Dear AE Members, friends and colleagues,

The Academia Europaea-Barcelona Knowledge Hub (AE-BKH) is pleased to share its Fall 2019 Newsletter with you. This special edition focuses on the upcoming Building Bridges 2019 (the 31st Annual Conference of the Academia Europaea) which our Hub will again host, on 23-25 October 2019. Registration remains open on-line at http://buildingbridges-acadeuro.org/ until October 10th.

Preparations are well underway thanks to an excellent team of collaborators, including Kimberly Katte, AE-BKH Manager, Alexander Fidora, Academic Coordinator of Building Bridges 2019, and Rubén Duro, AE-BKH Webmaster and Social Media Manager.

Queries regarding Building Bridges 2019 can be sent to the conference secretariat at buildingbridges2019@manners.es, while general queries for our Hub may be addressed to Kimberly Katte, at barcelona@acadeuro.org.

We all look forward to seeing you in Barcelona! Cordially yours,

Ricard Guerrero, Academic Director, AE-Barcelona Knowledge Hub

BUILDING BRIDGES 2019 (23-25 October 2019)

As in previous years, Building Bridges 2019 (23-25 October) will bring together leading scholars from Europe and beyond. This year’s programme will focus on exciting topics 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.

Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia with over 2,000 years of history, has again been chosen to host Building Bridges. Through its many universities and research centres, Barcelona has become a cradle of scientific production and a hub of innovation in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean. Furthermore, the city boasts excellent connections for international travel, a temperate climate and cosmopolitan personality, besides an ample range of cultural attractions to appeal to visitors on repeated occasions. Barcelona overall is a safe city but, as a tourist-friendly destination, pickpocketing could happen. Please be vigilant and use common-sense safety precautions during your stay. These have been outlined, along with other practical information on getting to and from the conference venue, managed by Manners SL, at http://buildingbridges-acadeuro.org/
The structure of this year’s Building Bridges conference is as follows:

**Wednesday, 23 October (morning). At the Institute for Catalan Studies, c/ Carme 47, Barcelona.** Workshops of the AE Classes/Sections. Please note that lunch is NOT included on this day.

**Wednesday, 23 October (afternoon). At the Barcelona Athenaeum, c/ Canuda 6, Barcelona.** The conference opens at 15:30 with a Welcome to new AE Members and continues with the two AE Erasmus Medal Lectures, along with their corresponding Laudationes. A reception will follow.

In the evening (20.30h onwards), participants who have previously registered for the President’s Dinner will head to Norai Raval restaurant, by the royal shipyards at Av. Drassanes 1, Barcelona. Dinner requires a separate fee (45€), added during online conference registration; all spots are fully booked.

**Thursday, 24 October (all day). At the PRBB. c/Doctor Aiguader, 88, Barcelona.** The programme continues 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. With several renowned expert speakers and recipients of prestigious honours, including two Balzan Prizes, the 2019 Adam Kondorosi Advanced Prize and Lecture, and the YAE Andre Mischke Prize, the plenary sessions have something for everyone. As in previous years, two other lectures will focus on research networks funded by COST Actions, an EU collaborative programme. Nobel Laureate Konstantin Novoselov (Physics, 2010) will give a lecture on graphene. Finally, the conference will conclude with the 2019 AE Distinguished Lecture, followed by a reception.

**Friday, 25 October (all day). Optional. Traditional post-conference field trip, to Montblanc.** Participants are encouraged to sign up for the traditional post-conference field trip. This year we will travel southwest by coach bus to the walled ducal city of Montblanc, an important trading centre in medieval times; this 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. Close to the Prades mountain range, the area is home to many geological sites. The outing includes a traditional Catalan lunch, as well as a tour of the 12th-century Cistercian monastery of Poblet. (For the field trip, a separate fee of 75€ should be included during online conference registration; additional spots have just been added.)

On-line registration, scientific programme updates and logistical details are available on-line at [http://buildingbridges-acadeuro.org](http://buildingbridges-acadeuro.org/), with registration ending on October 10th. Logistic organisation, registration and payment are again being handled by the local agency Manners SL. The Organising Committee is looking forward to seeing you in Barcelona this October!

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Disputatio of Barcelona 2019** (November 13th, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Institute for Catalan Studies)

**Topic:** “A new Humanism for the 21st century? Specialisation vs. generalisation”

Today, highly specialised expertise in terms of narrowly defined regional competences is required in virtually all domains, but this trend has increased the gap between the humanities and the sciences, raising fundamental questions about how we wish to understand ourselves as knowing subjects.

**Disputantes:** Maciej Lewenstein MAE, ICREA Research Professor and Quantum Optics Theory Group Leader at the Institute of Photonic Sciences (ICFO); and Silvia De Bianchi, Ramón y Cajal Fellow at the Department of Philosophy and Centre for the History of Science, Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB). **Moderator:** Alexander Fidora MAE, ICREA Research Professor, Department of Ancient and Medieval Studies, UAB.

**PARTNERS of the AE-BKH:**

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