

# BARCELONEWS

Newsletter of the Academia Europaea-Barcelona Knowledge Hub

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

Corporate site: <http://ae-info.org>

## 2020 FALL-1 NEWSLETTER (September 22, 2020)

Dear Members of Academia Europaea, friends and colleagues,



Poblet vineyards in fall, pictured during Building Bridges 2019

Despite the atypical circumstances surrounding the start of this new academic year, the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of Academia Europaea (AE-BKH) is busier than ever organising new activities, summarised in the present 2020 Fall-1 Newsletter (BarceloNEWS).

First, we are excited to announce the winner of the second edition (Life and Health Sciences) of the **Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize**, awarded by the Barcelona City Council in collaboration with the AE-BKH. The winner of the prize is **Dr. Ilaria Capua**, Italian virologist and

current Director of the “One Health” Center of Excellence at the University of Florida (USA). You will find more information on the selection of Dr. Capua, as well as the prize ceremony under preparation, in Section 1 of this Newsletter.

Also, we are pleased to release the details of two upcoming events for the fourth quarter of the year: first, a concert entitled “**Music by Women Composers**” (Section 2); and next, our annual *Disputatio* of Barcelona debate, this year focusing on “**Cities in the face of pandemics: Reflections from urbanism and philosophy**” (Section 3). Additionally, we wish to bring your attention to a new sitemap on our website, as explained in “Random Walks” (Section 4).

Finally, we wish to inform you that our office at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) reopened on September 1st, although with restricted working hours. We recommend that you contact us by e-mail ([barcelona@acadeuro.org](mailto:barcelona@acadeuro.org)) with any questions or comments.

We wish you and your families and friends health and safety during these difficult times. Many thanks for your time and attention. Cordially yours,

**Ricard Guerrero, Academic Director, AE-Barcelona Knowledge Hub**



ILARIA CAPUA (Photo by Isabella Balena)

## 1. WINNER OF THE BARCELONA HYPATIA EUROPEAN SCIENCE PRIZE – Dr. ILARIA CAPUA

Candidates for the second edition (Life and Health Sciences) of the Barcelona Hypatia European Hypatia Prize, awarded by the Barcelona City Council in collaboration with the AE-BKH, were nominated by Members of Academia Europaea (AE). They were then evaluated by the five members of the International Selection Jury: Dr. Eva Kondorosi (president), Dr. Paola Bonfante, Dr. Lluís Ferrer, Dr. Cristina Pujades and Dr. Ricard Guerrero (secretary).

The jury held a virtual meeting on September 8th to analyse the information provided by nominators, in line with the prize terms and conditions previously published.

After extensive deliberations, the jury decided unanimously to select Italian virologist **Dr. Ilaria Capua** as prize winner, for her research career conducted at the highest international level, for her 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,” encompassing human, animal and environmental health.

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. The winner of the first edition of the prize (2018), devoted to Science and Technology, was Prof. László Lovász, mathematician and President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, for his outstanding career in the field of mathematics and for his contribution to social progress.

As with the previous edition, an award ceremony presided by the Office of the Mayor of Barcelona, and attended by members of the academic and scientific community, including AE officials, is under preparation and will feature a distinguished lecture by Dr. Capua. Given the rapidly changing circumstances surrounding the current COVID-19 pandemic, the details of this event will be confirmed at a later date, in agreement with recommendations by the public health authorities.



PILAR BAYER. (Photo by Marcel·lí Bayer)

## 2. CONCERT “MUSIC BY WOMEN COMPOSERS” – Dr. PILAR BAYER

The AE-BKH is pleased to collaborate on a special concert entitled “Music by Women Composers,” organised by the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) in Barcelona, concluding its 2020 “Music in the Cloister” series.

On **Thursday, October 22th, at 7:30 pm, Dr. Pilar Bayer**, pianist and Professor Emerita of Mathematics at the University de Barcelona, will offer a programme featuring a selection of works written by women composers from the eighteenth to the twenty-first centuries, including music by both renowned and lesser-known names, each with her own unique story and perspective. Dr. Bayer returns as a frequent collaborator of the AE-BKH, following the

well-attended lecture she delivered on “The Mathematics of Music” as part of our 2020 Women’s Week in March. The concert serves as another example of how the AE-BKH strives to harness synergies among the arts and sciences, eliminating barriers among disciplines to embrace all fields of human knowledge.

Given the limited audience capacity in compliance with current restrictions due to COVID-19, please contact the AE-BKH at [barcelona@acadeuro.org](mailto:barcelona@acadeuro.org) for more information if you are interested in attending the concert.



Aerial view of Barcelona. (Photo © TimeOut)

### 3. DISPUTATIO OF BARCELONA 2020 - “CITIES IN THE FACE OF PANDEMICS: REFLECTIONS FROM URBANISM AND PHILOSOPHY”

Following the tradition of the *Disputatio* of Barcelona annual debates of the past seven years, and, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the AE-BKH has decided to focus its upcoming *Disputatio* of Barcelona on “**Cities in the face of pandemics: reflections from urbanism and philosophy**”. Details, including the date, venue and access via live streaming, will be confirmed at a later

date, in accordance with protocols dictated by the public health authorities.

Starting in the early twentieth century, rapid urbanisation has become one of the dominant demographic trends of our times, playing a crucial factor in public health issues. Furthermore, this year the AE-BKH has been a close collaborator of the Barcelona City Council on its recently published Barcelona Science Plan 2020-2023, outlining strategic municipal policies for bridging science and society (see Section 4, below). Thus, the *Disputatio* of Barcelona 2020 will examine the essential role of cities in the spread and control of pandemics such as COVID-19. Barcelona, along with other major metropolises in the world, will provide for an interesting analysis.

As in previous *Disputationes*, two renowned experts (*disputantes*) will offer different and complementary viewpoints on the topic of debate and will then answer questions by the convenor as well as by the audience, comprised of members of the local academic community.

Please check for updates on the details of this event on our website. We hope you will join us.



### 4. RANDOM WALKS IN THE BARCELONA HUB

“Random Walks”, what’s in a name? In 1983, American physicist Howard C. Berg published his influential book *Random Walks in Biology* (Princeton Univ. Press), a book on the random motion of molecules, subcellular particles, or cells, which depend on such motion or are markedly affected by it. Berg used for his book a

mathematical concept representing a stochastic or random process describing a succession of

random steps on a mathematical plane. Of course, we humans are much more complex than simple molecules, subcellular particles, or bacteria, as just a “random walk” enables us to discover or find something without actively seeking it.

This is precisely what we propose with this Section, to walk through our website and randomly discover what is hiding inside, thereby becoming more acquainted with the different activities organised by our Hub each year. This time, we invite you to take a look at the Barcelona Science Plan 2020-2023, a comprehensive science policy launched by the Barcelona City Council, a long-time supporter of the AE-BKH, with the aim of projecting Barcelona as a European capital of science and innovation. The AE-BKH actively collaborates on the implementation of this [plan](#).

The Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize, now in its second edition (see Section 1, above), represents one of the actions of the Barcelona Science Plan.

To assist you in choosing the next steps to take on your walk, we have introduced a new sitemap available at <http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/home/sitemap/>. You will find that the content of our website has been restructured into categories that better reflect the characteristics of our activities: About Us, Annual Programming, Building Bridges 2021, Special Projects and the Barcelona-in-Action Digital Archive.

Once you’ve entered here, you can follow your own walk to other related places by following the links you will find. Have a pleasant walk (at random, of course).

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