2021 SPRING-1 NEWSLETTER (March 25, 2021)

Dear Members of Academia Europaea, friends and colleagues,

With the arrival of spring right and the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines underway, the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of Academia Europaea (AE-BKH) is pleased to share the present 2021 Spring-1 Newsletter (BarceloNEWS) with you, the very first newsletter of this year.

First, we congratulate László Lovász, Director of the AE Budapest Knowledge Hub and winner of the very first edition (2018) of the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize, on recently being named Abel Prize Laureate 2021 by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (Section 1). Next, we share news of the “City and Science” Biennial, part of the Barcelona Science Plan (Section 2), an initiative of the Barcelona City Council in collaboration with our Hub. We also invite you to view our recently published 2020 Annual Report of Activities (Section 3). Finally, we conclude with “Random Walks” (Section 4), which this time features the recent Disputatio of Barcelona 2020, entitled, “Cities, Climate and Pandemics: Reflections from Urban Studies and Environmental Economics”.

Thanks for your attention. Please feel free to e-mail us (barcelona@acadeuro.org) with any questions or comments that you may have.

Best wishes for health and safety,

Ricard Guerrero, Academic Director, AE-Barcelona Knowledge Hub

1. HYPATIA PRIZE WINNER LÁSZLÓ LOVÁSZ NAMED ABEL PRIZE LAUREATE 2021

AE-BKH wishes to congratulate László Lovász, Director of the AE Budapest Knowledge Hub and winner of the very first edition (2018) of the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize, on recently being named Abel Prize Laureate 2021, alongside Avi Wigderson, by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. Given “for their foundational contributions to theoretical computer science and discrete mathematics, and their leading role in shaping them into central fields of modern mathematics”, the award is regarded as the highest academic distinction worldwide in the field of mathematics.
AE-BKH believes that this honour speaks highly of the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize, as well as of Academia Europaea as a whole. In case you missed them, we encourage you to view two interviews with László Lovász that were conducted by AE-BKH Manager Kimberly Katte in February 2019, entitled “On Academies in Europe and Hungary” and “On Math in Society”. In these interviews, Lovász explains his views on the role of academies in defending academic freedom and why he has worked to help achieve the public acceptance of mathematics as a scientific discipline to the service of society.


### 2. BARCELONA SCIENCE PLAN NEWS: “CITY AND SCIENCE” BIENNIAL, JUNE 8-13, 2021

AE-BKH collaborates on the Barcelona Science Plan 2020-2023, launched by the Barcelona City Council as a science and university policy with the goal of turning Barcelona into a European capital for research and innovation.

Within the framework of this plan, the Barcelona City Council recently announced that it will celebrate its second “City and Science” Biennial on June 8-13, 2021, with the goal of bridging science and society through nearly a week of activities, including debates, exhibits, workshops, lectures and performances. This edition focuses on the limits of knowledge and science, divided into nine different thematic sections, each led by a curator or expert. Of special note is the section exploring the The Future of Humanity in the context of new knowledge and its frontiers, which will be directed by Ricard Solé, Member of Academia Europaea and ICREA Research Professor at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. With Barcelona serving as World Capital of Sustainable Food 2021, another section will be devoted to the development of sustainable food systems. More information is available on the Barcelona City Council website: [https://www.barcelona.cat/barcelonaciencia/en/noticia/second-city-science-biennial-be-held-june-8-13_1051304](https://www.barcelona.cat/barcelonaciencia/en/noticia/second-city-science-biennial-be-held-june-8-13_1051304)

For its part, AE-BKH is planning an activity as part of +Biennial, a programme of complementary activities held at different venues throughout Barcelona; details will be announced later this spring.

### 3. AE-BKH 2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub has recently published its 2020 Annual Report of Activities, providing an overview of its activities during the past year.

Despite facing numerous challenges due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 the AE-BKH managed to maintain the overall quantity and quality of its annual programming, having adapted its activities to comply with public health recommendations. In particular, the AE-BKH witnessed an especially strong growth in the audiences reached through its on-line communication tools and social media platforms.

4. RANDOM WALKS IN THE BARCELONA HUB

This time in “Randon Walks”, we invite you to take a look at a recent addition to our “Barcelona-In-Action” digital archive, the Disputatio of Barcelona 2020 entitled, “Cities, Climate and Pandemics: Reflections from Urban Studies and Environmental Economics”. This first all-virtual Disputatio underlined how Barcelona and other cities around the world need to adopt transversal, complementary approaches to dealing with climate change, in order for policy to be able to mitigate its effects and control pandemics such as COVID-19 in a more effective manner.

Acting as disputantes were architect and urbanist Kathrin Golda-Pongratz, MAE, UIC Barcelona School of Architecture, and environmental economist Jeroen van den Bergh, MAE, ICREA Research Professor, ICTA-UAB. Serving as coordinator and convenor of the debate was Alexander Fidora, MAE, ICREA Research Professor, Department of Ancient and Medieval Studies, UAB.

The menu of Disputatio videos is available at http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/home/barcelona-in-action-digital-archive/video_gallery/disputatio-of-barcelona-video-gallery/, from which the 2020 edition can be chosen. 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).