



**Academia Europaea**  
**Barcelona Knowledge Hub**

**AE-BKH WOMEN'S WEEK 2018**

**“WOMAN, SCIENCE AND CULTURE: A SYMBIOTIC CONNECTION”**

**7 March 2018. 18:00-21:00 h.**

**Natural Science Museum of Barcelona\***

Parc del Fòrum. Pl. Leonardo da Vinci, 4-5. 08019 Barcelona

Co-organised with:



**“Symbiotic Earth: How Lynn Margulis rocked the boat and started a scientific revolution”**, a film by John Feldman.

World Premiere of the documentary film for TV directed by John Feldman, Hummingbird Films NY, and produced by Susan Davies.

*Symbiotic Earth* is the story of Lynn Margulis, a scientific rebel and a model of female empowerment. It is particularly meaningful to hold a premiere of the film in Barcelona as Lynn Margulis spent many years of her career in Barcelona, and intellectuals and universities across Spain embraced and honoured her. The film is part of a three day celebration honouring International Women's Day and what would have been Lynn Margulis' 80th birthday on March 5th. Ricard Guerrero, Lynn Margulis' long-time companion and colleague at the University of Barcelona, Boston University and University of Massachusetts-Amherst, is hosting the premiere along with Anna Omedes, the director of the Natural Science Museum of Barcelona.



Lynn Margulis (1938–2011)

The film shows the way Lynn Margulis fought the male establishment and, through her persistence, triumphed. As a young scientist in the 1960s, Lynn Margulis was ridiculed when she articulated a theory that symbiosis was a key driver of evolution. Instead of the then widely accepted mechanistic view that life evolved solely through random genetic mutations and competition, she presented a symbiotic narrative in which bacteria joined together to create the complex cells that formed animals, plants, and all other organisms. The idea that all of life is deeply interconnected and collaborative has radical implications for how we look at ourselves, evolution, and the environment.



Cover of the documentary film

Filmmaker John Feldman met Lynn Margulis in 2005 when making a film about evolution. With Lynn Margulis' help, he began to develop another film about new ideas in evolutionary biology, but when she died suddenly of a stroke in 2011 at the age of 73, he decided to make a more ambitious film about the scope and implications of Lynn Margulis' and her colleagues' groundbreaking new views.

Feldman's goal in making *Symbiotic Earth* was to engage audiences in rethinking their assumptions about life on Earth. In particular, the film explores how a belief in the scientific veracity of the metaphors "survival of the fittest" and "the selfish gene" has been complicit in creating a culture of greed and selfishness leading to global economic and environmental exploitation. *Symbiotic Earth* explores radical ideas with a sense of humor and a deep respect for science. Daryl Taylor, the host of a preview screening in Melbourne, declared, "*Lynn's energy, optimism, good humour, mischief and awe leap off the screen.*"



John Feldman, director of "Symbiotic Earth"

The Barcelona premiere is one of four international premieres of *Symbiotic Earth*. The other premieres are at Oxford University on March 3th, at Linnean Society of London on March 8th and at the David Brower Center in Berkeley, California on March 18th.

*Symbiotic Earth* is a production of Hummingbird Films and has been made possible in part with contributions from the Richard Lounsbery Foundation, the T. Backer Fund, the Yip Harburg Foundation, and many generous individual donors. For more information about the film go to <http://hummingbirdfilms.com/symbioticearth/> or contact producer Susan Davies at [susandavies@hummingbirdfilms.com](mailto:susandavies@hummingbirdfilms.com)

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### Session:

18:00-18:10 h **Brief welcome and presentation (Ricard Guerrero)**

18:10-20:40 h **Screening of Symbiotic Earth**

20:40-20:50 h **Questions (John Feldman)**

21:00-21:20 h **Reception with refreshments**

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\*The attendance to the session is free of charge, but as the capacity of the session room is limited we recommend registering. The inscription must be done **on line** at [museuciences.cat](http://museuciences.cat).

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