona (CCCB), CosmoCaixa and the Marine Sciences Institute - Spanish National Research Council (ICM-CSIC).

More information, including photos, available at: <http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/home/special-projects/cooperation-evolutionary-force/>

In particular, the AE-BKH organised and co-organised four activities that deserve special mention:



1.- **“THE LEGACY OF LYNN MARGULIS”**, held on Wednesday 13th, October, at the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB).

The activity consisted of a conversation with Margaret McFall-Ngai, biologist, physiologist and biochemist; Ricard Guerrero, microbiologist and AE-BKH Academic Director, and Carme Puche, filmmaker and convenor.

The video-recording of this activity can be viewed on the CCCB website through this link: <https://www.cccb.org/es/multimedia/videos/margaret-mcfall-ngai-ricard-guerrero-y-carme-puche/237410>.



2.- **“EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND TEXTS BY LYNN MARGULIS”**, from Monday 15th, November, until Sunday 28, November, at the hall of the Marine Sciences Institute (ICM-CSIC), Barcelona. The curator of this exhibition was Carmen Chica, collaborator of the AE-BKH. Organised by AE-BKH.



3.- **“SYMBIOSIS, EVOLUTIONARY FORCE”**, held on Monday 22nd, November, at the Àgora Hall of the Science Museum-CosmoCaixa (Barcelona). The activity consisted of the screening of the documentary film “Symbiotic Earth. How Lynn Margulis rocked the boat and started a scientific revolution”, by John Feldman (60’), and a round table with Eva Barreno (University of Valencia), Iñaki Ruiz-Trillo (Institute of Evolutionary Biology CSIC-UPF), Ricard Guerrero (AE-BKH) and Begoña Vendrell (ICM-

CSIC). The round table was conducted by scientific journalist Pere Estupinyà. Co-organised by “La Caixa” Foundation (CosmoCaixa) and the AE-BKH. During this activity, Prof. Eva Barreno (University of Valencia) presented a new species of symbiotic alga of the genus *Trebouxia*, dedicated to Lynn Margulis. The new species has been named *Trebouxia lynnae* Barreno, 2021.



4.- **“GEOMICROBIOLOGY OF A GAIAN SYSTEM: THE DEEP SUBSOIL”**, held on Friday 3th, December, at the Institut de Ciències del Mar ICM-CSIC (Barcelona). The activity consisted in the lecture by Ricardo Amils, MAE, Professor Emeritus of the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM) and researcher at the Centro de Astrobiología (CAB.INTA-CSIC), with the presentation by Ricard Guerrero, MAE, microbiologist and academic director of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub

of the Academia Europaea. Co-organised by the ICM-CSIC and the AE-BKH.

The video-recording can be seen on the ICM-CSIC YouTube Channel through this link: s activity, Prof Eva Barreno <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wXxYiftQ>



7. WEB COMMUNICATIONS, SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL CONTENT

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea (AE-BKH) devotes special attention to its web communications, social media and digital content, as this area serves a double purpose: first, it enables the AE-BKH to promote and share news of its activities in a timely and visually striking way; and second, it permits the AE-BKH to create an international academic community of both AE Members and non-Members in a way that bears in mind their geographic dispersion.

During 2021, the AE-BKH was exceptionally active in this area, as restrictions on in-person activities due to COVID-19 equated with an **increase in on-line activities**.

As in the past, scientific communications specialist Rubén Duro continued to serve the Hub as web-master and manager of digital content, social media, and web communications.

7.1 WEB COMMUNICATIONS

The AE-BKH manages the following websites to communicate information about its activities:

AE-BKH institutional website, barcelona.acadeuro.org

In early 2021, the **AE-BKH** web server suffered technical problems that unfortunately resulted in a loss of historical data, such as accumulated totals of visitors and page views. Records starting on March 16, 2021, indicate that, by the end of 2021, the institutional website received a total of **7,421 new visitors**, with a total of **21,412 page views**.

During 2020, **13 new pages** were created and **261 updates** made to the AE-BKH website.

Building Bridges conference website, buildingbridges-acadeuro.org

The **Building Bridges** website was again managed by external collaborator Manners Conferences & Events Barcelona, the professional conference organiser (PCO) hired for the event. After the cancellation of the conference in 2020 due to COVID-19, activity on this website resumed during 2021, in particular, between the three months prior to the conference.

7.2 SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK PROFILES

The AE-BKH manages two Facebook accounts:

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

The first one (@ae.bkh) posts information regarding all AE-BKH activities and events, while the second one (@DisputatioBarcelona) is used exclusively to provide information about the annual *Disputatio* of Barcelona. Thus, the latter has a greatly reduced level of activity as compared to the former, which is limited to the dates surrounding the event.

By the end of 2021, the two accounts together had a total of **333 followers**.

TWITTER PROFILE

The AE-BKH manages one Twitter account:



- **Academia Europaea (@ae_barcelona)**

During 2021, the aforementioned account had received a total of **71,321 impressions**, **4,150 engagements** and **897 followers**. These data represent increases of **+100.77%**, **+558.73%** and **+7.81%**, respectively, with regards to the previous year.

The table below shows the increase in activity on the AE-BKH websites and social media accounts:

On-line impact comparison between 2020 and 2021 (Data from 1st January - 31st December 2021)				
	Indicator	2020	2021	Performance improvement
WEBSITE	Accumulated visitors	67,901	75,322	+10.99%
	Page views	1,243,339	1,264,751	+1.72%
FACEBOOK	Followers	297	333	+11.78%
	Reached	5821	6221	+6.87%
TWITTER	Impressions	35,573	71,321	+100.77%
	Engagements	630	4,150	+558.73%
	Followers	832	897	+7.81%

7.3 DIGITAL CONTENT

In terms of digital content, AE-BKH carries out various specific actions. The main two are:

1. **Barcelona-in-Action Digital Archive**, a repository of photographs and videos filmed and edited by AE-BKH. The **Photo Gallery** is located on the AE-BKH website server at <http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/home/barcelona-in-action-digital-archive/gallery/> , while the **Video Gallery** (with 2,800+ total views) is on the **YouTube** and **Vimeo** platforms, with links available at http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/home/barcelona-in-action-digital-archive/video_gallery/ .

During 2021, **3 new videos** were added to the Video Gallery, all on YouTube.

2. **BarceloNEWS**, the digital AE-BKH newsletter containing news of past and upcoming activities. This publication is also sent by e-mail several times a year to AE subscribers.

During 2021, **4 new editions** were published and distributed on-line at <http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/home/barcelona-in-action-digital-archive/documents/barcelonews/>

Given the demonstrated capacity of the on-line tools used to reach new audiences, the AE-BKH anticipates continued growth during 2022 in the area of web communications and social media.



8. PARTNERS OF THE AE-BKH

Since the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea (AE-BKH) was first launched 2013, the **Government of Catalonia** and the **Barcelona City Council** 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, along with the collaboration of the **Institute for Catalan Studies** (IEC), provides 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.

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

PARTNERS:



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