

BARCELONEWS

Newsletter of the Academia Europaea-Barcelona Knowledge Hub

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

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

2020 FALL-2 NEWSLETTER (December 10, 2020)

Dear Academia Europaea Members, friends and colleagues,



(Photo by Kimberly Katte / AE-BKH)

Although the second wave of COVID-19 in Europe has brought additional challenges this fall, the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of Academia Europaea (AE-BKH) continues to offer its regular programming, albeit with certain restrictions, as explained in the present 2020 Fall-2 Newsletter (BarceloNEWS), the sixth newsletter of this year.

For example, the Disputatio of Barcelona 2020, entitled, **“Cities, Climate and Pandemics: Reflections from Urban Studies and Environmental Economics”**, will now be held on January 19, 2021, after being

postponed earlier this month due to COVID-19 (see Section 2, below).

Next, we are pleased to share recent highlights of our activities with you: the autumn concert, **“Music by Women Composers”**, which met great success both live in person and on-line (Section 3); and a recent addition to our “Barcelona-In-Action” digital archive, the **2018 AE-Heinz-Nixdorf Erasmus Lecture** delivered by Hans Clevers on stem cell-based organoids in personalised medicine, which is explained in “Random Walks” (Section 4). We are proud to share with you the news of the **election of Prof. Marja Makarow as the next President** of AE, as announced by the Academy earlier this fall (Section 1).

Finally, we wish to inform you that while our office works remotely in light of COVID-19, we recommend that you contact us by e-mail (barcelona@acadeuro.org) with any questions or comments that you may have.

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



1. AE-BKH SHARES NEWS OF THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF AE

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub wishes to share news of the election of Prof. Marja Makarow as the next President of the Academy, as communicated previously by Academia Europaea on October 20, 2020. Following a membership-wide ballot, the Board of Trustees confirmed that Prof. Makarow will take up the role of President-elect during December and will assume the Presidency during the next AE Annual Conference, which will be hosted by the AE-BKH on 19-22 October 2021.

Prof. Makarow will be the seventh President since the establishment of the AE in October 1988. She is a Molecular Cell Biologist and is currently the Director of Biocenter Finland. Previously, she has served as Director of Research of the Academy of Finland, Vice-rector of the

University of Helsinki and former CEO of the European Science Foundation. Prof. Makarow continues to serve on a number of high-level European committees and on Research and Education institutional boards across Europe.

The AE-BKH congratulates Prof. Makarow and invites Members to read the press release available on the AE website through this [LINK](#)



Aerial view of Barcelona. (Photo © TimeOut)

2. DISPUTATIO OF BARCELONA 2020: “Cities, Climate and Pandemics: Reflections from Urban Studies and Environmental Economics”

Starting in the early twentieth century, rapid urbanisation has become one of the dominant demographic trends of our times, driving the interrelated issues of climate change and public health issues. 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 in a variety of areas, including the ongoing climate crisis. Thus, in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic and its widespread social impact, the AE-BKH has decided to devote the 2020 edition of its *Disputatio* of Barcelona annual debates to “**Cities, Climate and Pandemics: Reflections from Urban Studies and Environmental Economics**”.

The session will focus on the essential role of cities in climate change mitigation and in the control of pandemics such as COVID-19. Barcelona, along with other major metropolises in the world, will provide for an interesting analysis.

Architect urbanist **Prof. Kathrin Golda-Pongratz**, MAE, UIC Barcelona School of Architecture, and environmental economist **Prof. Jeroen van den Bergh**, ICREA Research Professor, ICTA-UAB, will serve as the two *disputantes*. The coordinator and convenor of the debate will be **Prof. Alexander Fidora**, MAE, ICREA Research Professor, Department of Ancient and Medieval Studies, UAB.

The session will take place via Zoom on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. Details regarding registration are available at <http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/home/annual-programming/disputatio-of-barcelona/disputatio-of-barcelona-2020/>

We hope you will join us.



PILAR BAYER. (Photo by Marcel·lí Bayer)

3. CONCERT “MUSIC BY WOMEN COMPOSERS” – Prof. PILAR BAYER

On Thursday, October 22, 2020, the AE-BKH collaborated 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.

Prof. Pilar Bayer, pianist and Professor Emerita of Mathematics at the University de Barcelona, presented 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. Prior to playing each piece, she provided a brief look at the composer who wrote it, offering insight into her own unique story and perspective. [LINKS](#) to the full concert available on YouTube, photo gallery and programme are available.



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 a recent addition to our “Barcelona-In-Action” digital archive, the **2018 AE-Heinz-Nixdorf Erasmus Lecture** delivered by **Prof. Hans Clevers** on November 20, 2018, within the framework of Building Bridges conference hosted by our Hub at CosmoCaixa in Barcelona. His lecture entitled, “Stem cell-based organoids in personalised medicine,” addresses a topic enjoying a renewed interest; personalised medicine has again attracted attention in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it is affecting individuals in markedly different ways. The video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJ684wU0myI>

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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