



# Academia Europaea Barcelona Knowledge Hub

## Activities 2025

### OVERVIEW

Since 2023, the AE-BKH has been hosted by the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation (FCRI), based in Barcelona and directed by Dr. Miquel Gómez Clares since January 2025, providing the AE-BKH with the necessary institutional framework to carry out its activities.

The team is made up of an academic director, Professor Jaume Bertranpetit and a *Hub Manager*, Maite Sánchez. The AE-BKH has as partners the Barcelona City Council and the Generalitat de Catalunya (Department of Research and Universities).

There is a Steering Committee with the following members: Andreu Mas-Colell, Ramon Gomis, Genoveva Martí, Alex Fidora and Marcel Swart. They met on February 18 to present the activities for 2025, on July 15 to review the sessions organized for the second semester and on December 16 to close the year.

There is also an Advisory Board formed since 2023: Eva Kondorosi, Björn Wittrock, Don Dingwell and two members of the Steering Committee: Andreu Mas-Colell and Genoveva Martí. This Council has met monthly in the meetings of the organizing committee of the Building Bridges 2025 Conference.

### INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN IMPACT OF THE BARCELONA KNOWLEDGE HUB OF THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea functions as a strategic platform for international and European knowledge exchange, contributing actively to the mission of the Academia Europaea to promote scientific excellence, interdisciplinary dialogue, and meaningful connections between research, society, and public policy. The Hub strengthens the presence of the Academia Europaea in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean region, expanding its territorial reach and institutional impact.

Through its activities, the Hub creates stable spaces for advanced debate on major contemporary challenges—such as health, climate change, technology, social cohesion, scientific culture, and democratic governance—from a distinctly European and interdisciplinary perspective. This approach facilitates the circulation of ideas, knowledge, and experience across disciplines, countries, and



institutional contexts, reinforcing the role of the Academia Europaea as a key actor in fostering an open, critical, and inclusive European scientific culture.

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub also plays a significant role in bridging scientific communities and decision-making arenas. By combining academic rigor with accessible formats, the Hub helps translate expert knowledge into reflective frameworks that can inform public debate and evidence-based policymaking, in line with European Union priorities on responsible research and innovation, open science, and societal engagement.

In addition, the Hub operates as an active node within the network of Academia Europaea hubs, promoting cooperation across regions, coordinating shared initiatives, and hosting major European-level events. This networking dimension strengthens internal cohesion within the Academia Europaea and enhances its collective capacity to respond to global challenges that require plural, collaborative, and cross-disciplinary perspectives.

Overall, the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea contributes to strengthening the international impact of the Academia, expanding its presence within the European Research Area, and consolidating its role as a reference point for dialogue between science, society, and institutions. It represents a flexible, efficient, and impact-oriented structure, illustrating the strategic value of territorial hubs as key instruments for the global visibility, relevance, and influence of the Academia Europaea.

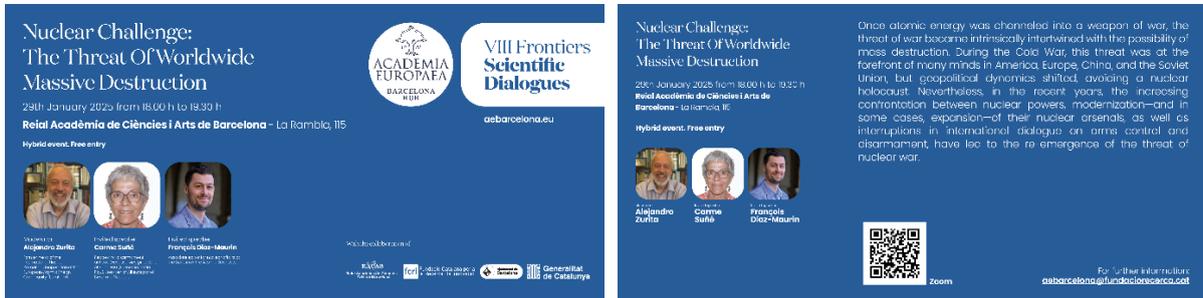
## SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUES AND WORKING SESSIONS

The AE-BKH has successfully carried out its activities, combining the use of virtual tools with face-to-face tools in a 'hybrid' format. The events have been of interest to AE members, the scientific community and the general public:

- Scientific dialogues
- Work sessions

# SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUES

FRONTIERS JANUARY 29, 2025



**Nuclear Challenge: The Threat Of Worldwide Massive Destruction**  
29th January 2025 from 18:00 h to 19:30 h  
Reial Acadèmia de Ciències i Arts de Barcelona – La Rambla, 115  
aebarcelona.eu

**VIII Frontiers Scientific Dialogues**

Once atomic energy was channelled into a weapon of war, the threat of war became intrinsically intertwined with the possibility of mass destruction. During the Cold War, this threat was at the forefront of many minds in America, Europe, China, and the Soviet Union, but geopolitical dynamics shifted, avoiding a nuclear holocaust. Nevertheless, in the recent years, the increasing confrontation between nuclear powers, modernization—and in some cases expansion—of their nuclear arsenals, as well as interruptions in international dialogue on arms control and disarmament, have led to the re-emergence of the threat of nuclear war.

Speakers: Alejandro Zurita, Carme Suñé, François Diaz-Maurin

For further information: [subarcelona@fundaciobscic.cat](mailto:subarcelona@fundaciobscic.cat)



## Summary:

The resurgence of the threat of a global nuclear war and the consequent mutually assured destruction were the thematic protagonists of the eighth scientific dialogue *Frontiers of Science and Technology in Society* of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea (AE-BKH). Entitled *Nuclear Challenge: The Threat of Worldwide Massive Destruction*, the conversation brought together François Diaz-Maurin, associate editor of nuclear affairs at *the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, and Carme Suñé, peace and disarmament activist and executive vice-president of Fundipau. The event was moderated by Alejandro Zurita, former head of International Cooperation in Nuclear Research of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom).

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Link to watch the session: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= 2MaB5b0d1c>

**AGORA 19 FEBRUARY, 2025**



**Determinants socials i ciència mèdica**  
19 de febrer de 2025, de 18.00 h a 19.30 h  
Reial Acadèmia de Ciències i Arts de Barcelona - La Rambla, 15  
abarcelonau.eu

**VIII Àgora Diàlegs Científics**

la teoria social ha demostrat que les societats viuen més i millor gràcies a la seva cultura solidària i als determinants que la fan possible. I la ciència biomèdica? Quin paper juga en aquest context? Els avenços en la pràctica clínica, fruit de tanta tenacitat i mètode, també són rellevants, però menys que els determinants socials, fins a l'extrem que, en un entorn de màxima tensió demogràfica, el futur de la humanitat es juga, sobretot, en la reducció de les desigualtats, l'equitat en l'accés als serveis socials i sanitaris, la innovació sostenible i l'oferta de serveis valuosos i el respecte al medi ambient.

18 de febrer de 2025, de 18.00 h a 19.30 h  
Reial Acadèmia de Ciències i Arts de Barcelona - La Rambla, 15  
Esdeveniment híbrid. Entrada gratuïta

Marta Aymerich, Josep Maria Argimon, Jordi Varela

Parla més informació: abarcelonau@unioab.cat



The role of biomedical science in relation to the social determinants of human quality of life was the topic analysed by the eighth ‘Citizen Agora’, a space for communication and debate for the general public of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea (AE-BKH). Josep Maria Argimon, director of Relations with the Health System of the Pasqual Maragall Foundation; and Jordi Varela, doctor, manager and writer, will participate in the session entitled *Social determinants and medical science*. The event was moderated by Marta Aymerich, director of the eHealth Center of the Open University of Catalonia (UOC).

Societies live longer and better thanks to their culture of solidarity and the factors that make it possible. What role does biomedical science play in this context? Argimon and Varela will analyse the real relevance of advances in clinical practice, the result of so much tenacity and method, in the face of the so-called social determinants: the socioeconomic and physical conditions of the place where a person is born, lives, studies, works, has fun and ages, which can influence health, well-being and quality of life.

The social determinants of health are, for example, educational attainment, income, employment, housing, transport and access to healthy food, clean air and water, and health care services. These determinants have a significant impact on health outcomes, especially in certain groups of people, and raise many questions. Is it possible that it is inevitable that some of these conditions will be different according to social groups? When are inequalities considered? Can they be avoidable? Are they appropriate targets for policies to promote, for example, equity in social and health services, sustainable innovation and respect for the environment?

Link to watch the session: <https://youtu.be/xd8DVu1V-pE>

FRONTIERS MARCH 5, 2025

**Whose Land is Sacred?  
Past, Present and Future  
of Pre-Hispanic Heritage**

5th March 2025 from 6.00 PM to 7.30 PM.  
Reial Acadèmia de Ciències i Arts de Barcelona – La Rambla, 115

Hybrid event. Free entry.

**IX Frontiers Scientific Dialogues**

ACADEMIA EUROPAEA BARCELONA HUB

aebarcelona.eu

Moderator: Xavier Pérez  
Invited speaker: Kathrin Golda-Pongratz  
Invited speaker: Kirsten Mahlke

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ACADEMIA EUROPAEA BARCELONA HUB

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Hybrid event. Free entry.

The dialogue addresses the complex issues of ownership, stewardship, and identity surrounding pre-Hispanic heritage sites, particularly in the Andean world and specifically in Peru, where huacas—sacred sites, temples, or natural formations imbued with spiritual significance—are central to indigenous cosmologies and histories.

In the pre-Hispanic era, huacas were essential to indigenous communities, serving as sacred spaces for religious rituals, political authority, and cultural continuity. However, with the arrival of the Spanish colonizers in the 16th century, many were desecrated, destroyed, or repurposed as Christian sites. The colonial administration imposed European property laws that disregarded indigenous territoriality, leading to the dispossession of native lands and the loss of traditional custodianship over these once-sacred places. Indigenous and local communities often claim a cultural and spiritual right to these spaces, yet state authorities typically hold legal ownership and control access.

This tension raises ethical and political questions: Should the state, local communities, or even international organizations such as UNESCO be responsible for safeguarding these sites? Should heritage management be decentralized? How could huacas be restored? Who has the right to claim ownership among the indigenous descendants of their original custodians? How can the huaca territory be reimagined as a transnational common space in the future?

Moderator: Xavier Pérez  
Invited speaker: Kathrin Golda-Pongratz  
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Summary:

The complex management of the ownership and custody of pre-Hispanic indigenous sacred sites and the safeguarding of their identity values became the thematic axes of the ninth scientific dialogue *Frontiers of Science and Technology in Society* of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea (AE-BKH). With the title *Whose Land is Sacred? Past, Present, and Future of Pre-Hispanic Heritage*, the debate had two specialists in the heritage and culture of Pre-Hispanic America: Kirsten Mahlke, professor of cultural theory at the Department of Literature, Art and Media Studies at the University of Konstanz (Germany) and Kathrin Golda-Pongratz, professor at the Department of Urban Planning at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC). The journalist and television collaborator Xavier Pérez moderated the event.

The socio-cultural and identity symbolism that surrounds the sacred sites of the pre-Hispanic heritage is essential for indigenous cosmologies and histories, particularly in the Andean world and specifically in Peru, where they are known as *huacas* (temples or natural formations imbued with spiritual meaning). In pre-Hispanic times, these places were vital, serving as sacred spaces for religious rituals, political authority, and cultural continuity. With the arrival of the Spanish colonizers in the sixteenth century, many were desecrated, destroyed or reused in Christian places. The colonial administration imposed European property laws that ignored indigenous territoriality, resulting in the dispossession of native lands and the loss of traditional custody of these previously sacred sites.

Today, huacas are legally in an uncertain space between cultural heritage and disputed land. Many are officially protected as archaeological sites under national heritage laws, but many are threatened by urban sprawl, looting, and inadequate conservation efforts. Indigenous and local communities often claim a cultural and spiritual right to these spaces, but state authorities often have legal ownership and control access.

Link to watch the session: <https://youtu.be/VHTPhR9Gp8I>

## AGORA 9 APRIL, 2025

Com pot la literatura de ciència-ficció ajudar-nos a pensar críticament sobre els avenços científics?

9 d'abril de 2025 de 18.00 h a 19.30 h  
Reial Acadèmia de Ciències i Arts de Barcelona - La Rambla, 115

Esdeveniment híbrid. Entrada gratuïta

Modera: Pedro Meseguer  
Invitats: Carme Torras, Jordi de Manuel

Acadèmia Europaea | Institut de Ciències i Tecnologia de Catalunya | Generalitat de Catalunya | Teltonii

Com pot la literatura de ciència-ficció ajudar-nos a pensar críticament sobre els avenços científics?

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Esdeveniment híbrid. Entrada gratuïta

Modera: Pedro Meseguer  
Invitats: Carme Torras, Jordi de Manuel

Amb aquestes qüestions, obrirem un debat que ens portarà a reflexionar sobre el present i futur de la ciència i la literatura, i sobre com aquestes dues disciplines poden convergir per enriquir la nostra comprensió del món i de la nostra humanitat.

Per a més informació: [osbarcelona@fundacioeaca.cat](mailto:osbarcelona@fundacioeaca.cat)



### Summary:

The potential of science fiction literature to generate critical thinking about scientific and technological advances and as a dissemination tool were the focus of the ninth "Citizen Agora". Carme Torras, CSIC research professor and head of the Perception and Manipulation research group at the Institute of Robotics and Industrial Informatics (CSIC-UPC), and Jordi de Manuel, biologist and professor, both also fantastic genre writers, starred in the session, entitled *How can science fiction literature help us think critically about scientific advances?*. The event was moderated by Pedro Meseguer, a CSIC professor specialising in artificial intelligence.

The relationship between literature and science has been a constant since the beginnings of the fantastic genre, from its contemporary consideration to the twenties of the twentieth century. A dynamic that generates quite a lot of questions at the same time. What responsibility do writers have when it comes to representing science and technology? Is science fiction simply entertainment or can it anticipate the ethical dilemmas of the future? What is the role of science in literature? The research staff who do literature, such as the guests at this Agora, provided a unique perspective in this regard.

A point of view that can contribute to explaining other aspects such as the influence of one's own research experience on his works of fiction; the educational potential in science of literature or its role as a tool for scientific dissemination, making scientific content more accessible and exciting for a wider audience. With these questions, a debate was opened to reflect on the present and future of science and literature, and on how these two disciplines can converge to enrich our understanding of the world and our humanity.

Link to watch the session: [https://youtu.be/VqMho\\_TpHA](https://youtu.be/VqMho_TpHA)

## FRONTIERS MAY 28, 2025



### Summary:

The presentation and debate on the report *Changing Wildfires: Policy Options for a Fire-literate and Fire-adapted Europe*, prepared by the independent European entity European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC), focused thematically on the tenth scientific dialogue *Frontiers of Science and Technology in Society*. The debate featured Marc Castellnou, fire analyst and commander of strategic and tactical operations, and Urbano Fra Paleo, professor at the University of Extremadura and member of the European Advisory Group on Science and Technology (E-STAG) of the UNDRR (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction).

Moderated by Ariadna Goenaga, director of Communications at the Pau Costa Foundation, both specialists analysed this report, which offers a vision of special scientific interest on forest fires in a climate situation marked by urgent environmental challenges.

The increase in the frequency, intensity and unpredictability of forest fires throughout Europe have changed the way we understand the prevention and fight against these phenomena. The speed of change is accelerating, traditional fire seasons are expanding, and regions that were previously considered safe or low risk are experiencing extreme wildfires. This report redefines forest fires not only as incidents, but as complex socio-ecological phenomena that require proactive and systematic responses. Its central focus is the development of policy recommendations to support Europe's transition to a new model of managing the phenomenon. A framework that should allow the transition to a landscape adapted to fire, with communities, infrastructures and ecosystems better prepared to live with fire, and a more literate and aware society in this matter.

Understanding, institutional coordination and long-term planning are key elements for risk reduction. In this sense, the report emphasizes prevention over suppression, as well as the integration of local knowledge, land management practices and the need for collaboration between sectors such as forestry



and urban planning, education and public health. Its recommendations constitute a roadmap for policymakers, scientists and communities with the aim of moving from reactive responses to resilient strategies, aligned with the broader goals of climate change adaptation, biodiversity protection and sustainable rural development.

Link to watch the session: <https://youtu.be/JliW1BTlhbl>

## AGORA JUNE 30, 2025



### Summary:

The extinction of species is no longer just science fiction. The company *Colossal Biosciences* has created offspring of a species of giant wolf (*dire wolf*) that became extinct more than 10,000 years ago, using gene editing techniques and ancient DNA. This milestone opens up profound questions: are they really extinct species or modern hybrids? What is the point of reviving extinct species while losing hundreds of them every year? What social, economic and ecological risks and possibilities does it entail?

In this Agora, genetics, evolutionary biology, philosophy of science and ecology were discussed to explore the limits of life, the power of biotechnology and the human fascination with the return of the past.

Marc Güell, biologist and genetic engineer, expert in genome editing and synthetic biology and Gemma Marfany, principal investigator of the Human Molecular Genetics research group participated in this current debate. The event was moderated by Alex Richter-Boix, scientific coordinator of the E4Warning project and part of the Mosquito Alert team.

Link to watch the session: <https://youtu.be/mtBqil65ESY>

**AGORA 29 SEPTEMBER, 2025 coinciding with LGBTI week and within the European Researchers' Night**



**Summary:**

How does science construct gender and sex? Who decides what is "normal" and what is not? This dialogue between the biotechnologist Simón Perera, co-director of the cultural mediation project "Una Mirada LGBTI+", and the archaeologist Enrique Moral, doctor in History, specialist in the history of sexuality, invite us to questioning how science and academia have participated —and still do— in the definition of sexual and gender identities.

Through their experiences and research, they will address issues such as the pathologization of biases in research, barriers to access to knowledge and struggles to transform the academy from within. The dialogue will offer a critical but close look, designed for an audience on the links between knowledge, identity and power.

Link to watch the session: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYsfhB9e1mI>

**UPCOMING DIALOGUES 2026**

From next year, we propose a change of approach with the structure of the dialogues: both levels will be maintained, but more separated in time and space. Each one will consist of a set of about five sessions with a weekly frequency that will be carried out in two annual periods: one in spring and another in autumn/winter and each of them will have a thematic axis.

The proposal to continue doing the format of **Frontiers** (high level and in English) at the RACAB and, instead, to make the **Agoras** (in Catalan and/or Spanish) at the Library of the Sagrada Família- Josep M. Ainaud de Lasarte, at the Guinardó Civic Center and at the Vil·la Urània Community Center.



The first cycle under the title "*The brain and us: the enigmas of the mind*" offers a unique and accessible look at the great challenges of human knowledge. From mental health to consciousness, memory, ageing and the relationship between the brain and technology, the conversations bring together world-class researchers to share what we know today – and what we still do not know – about the organ that defines who we are. Each session invites us to reflect on aspects that directly affect us as people and as a society: how we think, how we remember, how we age and how science can improve our quality of life without losing sight of the ethical implications. With an understandable language and an open spirit, the dialogues aim to bring neuroscience closer to citizens and stimulate curiosity to better understand the brain, mind and future we are building.

This cycle will serve as a gateway to the celebration, in 2026 in Barcelona of the congress of the **Federation of European Neuroscience Societies** (4-8 July 2026), considered the largest and most influential neuroscience congress in Europe.

**Session 1. Monday, February 23, 2026.**

**Vil·la Urània Civic Center.** Carrer Zaragoza, 29 Barcelona

**Brain and mental health**

A current look at what we mean by mental health and where we place the limits of the disease in a context of accelerated social changes. We will explore the main advances in research, the challenges in prevention and treatment, and how we can build more integrative and humane models of care.

**Víctor Pérez Sola**, director of the Institute of Neuropsychiatry and Addictions at the Hospital del Mar in Barcelona, researcher at the IMIM-Hospital del Mar and the CIBER area of Mental Health, and associate professor of psychiatry at Pompeu Fabra University.

**Susana Ochoa Güerre**, researcher at the SJD Barcelona Children's Research Institute and CIBERSAM.

**Moderator:** Juan Benjamin Calderón Vega, doctor and student of the master's degree in neurosciences.

**Session 2. Monday, March 2, 2026.**

**Guinardó Civic Center.** Ronda Guinardó, 113-141. Barcelona

**The brain and ageing**

How does the brain change throughout life and to what extent can it maintain its plasticity? We will analyse the mechanisms in brain aging, the main neurodegenerative diseases and new ways to promote healthy aging.

**Mercè Boda**, co-founder of Ace Alzheimer Center Barcelona and medical director.

**Marc Suárez-Calvet**, head of the Research Group on Biomarkers in Fluids and Translational Neurology at the Barcelonaβeta Brain Research Center.

**Moderator:** Josep Corbella, journalist at La Vanguardia, specialized in science and health



### **Session 3. Monday, March 9, 2016.**

**Guinardó Civic Center.** Ronda Guinardó, 113-141. Barcelona

#### **Brain and consciousness**

What do we know —and what we still do not know— about what consciousness is and how it emerges? A dialogue between neuroscience, philosophy and artificial intelligence to better understand how the brain gives rise to subjective experience and perception of the world.

**Rodrigo Quian Quiroga**, coordinator of the group of the Research Group on Neuronal Mechanisms of Perception and Memory of the Hospital del Mar Research Institute

**Gustavo Deco**, professor at Pompeu Fabra University, head of the Computational Neuroscience group.

**Moderator:** Cristina Sáez Torres, journalist at ARA Newspaper, specialized in science and health.

### **Session 4. Monday, March 16, 2026.**

**Library of Sagrada Família-Josep A. Ainaud Lasarte.** Carrer de Provença, 480. Barcelona

#### **How is memory stored and modified?**

From the hippocampus to the synapse, we will explore the neural and molecular basis of memory. We will talk about how memories are formed, why they are forgotten, how they transform over time and what the existence of false memories about the functioning of the mind reveals to us.

**Mara Dierssen**, Cell and Systems Neurobiology Laboratory at the Centre for Genomic Regulation and President of the Spanish Brain Council and President of the Spanish Association for the Advancement of Science.

**Pilar Segura Torres**, Professor of Psychobiology at the Faculty of Psychology and member of the Institute of Neurosciences of the UAB.

**Moderator:** Pere Estupinyà, scientific communicator and writer.

### **Session 5. Monday, March 23, 2026.**

**Library of the Sagrada Família-Josep M. Ainaud Lasarte.** Carrer de Provença, 480. Barcelona

#### **Brain and technology**

New brain-machine interfaces, neurostimulation and artificial intelligence pose surprising opportunities, but also ethical and social challenges. We will discuss how these technologies transform our relationship with the brain and what future they draw.

**Mavi Sánchez-Vives**, ICREA research professor at the August Pi i Sunyer Biomedical Research Institute.

**Javier Solana**, director of Research at the Institut Guttmann.

**Moderator:** Valentina Raffio, journalist specialized in science and environment.

Other possible topics are:

- Energy: the challenge of the ecological transition
- Global Health and Pandemics: Humanity in the Face of New Risks
- The future of the human genome: gene therapy and bioethics
- Artificial intelligence and the future of work
- The augmented human body: biotechnology and transhumanism
- Smart cities: technology and sustainability
- Water and sustainability: the resource of the twenty-first century
- Disinformation and science: protecting knowledge in the digital age
- Oceans and biodiversity: the great challenge of the twenty-first century

### WORK SESSIONS WITH THE REST OF THE HUBS

Following the Building Bridges Conference in Wroclaw in 2024, it was agreed to organise a monthly meeting with all the hubs of the Academia Europaea.

These meetings began in February and are specific topics for hubs.

Among the most important agreements, it is worth mentioning:

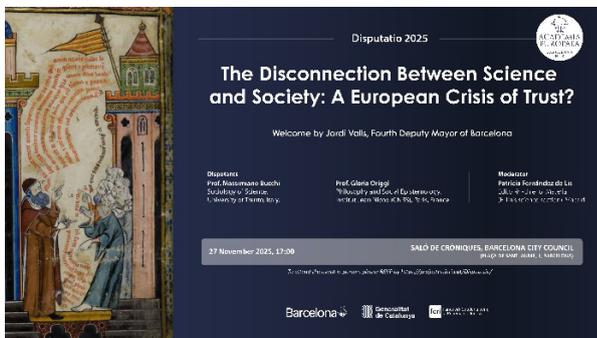
- Monitoring and recommendations for the organization of Building Bridges Conference 2025.
- Information and requests from the Academia Europaea newsletter.
- Updating the Academy Membership Database.
- Creation of a new hub in Bucharest on May 9, 2025.
- Communications of the various activities of all the *hubs*.
- Removal of the Cardiff hub in December 2025.
- Confirmation of Building Bridges Conference 2026 in Budapest from 12 to 16 October.



## DISPUTATIO OF BARCELONA 2025

This year, the growing disconnect between European society and science, the result of a crisis of confidence that has intensified in recent years, was the focus of the **Disputatio of Barcelona 2025**, an annual academic debate that took place on **Thursday 27 November** (5.00 p.m., Saló de Cròniques, Barcelona City Council) under the title ***The disconnection between science and society: A European Crisis of Trust ?***

**Massimiano Bucchi**, Professor of Sociology of Science and Communication at the University of Trento (Italy) and **Gloria Origgì**, PhD in Philosophy and expert in social epistemology at the Jean Nicod Institute (CNRS) in Paris (France), explored the extent to which Europe experiences a genuine divide between research, knowledge and population and how to restore trust in science as a common good. **Patricia Fernández de Lis**, editor-in-chief of 'Materia', the science section of *El País*, moderated the event.



To watch the session: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwsGHsDtvJU&t=10s>

## HYPATIA EUROPEAN SCIENCE PRIZE OF BARCELONA

The Hypatia European Science Prize in Barcelona, in its fifth edition, recognized biologist and geneticist **Svante Pääbo, Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology 2022**, for his groundbreaking work in sequencing the genomes of extinct human groups, which has revolutionized the understanding of human evolution and provided invaluable information on the genetic links between extinct hominids and modern humans.

The award was presented on **April 7, 2025** at an event in the Saló de Cent of the Barcelona City Council in which Svante Pääbo gave the conference "Of Neanderthals, Denisovans and Modern Humans" in the company of officials from the city of Barcelona, representatives of the scientific community of Barcelona and members of the Academia Europaea (AE). To watch the event: [link](#).



  
**Jaume Collboni Cuadrado**  
L'Alcalde de Barcelona

Es complau a convidar-vos a la **cinquena edició del Premi Europeu de Ciència Hipàtia**, en la categoria de Ciències de la Vida i de la Salut, atorgat per l'Ajuntament de Barcelona, en col·laboració amb l'Academia Europaea – Barcelona Knowledge Hub, al **Dr. Svante Pääbo**, biòleg, genetista i fundador del camp de l'estudi de genomes antics, per les seves contribucions a la paleogenòmica, gràcies a les quals hem conegut les connexions genètiques entre humans moderns i homínids extingits.

La cerimònia tindrà lloc el **dilluns 7 d'abril**, a les 17.00 h, al Saló de Cent de l'Ajuntament de Barcelona (Plaça de Sant Jaume, 1).

Abril del 2025

Is pleased to invite you to the **fifth edition of the Hypatia European Science Prize**, in the category of Life and Health Sciences, awarded by Barcelona City Council in collaboration with Academia Europaea – Barcelona Knowledge Hub, to **Dr. Svante Pääbo**, biologist, geneticist, and founder of the field of ancient genome studies, for his contribution to paleogenomics, thanks to which we have uncovered the genetic connections between modern humans and extinct hominids.

The event will be held on **Monday, 7 April**, at 5 pm, in the Saló de Cent at Barcelona City Hall (Plaça de Sant Jaume, 1).

April 2025





On April 29, 2025, the call for applications for the **sixth edition** opened and closed on June 29. 30,000 euros are awarded to a person who has developed a career of excellence, mainly in a European country, in the field of humanities and social sciences. On September 8, the jury meeting took place, and the winner was **Philippe Aghion**, from the Collège of France, Paris. Just on the Monday before the *Building Bridges* conference in Barcelona, Philippe Aghion received the **Nobel Prize** in Economics 2025. Barcelona City Council coordinated the announcement on 15 October: [Barcelona will award the VI Hypatia Prize to the economist Philippe Aghion, recent winner of the Nobel Prize – Press Service](#). The award ceremony is confirmed for **June 15, 2026** at 6 p.m.

## BUILDING BRIDGES CONFERENCE 2025

The 36th Annual Conference of the Europaea Academy and the 15th of the Young Academy of Europe have been organized by our Hub in **Barcelona** on **October 15, 16 and 17, 2025** at the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park.

256 participants from 35 countries attended. Both the president of the Academia Europaea and the rest of the members of the AE congratulated us for the organisation of the activity.

All the information is updated on our website: <https://aebarcelona.eu/en/building-bridges-2025/>





## WEB COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL NETWORKS

AE-BKH remains active on Instagram, LinkedIn and Bluesky and YouTube social networks. By decision of the Academia Europaea, the X platform (formerly Twitter) is not used.

As for the website, content is being added continuously: <https://aebarcelona.eu/en/>

## PARTNERS

Since the launch of the AE-BKH in 2013, the Government of Catalonia and Barcelona City Council have acted as main sponsors and promoters of the AE-BKH, with the aim of consolidating Barcelona as a scientific and innovation hub in southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. Its continued support, together with the collaboration of the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation (FCRI), provides AE-BKH with the necessary stability to undertake new activities and plan for future growth and expansion.

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### Partners:



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