# ACADEMIA EUROPAEA WROCŁAW KNOWLEDGE HUB ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR 2018

#### Lecture by Prof. Hermann Maurer at the Wrocław University of Science and Technology – 12.06.2018

Academia Europaea Wrocław Knowledge Hub had a pleasure to invite local scientists, scholars and the broad audience to a lecture by Academia Europaea Member, Prof. Hermann Maurer from Graz University of Technology (Austria).

The lecture was titled: *We need lots of imagination to solve some of the big problems facing mankind*. The lecture and discussion that followed were organised within the cycle The Interdisciplinary Scientific Seminar of the University of Science and Technology in cooperation with Wrocław Knowlegde Hub of Academia Europaea.



#### The Interdisciplinary Scientific Seminar of the University of Science and Technology

The lecture of Prof. Hermann Maurer took place in cooperation with Academia Europaea Wrocław Knowledge Hub within a cycle of open meetings, organised by the University of Science and Technology, under the name of Interdisciplinary Scientific Seminar. The meetings present lectures of worldwide known speakers that are directed to the broad audience – students, PhD students, scientific staff and all recipients interested in broadening their knowledge related to exact science. The University of Science and Technology every month hosted one expert, who talks about most recent research in his field. Detailed information about the Seminar is available at the Seminar website (https://pwr.edu.pl/en/university/interdisciplinary-scientific-seminar).





#### Short abstract of the lecture:

In this talk we claim that many of the biggest problem facing mankind cannot be solved by just minor changes, but do need entirely new approaches. We try to show this by discussing some major problems and unusual ways to potentially handle them. We start with a new look at CO2, global warming and the often ignored consequences of population growth and migration. We need much more clean energy for many reasons, but traditional techniques of production will not suffice. We present a solution for the traffic of the future. We then show weaknesses in the analysis of big data, how automation will change the world in ways rarely discussed, and how the Internet is reducing our cognitive capacities, is changing our culture ...and why some of the dreadful sounding consequences are not as bad when considered carefully. We finish by pointing out one of the main problems of ongoing digitization by presenting one rather amusing example, and one that certainly is not amusing. All statements in this rather provocative talk were based on results that are testable or replicable in laboratories, yet whether they will impact society as is discussed will depend on economical and other parameters, and this is where there is ample room for speculation (used by the speaker) and discussion (with the audience).

## Lecture by Prof. Göran Bolin as part of the Summer School of Democracy: Media, Information Literacy and Populism – 17-29.06.2018

Wrocław AE Hub had a pleasure to support the *Summer School on Democracy: Media, Information Literacy and Populism,* organised by The Institute of Political Science of the University of Wrocław, with the invitation of Academia Europaea Member, Prof. Göran Bolin from Södertörn University, Stockholm.

Professor Bolin gave a very interesting lecture titled *Mediatization, digital media practice and banal civic engagement*. Details regarding the other parts of the summer school and available on the website: <a href="http://summerschool.politologia.uni.wroc.pl/Programme">http://summerschool.politologia.uni.wroc.pl/Programme</a>.



#### Abstract of the lecture:

When it comes to the relation between digital media practices and civic engagement, much research has focussed on protest movements (e.g. Occupy Wall Street and similar phenomena) and mass civic upheavals against authoritarian regimes (e.g. the Arab Spring). A much less focused set of practices are related to the everyday, mundane and banal engagement in issues of less dramatic proportions, and with closer affinities to the lifeworld of citizens. In late modern, mediatized societies with decreasing voter turnout and party affiliations, there is a strong need to discuss the role of digital media in everyday civic engagement. Drawing on research carried out on the civic practices among citizen media users in Estonia and Bulgaria, this lecture will account for and theorise some of these practices with a specific focus on their role in the mediatization of civic culture. A specific focus will be on which competencies and literacies are activated in civic agency.

Summer school on democracy is a annual event organized by the Institute of Political Science at University of Wrocław since 2013. All lectures during the seminar are in English. The 2018 edition focused on the matter of Media, Information Literacy and Populism in the modern world.

The goal of the workshop was the discussion on the development of skills concerning verification and understanding the essence of information presented every day in mass media. The issue is not only how to interpret the information that are published, but also how to connect them with the fundamental values of democracy such as freedom of speech or access to information. This critical approach launch a discussion that bonds such matters like politics, psychology and mass media.

The 2018 edition gathered scholars from various universities from different countries: Croatia, Romania, Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. The initiative was supported also by the The European Commission Representation in Wrocław and Academia Europaea Knowledge Hub. The Summer School was inaugurated by the speech of Professor Goran Bolin from Sodertorn University in Stockholm, a member of Academia Europaea. His speech *Mediatization, digital media practice and banal civic engagement* was an encouraging trigger for the further discussion that was realized in a form of seminars and workshops.

The practical nature of the Summer School connected with the unhampered atmosphere between the participants, created an opportunity for a profound discussion between the lecturers and students.

Thanks to the support of Regional Center of International Debate the participants had an opportunity to visit the gems of the Lower Silesia region – The Książ Castle in Wałbrzych, The Church of Peace in Świdnica and of course the landmarks of Wrocław.

Lecture by Pf. Peter Gollwitzer as part of the Summer School of Democracy: Media, Information Literacy and Populism – 17-29.06.2018

SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Department of Psychology in Wroclaw in the dates of 2-9 July, 2018 organized the Social Psychology and Economic Psychology Summer School.

The summer school in social and economic psychology was organized by prof. Dariusz Dolinski, prof. Katarzyna Byrka, prof. Agata Gasiorowska, dr Katarzyna Cantarero, dr Jakub Traczyk and dr Olga Bialobrzeska at the Faculty of Psychology in Wroclaw, SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities. It was a national-level event, for 29 participants and the workshops were delivered in Polish. Prominent scholars gave talks during the event (prof. Peter Gollwitzer, prof. Bogdan Wojciszke, dr Wijnand Van Tilburg). The summer school was followed by a small methodology-focused conference. The event was met with a lot of positive feedback coming from the participants and their supervisors, among others.

During the Summer School Prof. Peter Gollwitzer (New York University, Member of Academia Europaea), gave a keynote lecture titled *Effective Goal Attainment by If-Then Planning*.



#### Abstract of the lecture by Prof. Peter Gollwitzer:

Turning one's motivation to engage in desired thoughts, feelings, and actions into binding goals has long been thought to be sufficient to get what we want. But striving for these goals often turns out to be ineffective: people fail to get started and easily get distracted once they got started. Preparing one's goal striving in advance via making plans on when, where, and how to act (referred to as making if-then plans or forming implementation intentions) however helps to promote goal attainment. The beneficial effects of making if-then plans are observed no matter whether hindrances from within the person (e.g., ego depletion) or from outside (e.g., negative social influences) are to be dealt with. In my talk, I'll delineate the processes on which the beneficial effects of implementation intentions are based on by presenting relevant research using cognitive task paradigms and assessing brain data. I'll also report findings demonstrating that implementation intentions can be used to curb even habitual cognitive, affective, and behavioral interfering responses. In closing, I'll point to recent research on planning to think carefully showing that such plans improve decision making. Moreover, I'll point to potential moderators of if-then planning effects.

### History and Archeology Section Workshop "Mobility: a bridge between the past and the present" – 3-4 September, 2018

(detailed workshop summary by Prof. Nikita Harwich, Chair of History and Archeology Section, AE)

The topic of « mobility » is understood here in its paradigmatic sense. It takes into account the mobility of human beings, goods, animals and plants, diseases or knowledge, including infrastructure, effects on environment, societies and politics, gender issues, transport, etc. At the same time, an historical dimension may serve to bestow upon such paradigm the perspective given by time when applied to different patterns of mobility. However, the bridge is not only between past and present, but also between disciplines, both within and beyond the realm of humanities and social sciences.



Photo by Helmut Leitner

The purpose of this workshop, therefore, was to consider

strengthening the links between the two component disciplines of our Section, namely History and Archaeology, while at the same time consolidating our disciplinary voice within the *Academia Europaea* and establishing a constructive dialogue with the other sections of the *Academia*.

After a few words of welcome and presentation from the History & Archaeology Section Chair, Nikita Harwich, the first keynote speaker of the workshop, Prof. Amélia POLÓNIA (University of Porto) was introduced. Her intervention concerned **«Mobilities: the role of Social Sciences and the Humanities under the United Nation Sustainable Goals for 2020-2030»** 

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2020-2030, otherwise known as the *Global Goals*, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. They include areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice. They all point to the present and even more to the future, while history and historians study the past. The paper will discuss the possible contribution of the Social Sciences and the Humanities to these goals.

This will apply in particular to the topic of Migrations, which involves and connects with most of the previous concerns. The topic comprises broad concepts of socio-cultural, religious, political, economic, environmental and technological movement and change, duly emphasising notions of transnationality, syncretism and transition. The skills, experience and research interests of the Social Sciences and Humanities have a determinant role in this analysis furthering the proclaimed 17 Sustainable Goals. Since the study of mobility over time involves topics like intercultural exchanges and their reflections in society, language, culture and heritage, the Social Sciences and Humanities come inevitably to the fore.



Prof. Amélia Polónia is professor at the University of Porto. She holds the chair of Portuguese Overseas Expansion. Among her latest publications are, as co-editor, Beyond Empires. Global, Self-Organizing, Cross-Imperial Networks,1500-1800 (Leiden: Brill, 2016); Seaports in the First Global Age. Portuguese Agents, Networks and Interactions (Porto: Editorial UPorto, 2016) and Mechanisms of Global Empire Building (Porto: CITCEM/ Afrontamento, 2017).

Some of the topics mentioned above have been dealt with by historians, demographers, anthropologists, economists, or even biologists or epidemiologists – separately. Given the demonstrated usefulness of these concurrent yet often separate approaches, the paper will suggest to bring these disciplines together, to promote the interplay between their concepts, their methods and their knowledge, thus providing a new paradigm of approaching the topic.

Today more than ever, academics are encouraged to work across disciplines. The consensus seems to be that, while disciplinary research has its merits, the future lies in cooperation across disciplines. Rigid adherence to the

borders of academia is a twentieth-century relic, scholars are told; the challenges of the twenty-first century (and beyond) will require historians to talk to botanists, literary critics to talk to physicists, and anthropologists to talk to astronomers. The question of this paper is: how far can social scientists go; how far do they want to go down this road?

Following Prof. Polonia's presentation, Stephen BI charmed the audience with a most enthralling account of **«The Institutional Lock-out of Sustainable Transportation Technologies: Inherent, Intentional, Invertible?»**.

Mobility lies at the crux of today's global economy and of the modern human experience. Unfortunately, irreconcilable to the supposed international resolve to combat climate change, the worldwide transportation sector remains 93% dependent on the oil industry. Indeed, while other economic sectors in developed nations have begun to decarbonize in recent decades, greenhouse gas emissions from transportation have continued to rise. This observation runs counter to logic, given that sustainable mobility technologies were not only available but preferred over petrol engines over a century ago, long before analogous alternatives for other energy demands entered the market. The present paper will examine how automobiles came to be so dependent on a finite and socially detrimental resource when electric and ethanol-powered vehicles have always offered distinct performance advantages.

A commonly offered explanation couples the Texas oil boom with Ford's mass production of Model T's – conjuring the U.S. history trope of manifest destiny – but actor-level analyses in proper historical context suggest a narrative driven by serendipity and conspiracy. Presented here are two separate series of actions and events by which ethanol and EVs fell from socio-political favor to technological lock-out. These accounts will be framed within a neo-institutional perspective which entwines the concepts of path dependency, increasing returns, political economy, techno-institutional complexes and carbon lock-in. The novel concept of inherent vs. intentional lock-out is introduced in an effort to categorize the specific mechanisms and institutions exploited to facilitate such extreme consolidation of power within a liberal market economy. An exploration of the institutional context of mobility and its evolution in America and in Europe will follow, serving both to compare the lock-out forces active in either society and to illuminate policies and social levers which can help break these barriers to the decarbonization of personal transport.



**Stephen Bi** is a PhD candidate in climate economics, seeking to analyze the environmental, economic, and social aspects of sustainability. Research Assistant, Model Operations (Sustainable Solutions Research Domain) at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK).

The following speaker in the programme, Prof. Gideon BIGER of the University of Tel-Aviv, presented his topic of "International boundaries - The Bridge between History, Geography and Political Science."

International boundaries are man-made separation lines, which divided between more than 200 different states which exist to-day all over our globs. These boundaries were described, a hundred years ago by Lord Curzon of Keddleston, later the British Foreign secretary, a "the razor's edge on which hangs suspended the modern issues of war and peace, or life or Death to nations". All of today's boundaries were created in the past; sometimes a few years ago, sometimes some decades ago and some boundaries were even established some hundred years ago. Thus, international boundaries reflect the historical moments in the life of a state, when its limits were made according to its force and ability at that time. Thus, understanding the process of boundary making and their location can become a bridge of research and knowledge between three major scientific areas – History, Geography and Political Science.

Another important bridge is the one crossed by the next speaker, Renate PIEPER, from the Karl-Franzens-University, Graz. "Migrating news from handwriting to print in early modern Europe".

The advent of the printing press, in the second half of the fifteenth century, has been of much interest to historians. Especially printed newspapers have been associated with the development of a modern public sphere. Nonetheless, most of the written information available continued to circulate in a manuscript form, well into the 20th century. Furthermore, on many occasions, handwriting was considered more precious than printing or typing. Thus, to a large extent, manuscripts set the patterns for imprints. This was also the case of newspapers. Thus, the purpose of my presentation is to show the intense dependency path of the first printed Dutch newspaper on Flemish handwritten newsletters.

The second keynote speaker who inaugurated the second workshop day was Prof. Em. Pieter EMMER, from Leyden University, who gave a most thought-provoking presentation on **«Free and Unfree Migration, 1500-1900».** 



Pieter Emmer is Emeritus Professor in the History of the Expansion of Europe and related migration movements at the History Department of the University of Leiden. Visiting fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge, UK (1978-79), he served as visiting professor at the University of Texas at Austin (1986-87) and at the University of Hamburg, Germany (1996-97). His recent publications include: The Dutch Slave Trade, 1500–1850. European Expansion and Global Interaction (Oxford and New York, NY: Berghahn Books, 2006) and The Dutch in the Atlantic Economy, 1580-1880. Trade, Slavery, and Emancipation (Aldershot, Variorum, 1998). Together with Klaus Bade, Jochen Oltmer and Leo Lucassen, he wrote and edited The Encyclopedia of European Migration and Minorities. From the 17th Century to the Present (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011).

The discovery of the New World sparked a large-scale migration movement lasting more than four centuries. In his talk, Prof. Emmer discussed first the mobility within both Europe and Africa during the early modern period showing that most migrations took place within those continents. Before 1800 only 2 to 3 million Europeans availed themselves of the opportunity to move to the New World and a sizeable part of this migration consisted of indentured labourers. However, the demand for labour in the New World could not nearly be satisfied by the supply neither of local Amerindian labour, nor by the relatively modest number of European migrants. As a result, the Europeans turned to Africa and transported about 11.5 million slaves to the New World. Humanitarian pressures ended the slave trade during the first half of the 19th century. After 1850, the migration of Europeans increased dramatically, but these migrants avoided the former slave regions. In order to replace slave labour, some areas resorted to the importation of Asian indentured labourers, mainly from British India. However, these indentured migrants were not the "new slaves", as is often argued.

Three history-centered presentations followed. The first-one, by Prof. Em. Sverre Håkon BAGGE (Bergen University), addressed the issue of **«Social and geographic mobility in Medieval Scandinavia»**, taking as its departure point the kings' travel pattern in thirteenth-century Norway which is relatively well documented. The king travelled on ship along the southern coast, between Oslo and Bergen, and spent the winter in one place – mostly in Bergen – where he gathered the leading men of the country for the Christmas celebrations. This pattern seems to form an intermediate phase between a period when he travelled all over the country and a later one,

particularly during the unions with the neighbouring countries in the later Middle Ages, when he rarely visited Norway at all. This raises the question of the relationship between geographic and social mobility.



Sverre Håkon Bagge is Emeritus Professor of Medieval history at Bergen University. His recent publications include : «
 Warrior, King and Saint: The Medieval Histories about St. Olafr Haraldsson », Journal of English and Germanic Philology 109.3 (2010), pp. 281-321 ; From Viking Stronghold to Christian Kingdom. State Formation in Norway, c.900-1350 (København: Museum Tusculanum Forlag, 2010) ; « Ethics, Politics, and Providence in William of Malmesbury's Historia Novella », Viator 41 (2010), pp.113-32 ; « The Model Emperor - Eginhard's Charlemagne in Widukind and Rahewin », Viator 43 (2012) Cross and Scepter: The Rise of the Scandinavian Kingdoms from the Vikings to the Reformation, 2014)

A clearer social hierarchy would reduce the king's need for travelling and the introduction of permanent and professional administrators would mean that these people would visit the king rather than vice versa. However, there are variations in this pattern, between the Scandinavian countries as well as over time. Moreover, the king did not travel exclusively for political reasons, but also for hunting and other entertainments and on pilgrimages. Nevertheless, the changes in this field form a significant part of the development of European monarchy.

The second presentation, by Prof. Jörg PELTZER (Heidelberg University), was concerned with **«Transfer,** Entanglement and Regal Traditions. The mobility of ideas or how to define princely rank in England and the Empire in the fourteenth century.»

Recent scholarship has argued that letter collections spreading through the chanceries across Europe shaped a European political language from the late 13th century onwards. This paper addressed the issue by looking at how the royal chanceries in England and the Empire justified the promotion to the rank of an imperial prince/earl/duke/prince in either realm. How did they portray their respective socio-political orders and the role of the aristocratic elite therein? Which criteria did they develop to define what made a person worthy of promotion to princely rank? To what extent did they share their language, conceptions and ideas? Which sources did they draw upon? While considering a wide range of source material, the anchor of this study is William, duke of Juliers and earl of Cambridge (d. 1361). As an imperial prince and earl, William was a unique figure in fourteenth-century Europe. He was a chief diplomat travelling frequently between England and the Empire who owed his promotions to his restless activities for both, the English king and the Emperor. His promotions are thus ideally suited to discuss both, the potential entanglement of political thought in England and the Empire, and the possibility of a concrete transfer of ideas from one realm to the other. By contextualizing these findings in the wider historical context, becomes then possible to assess to what extent a common European language of power was developed in late medieval Europe.

Finally, the third presentation, by Dr. Manuel LUCENA GIRALDO (CSIC, Madrid), emphasized the **«bridging perspective»** of **«public works in the Spanish Empire»**.

The day after the battles, public works began. At least in the Spanish – unexpected – empire, after the failure of Christopher Columbus's governance in the Antilles. The foundation of cities in the Americas was the colonization strategy. As we will see in this paper, urban republics formed a network to support the kingdoms of the Indies for more than three centuries. Far beyond traditional and nationalistic explanations, it was precisely the ability to establish bridges – social, as well as material – that explains the resilience and durability of such network until 1825. But no doubt the question goes far beyond. Why do empires in History last ? Is the so-called « soft-power » related to the abilities and chances to built up structures of material grounds an explanation? A

bridge is a symbol of communication, but it establishes a limit as well. And it maintains a human connection which, in due course, is what a public work actually stands for.

The remaining two papers in the workshop concerned contemporary issues. **«Brexit and sustained mobility»**, by Prof. Em. Hans Ulrich Jessurun D'OLIVEIRA (University of Amsterdam; European University Institute (Florence) assessed the tricky issue of EU citizens residing in the United Kingdom and UK citizens residing in (other) EU countries. Their secure residency status as EU citizens has become shaky: UK citizens lose their status as EU citizens, and EU citizens may lose their residency status as the UK regains control on immigration after Brexit. Negotiations between the UK and the EU try to solve their predicaments. As the outcome is as yet not cast in stone, the migrants involved seek their own solutions.

For a number of them an available solution is the acquisition of the nationality of either the UK or that of one of the EU member states. In my paper I will show that this bottom up approach, where the citizens take their destiny in their own hands, takes various forms, dependent on nationality laws of the states involved and their own opportunities. A few examples. UK citizens of Portuguese Jewish descent may opt for the nationality of Spain or Portugal, as these states have in recent years opened this possibility as a kind of Wiedergutmachung for the murder and banishment of their forbears. Likewise, UK citizens, descendants of German Jews exiled under the nazi regime, are now reacquiring German nationality. A numbers of persons seek to acquire the nationality of their partner, either to strenghten their residency status after Brexit, or in order to gain access to member states of the EU and retain their mobility in the EU. All this depends on the available laws on nationality, especially dispositions on plural nationality. Interestingly, some of these laws are changing under the pressure of Brexit.

The relevance of Prof. d'Oliveira's ominous remarks caused such a sensation among his listeners, that it was unanimously agreed that the integral version of his paper was to be immediately reproduced, both in the « News Section » of the History & Archaeology Section and in the « News Section » of the *Academia Europaea*, as a stern warning of what some the heretofore unforeseen consequences of Brexit would entail.



Manuel Lucena Giraldo (to the left) is Senior Researcher at the History Institute of the Madrid-based Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), within the research group of Compared Studies of the Caribbean and Atlantic World. His recent publications include: Historia de un cosmopolita. José María de Lanz y la Fundación de la Ingeniería de Caminos en España y América (Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos, 2005); A los cuatro vientos. Las ciudades de la América Hispánica (Marcial Pons Ediciones de Historia, S. A., 2006); Naciones de rebeldes. Las revoluciones de independencia latinoamericanas (Taurus, 2010), selected the The Times Literary Supplement as one of the best essays for the year 2010; Francisco de Miranda: la aventura de la política (Editorial Edaf, S. L., 2011); Ruptura y reconciliación: España y el reconocimiento de las independencias latinoamericanas (Taurus, 2012); Las independencias iberoamericanas. Libertad para todos (Bonalletra-El País, 2017).

Jörg Peltzer (to the right) is Professor of Comparative Regional History in a European perspective with a focus on the late Middle Ages at the Ruprecht-Karls University of Heidelberg. His work focuses on social, political and legal history in the high and late medieval periods of Western Europe and the Reich. The geographical focus of his research is particularly on England, France and the Holy Roman Empire. His recent publications include, among many others : 1066. The fight for England's crown, Beck, Munich 2016 ; The rank of Palatine at the Rhine. The organization of the political-social order of the Reich in the 13th and 14th centuries Thorbecke, Ostfildern, 2013 ; Canon Law, Careers, and Conquest. Episcopal Elections in Normandy and Greater Anjou, c. 1140 and c. 1230 (Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought) (Cambridge, 2008)

The final paper in the workshop was presented by Prof. Rosa María MARTÍNEZ DE CODES (Univerdidad Complutense, Madrid) on the topic of « Migration, governance and religious identities across Western countries.»

The global refugee crisis has reignited longstanding debates about how to successfully integrate religious minorities into liberal democratic societies. Both United States, Canada and Europe share many of the same

challenges but there are some relevant differences in how religious identity is managed. In Western Europe, cultural fears seem to dominate, with many misunderstanding Islam as a direct threat to the norms and values that bind their societies together. On the other side, security fears, particularly connected with terrorism, are preponderant in the United States. Are there fundamental differences in how religious identity and freedom are approached on both sides of the Atlantic?



 Rosa-María Martínez de Codes is Professor of American history at the Facultad de Geografía e Historia of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Her recent publications include : Trends of Secularism in a pluralistic World (co-editor) Ed. Iberoamericana/ Vervuert, 2013 ; Los bienes nacionales de origen religioso en México. Estudio histórico-jurídico. (1833-2004), 2007, Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas, Universidad Autónoma de México, México ; Rosa María Martínez de Codes y Jaime Contreras. "Hacia una historia Atlántica. Visiones religiosas compartidas", Anuario de Estudios Americanos, Vol. 67, enero-junio, 2010, pp. 189-207 ; "La Ley Islámica y otros derechos". In: R. Loyola y T. Calvillo (Coordinadores), Diálogo entre civilizaciones. Miradas, 2010, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México, pp. 111-122.

With the exception of Prof. Renate Pieper's and Prof. d'Oliveira's papers, all the other workshop's contributions will be edited and published in the *European Review* as a special dossier.

Apart from the high level of the academic presentations and ensuing discussions, the 2018 Wroclaw workshop was also the opportunity for a number of extremely cordial encounters among participants, thanks to the excellent organization provided by the members of the Academia Europaea Wroclaw Knowledge Hub : its Director, Prof. Arkadiusz Wójs; its diligent and efficient manager Katarzyna Majkowska, who took particular care that this event be a successful one, which it certainly was.

With the exception of Prof. Renate Pieper's and Prof. d'Oliveira's papers, all the other workshop's contributions will be edited and published in the *European Review* as a special dossier.





One of the pleasant luncheon breaks amongst the lovely surroundings and delicious dishes served at Jasna restaurant, on Wroclaw's riverside front.

Until next time in Wrocław!

## The Seminar Cultural Landscapes in Central and Eastern Europe after World War II and the Collapse of Communism, 19-21 September, 2018

The Seminar *Cultural Landscapes in Central and Eastern Europe after World War II and the Collapse of Communism* took place between 19 and 21 September 2018 in Wrocław, Poland. The seminar was coordinated by prof. Pieter Emmer (Leiden) and prof. Siegfried Huigen (Wrocław) together with the Organising Committee consisting of dr. Dorota Kołodziejczyk (University of Wrocław), dr Stanley Bill (University pf Cambridge), prof. Tomasz Zarycki (Warsaw University) and Katarzyna Majkowska (AE Wrocław Knowledge Hub).

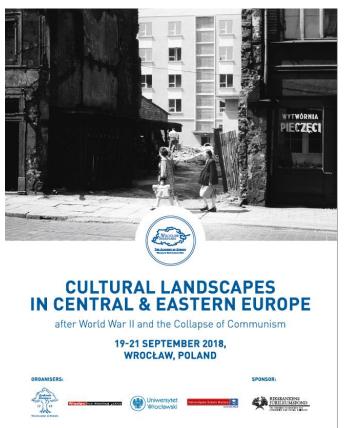
The seminar was attended by eight keynote speakers and <u>24 junior scholars</u>. The seminar was coordinated by prof. Pieter Emmer (Leiden) and prof. Siegfried Huigen (Wrocław) together with the Organising Committee consisting of dr. Dorota Kołodziejczyk (University of Wrocław), dr Stanley Bill (University pf Cambridge), prof. Tomasz Zarycki (Warsaw University) and Katarzyna Majkowska (AE Wrocław Knowledge Hub). Streaming of the conference was provided, and is still available online (<u>https://acadeuro.wroclaw.pl/seminar/cultural-landscapes-in-central-and-eastern-europe-after-world-war-ii-and-the-collapse-of-communism/</u>).

The *Call for Papers* was published on the Seminar's website and on the official website of the Academia Europaea, moreover it was widely distributed amongst European universities. The Submition had to include a completed application form, a short abstract of the paper, and a CV with a list of publications. After receiving more than 100 applications, the Committee decided on inviting 25 young scholars to participate in the seminar. It was obligatory for the participants to send a fragment (or the draft version) and the title of their papers until August 10, 2018, so that the other seminar participants could read them before the beginning of the conference.

The participants were informed about conditions of participation in the event (accommodation and meals provided by the organisers, reimbursement of travel expenses up to the maximum of 100 EUR for Western Europe and 150 EUR for Central and Eastern Europe) and required materials (e.g. a pre-paper containing 4,000-6,000 words).



Senior scholars were offered the full reimbursement of transport costs. Participants were provided with an accommodation at the Art Hotel, Patio Hotel and Hotel Brajt. According to the decisions of the Organising Committee, organisers covered accommodation for up to four hotel nights for the keynote speakers as well as for all the participants.



All the seminar participants were provided with the catering service throughout the whole time of the event. A permanent coffee break was served for three days by the Art Hotel, where the conference took place. The lunches were served each day at nearby Korba Restaurant.

During the seminar, two evening meetings took place. Welcome Dinner took place in the Centennial Hall Complex on 19th September 2018. The Farewell Dinner was served to all participants on the official ending of the event. It took place in the Jasna Restaurant on 21st September 2018.

There were seven types of conference materials that have been produced: IDs, posters of the event, pendrives, booklets with biographical notes and abstracts, seminar programme and name badges, www banner. 70 conference packages have been prepared and handed to the participants and guests at the registration desk before the event.

The whole event was video-recorded, the livestreaming was provided throughout the whole duration of the seminar and it was available on the website of the seminar.

#### Seminar results

Considering a very high academic level of the New Nationalisms seminar and its urgency in the light of the developing political and social changes in Europe, the organisers as well as the participants expressed the need to continue the formula of the meetings. The seminar on New Nationalisms was signaling the necessity to observe, comment on and take measures in relation to the discourses of radical right, overt and covert nationalisms and other forms of anti-democratic sentiment on the rise today in Europe. Another related meeting giving grounds for the continued reflection and possible solutions would be help complete the mission of this first seminar.

#### Possible continuation of the New Nationalisms seminar in the future events

Seminars that would be preferably planned for the future would include topics which not only show the recent developments in some branches of the humanities, but, first and foremost, their comparative potential of communicating with other disciplines and their urgency for scholarly interests across national and regional borders. The list of current areas to cover would be the following:

- World literature a canon/network aided by the processes of globalisation and market principles or a mode of reading whose main force is in linking texts and trends and elaborating world literature premises on those grounds. This topic is of utmost urgency not only for the theoreticians of comparative methods in the humanities (and also in social sciences), but also for the literary market, for global literature brokers (national literature institutions abroad, publishers and agents, funding bodies, academic research institutions etc.)
- The civic society in the rising anti-democratic forces in Europe and beyond since liberal democracy is
  increasingly under threat from political discourses grounding their agenda in the mobilisation of
  negative social affects (fear, prejudice, anxiety of the other, hatred of the unknown, be it a person or
  knowledge or art) and no longer serves as the model of peaceful coexistence of states in a common
  pursuit of an internationalism balancing national interests and supra-national solidarities, the focus on
  how to promote and sustain the discourse of civic ethics is extremely urgent. A seminar bringing
  together scholars from the humanities, social and political sciences, as well as cultural and educational
  activists would create a transnational and transregional discussion node with outreach programs.
- Disability in the contemporary society while the position and well-being of persons with disabilities is
  directly determined by the economic status of the state where such a person lives, the legal regulations
  and social organization directly situate persons with disability within the realm of the social and
  delineate their social roles. Here lies an urgent comparative potential of bringing together scholars and
  activists working on and with persons with disabilities and knowing their needs and obstacles they

encounter on everyday basis, most often unanticipated by the society at large. Social discourses around and about disability, the modes of representing the disabled in literature and culture, the level of the active participation of the disabled in the society – as professionals, artists, employees, business owners etc. – brings vital information about the inclusivity and openness of a given society to persons with disability. Thus, a forum on the place and role of the disabled to shape and develop civic society from the level of early education to the level of governmentality is necessary to keep up the civic and interventionist ethos of the humanities.

Digital culture as grass-roots open society form of agency. Since so much has been revealed about the
power of social media to influence the course of politics and, even, elections, a seminar focusing on
digital culture as a powerful form of social activism premised on the ethos of solidarity beyond divisions
would attract the scholarly and general interest. Ngos dedicated to nature's preservation, refugee
integration and help, the access to the digital world for the disenfranchised, are only several out of
innumerable forms of social agency made possible by digital media and geared towards help and shared
civic responsibility.

The seminars would be organized, ideally, in a form of lectures and practical workshops bringing together scholars and activists/educators/social workers/politicians. Another format enriching the range of problems worked on within the Hub would be to launch cooperation with the running grant programs of interest financed from the ERC and other European structural funds.

#### Seminar "Philosophy and Mathematics" – 5-6 October, 2018

The Seminar "Philosophy and Mathematics" was organised jointly by the Academy of Young Scholars and Artists. The Young Scholars and Artists Academy is Poland's first initiative in its kind. Set up in 2010, the Academy supports young talents in arts and sciences. The Academy provides a platform for free and lively top quality interdisciplinary exchange. The Young Scholars and Artists Academy serves as an advisory body to the Mayor of Wrocław. The Academy members are given a chance to pursue a variety of joint initiatives at the interface of arts and sciences.

In October 2018 the Wrocław Hub of Academia Europaea was invited to contribute to an event initiated by Young Academy of Scholars and Artists International Center for Formal Ontology at the University of Warsaw by inviting Academia Europaea Members to contribute to the programme. The Seminar initially was supposed to be a one day event, but thanks to the enthusiasm of invited Academia Europaea Members, it eventually developed into 2-days meeting. It gathered specialists from the field of philosophy. The conference has ended with a debate on *Mathematics, Philosophy and Mathematical Philosophy.* The event brought to Wrocław well known philosophers: Prof. Hannes Leitgeb (mathematical philosopher from Munich, founder of Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, MAE), prof. Jan Woleński (Jagiellonian University, MAE), prof. Marek Kuś (Center for Formal Ontology at the University of Warsaw, MAE), prof. Roman Murawski (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, MAE), prof. Krzysztof Wójtowicz (University of Warsaw). Young scholars were represented by Bartłomiej Skowron and Jakub Jernajczyk. The seminar papers were published in *Studia Philosophica Wratislaviensia*.



#### Current Challenges to European Integration: Between Regionalism and Nationalism - 8 October, 2018

The discussion of Professors Ayse Caglar, Gunnel Gustafsson and Ireneusz Paweł Karolewski (Academia Europaea Members) took on the current challenges to Europe, their research foci with regard to Europe as well as possible solutions to the problems at hand.

The agenda consisted of three lectures:

- Ayse Caglar (University of Vienna) "Through the looking glass of cities: challenges and opportunities for rethinking common futures in Europe"
- Gunnel Gustafsson (NordForsk) "Lessons Learned from the Nordics European / EU integration at risk?"
- Ireneusz Paweł Karolewski (Willy Brandt Center for German and European Studies, University of Wrocław) "How to understand Europe with the help of theories of European integration?"

The event was open to the public and ended with a discussion.

The meeting was financed within the grant received from Riksbankens Jubileumsfond.



#### Short rationale:

The European Union appears to go through a period of instability and stress. There has been a surge of nationalism, populism and Euroscepticism in Europe. A number of crises including the financial crisis, the refugee crisis and the rule of law crisis challenge the institutional set-up of the EU, its ability to act collectively and its legitimacy among some of the citizens. Against this background, during this event of the Academia Europaea/Knowledge Hub Wroclaw the current challenges to European integration were discussed and viewed from the perspective of three social science scholars from Austria, Poland and Sweden.

#### Signing of the Framework Agreement and Meeting of Local AE Members - 15.10.2018 r.

The Meeting of Local and Regional Scientists and Scholars was organized by Wrocław Knowledge Hub of Academia Europaea to present three lectures of esteemed scientists representing what was intended to be the report on the most exciting part of the research led by those well-known and successful professionals. The titles of their speeches were as follows:

- Prof. Tomasz Dietl, Polish Academy of Sciences, International Research Agenda "MagTop"
- Prof. Janusz Lipkowski, Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski University in Warsaw, Surprise
  - chemistry benefits and hazards. A personal view
- Prof. Arkadiusz Wójs, Wrocław University of Science and Technology, *Exotic states of quantum matter*

Also, due to the wide interest in the event, the evening proved to be a very good occasion to present the projects led by Wrocław Hub of Academia Europaea, with the project of The Wrocław Seminars as the main and most successful initiative conducted annually by the office. The event was brightened by the introductory speech of Prof. Sierd Cloetingh, who presented the opportunities the Academy gives not only to the established and successful scholars but also to the young generation, and presented its engagement in promoting the science and knowledge, active participation in many international projects, governmental initiatives and contribution to establishing high-level international bodies (e.g. EASAC) and developing programs (e.g. European Scientific Advisory Mechanism through involvement in SAPEA).



During the official part of the meeting, the Framework Agreement was signed for the Continuation of Academia Europaea Knowledge Hub in Wrocław for another two years. President of Academia Europaea, Professor Sierd Cloetingh and the Mayor of Wrocław, Rafał Dutkiewicz by signing the document opened up the implementation of the 2019-2020 program which includes both continuation and launching of numerous projects. After the most formal part, Professor Tadeusz Luty stepped down as Academic Director for the Hub and the AE Board were pleased to confirm Professor Arkadiusz Wójs (Chair of the Department of Theoretical Physics and Dean of Faculty of Fundamental Problems of Technology at Wrocław University of Science and Technology) as his successor. The meeting gathered representatives of local and regional scientific circles, municipality officials, Academia Europaea members, representatives of local scientific institutions and young, promising scholars. The Hub has financed one night stay and partial travel expenses reimbursement for 17 guests, provided catering service during the event and on the next day, during the working meeting, that enabled the discussion on further development of Hub activities equally in local and reginal dimension.

#### Seminar "New Global Trends in the Humanities. Seminar Series – 25-26 October, 2018

In the autumn 2018, Academia Europaea Wrocław Knowledge Hub in cooperation with dr. Dorota Kołodziejczyk, Director of Postcolonial Studies Centre at the Institute of English Studies, University of Wrocław, launched a new seminar series titled *New Global Trends in the Humanities*. The guiding idea of the series is to create in the Wrocław Hub the place for discussing the most urgent problems tackled by the humanities (also social sciences, as these two research spaces easily overlap) today, alongside the new methodologies of scholarly insight offered by the developing technologies and knowledges in other sciences. Moving beyond the regional paradigm that so far has been predominant in the previous series Relocating Central Europe gives a chance to broaden the scope of disciplines whose achievements are worth representing and discussing within the Wrocław Knowledge Hub and help promote local scholars by showing how they communicate their research to the general academic audiences.

In the autumn 2018 two seminars opened up the series:

#### Prof. Nirmala Menon, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore From Canon to Code: Decolonizing Digital Humanities- A Scholarly Publishing Perspective

**Prof. Nirmala Menon** discussed the larger question of Decolonizing Digital Humanities keeping in mind the issue of language use in scholarship and its consequences for the Global South. She will include in her discussion her project of decolonizing digital humanities through open access publishing initiatives. An



internationally acknowledged scholar in digital humanities, Prof. Menon leads the Digital Humanities and Publishing Research Group at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indore, India. She is Associate Professor of

Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), Discipline of English, IIT Indore. She is the author of Migrant Identities of Creole Cosmopolitans: Transcultural Narratives of Contemporary Postcoloniality\_(Peter Lang Publishing, 2014) and Remapping the Postcolonial Canon: Remap, Reimagine, Retranslate (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017). The Digital Humanities Research students at IIT Indore she supervises work on exciting projects that include developing Partition Archives, and a Multilingual Database Development Project, among others. The Digital Humanities Group is also the Coordinator of KSHIP- An Open Acceess Multilingual Publishing Project initiated at IIT Indore and will soon be publishing the first ever Multilingual Volume of Electronic Literature from India.

#### Dr. Mark Jackson, University of Bristol

# Re-thinking the questions of difference and critique: towards ecologies of care in the work of thought

The discursive apparatus of postcolonial critique has long articulated itself within and across grammars of difference. Some of postcoloniality's central questions resolve around the navigation of difference, its translations, and the ethico-political imperatives to analyse, reflexively, the differences the question of difference makes to critical thought and action. Difference and



critique emerge, however, for what has become orthodox postcolonial criticism, from a discursive tradition that frames both the question of difference, and the subsequent question of critically navigating a responsibility to difference, from a representationalist epistemic practice. Recent work in the social sciences and humanities suggests, however, that this normative tradition limits the capacities of postcolonial criticism, in particular its ethico-political justifications, to adapt to the plural demands of entangled lifeworlds. Drawing from new interdisciplinary work in anthropology, human geography, bio-semiotics, indigenous studies, environmental humanities, and political ecology, this presentation will argue for the need to re-think epistemic questions of postcolonial difference and critique, and specifically their ethico-political significance, in light of ontologies of radical inter-dependence. Instead of reflexively negotiating the limits of the sayable qua criticism, the paper will argue for how care, rather than agonism, is the constitutive ground for thinking about, and with, postcolonial difference. The presentation argued that critique transform from reflection on ineluctable conceptual limits into practices of mutuality. It concluded by exploring examples of mutuality that practice care as a form of critique open to vulnerability and affirmative resilience.

**Dr. Mark Jackson** is Senior Lecturer in Postcolonial Geographies, School of Geographical Sciences at the University of Bristol, UK, and editor of Routledge Research in New Postcolonialisms series. His recent book includes an edited volume Coloniality, Ontology, and the Question of the Posthuman, Routledge, 2017.



Program: 9:45-10:30 Prof. Nirmala Menon From Canon to Code: Decolonizing Digital Humanities- A Scholarly Publishing Perspective 10:30-10:45 Discussion

# 11:00-11:45 Dr. Mark Jackson Re-thinking the questions of difference and critique: towards ecologies of care in the work of thought 11:45-12:00 Discussion

The seminars offered insights into the nodal points of global decolonizing processes as seen from the perspective of digital humanities and posthumanism/ecocritical thought. Bringing digital humanities and ecocriticism/posthumanism into the postcolonial framework, the two invited speakers examined the new opportunities for a critical intervention into postcolonial paradigms enhanced by cultural and literary translation studies, comparative literature, decolonial studies, political ontology and ecology, and posthumanism in general. The lectures were followed by workshops and discussions on the possibilities of digital publishing and on the potential of human geography to discover local histories of places and rewrite them so as to show their links to geopolitics or to many other apparently separate, but related topographies of modernist urban thought, state's biopolitics and so on.

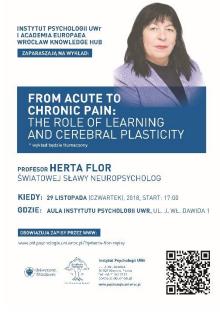
The Seminar was financed by the grant provided by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond.

#### Lecture by Prof. Herta Flor – 29 November, 2018

On 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 Academia Europaea Wrocław Knowledge Hub and the Institute of Psychology, University of Wroclaw co-organized a lecture of Prof. Herta Flor, Member of Academia Europaea (Department of Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience, Central Institute of Mental Health, Medical Faculty Mannheim, Heidelberg University), titled: *From Acute to Chronic Pain: the Role of Learning and Cerebral Plasticity*.

#### Shor abstract of the lecture:

The transition from acute to chronic pain is characterized by a shift from nociceptive brain circuits to those involved in emotion, motivation, and learning<sup>1</sup>. Maladaptive changes in these brain circuits can be induced by associative and non-associative mainly implicit learning processes such as sensitization, operant and respondent



conditioning and priming. It is suggested that different concepts of chronicity may have a common psychobiological basis in maladaptive learning and plasticity processes<sup>2</sup>. Treatments should target these shifts in brain circuits and include both behavioral and pharmacological treatment options. Examples are exposure and extinction training, sensory discrimination training, mirror treatment, virtual reality applications, brain-computer interfaces as well as combinations of these treatments with pharmacological interventions.

#### **References:**

Kuner, R., & Flor, H., (2017). Structural plasticity and reorganisation in chronic pain. Nature Reviews Neuroscience, 18, 20-30.

Flor, H. (2017). Pain has an element of blank – a biobehavioral approach to chronicity. Pain, 158, Suppl.1: S92-S96.

#### Workshop "Media culture as public good and a lever of sustainability" - 12 December, 2018

On 12 December 2018, the Institute of Journalism and Social Communication hosted an international scientific conference entitled *Media as Public Good and a Lever of Sustainability*, co-organized by the Institute, Academia Europaea Wrocław Knowledge Hub, and the Film, and Media and Audiovisual Studies Section of the Academia Europaea.

The conference was attended by scientists from the United Kingdom, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Russia and Poland. The meeting was inaugurated by Prof. Arkadiusz Lewicki (Director of the Institute), Prof. Arkadiusz Wójs (Academic Director of the Academia Europaea Wroclaw Knowledge Hub), and Prof. Kirsten Drotner (Chair of the Section).

Among the speakers were: Prof. Graham Murdock, Prof. Göran Bolin, Prof. Johan Fornäs, Prof. Beata Katarzyna Ociepka, Prof. Mirosław Filiciak, Prof. Kirsten Drotner, Prof. Ilya Kiriya, Prof. Maren Hartman, Prof. Dorota Piontek. An audio-video recording is still available on the website: <u>https://vimeo.com/album/5619627</u>.



The conference met with great and lively interest of the audience. Both researchers and students took part in subsequent discussions. Below we present selected statements of the students participating in the event:

"(...) the conference was a rewarding experience. It was a great pleasure to listen to speakers from all over the world. It has developed my thinking to be able to see the media in other ways. Media as public good seems hard to achieve nowadays. To obtain and sustain it, we need to discuss the subject worldwide. In my opinion, the new generation needs to be aware of the importance of democracy, freedom of thought, perception management, etc. We need to build networks between people, not between profiles. This conference helped me start to think about different subjects from various perspectives" Selin Karaibrahimoglu

"(...) We live in an era of fake news and omnipresent misinformation. Therefore, it is our duty to bring up a new well-balanced way to keep media as service for good and prosperity, and not to disrupt the ecological system by advertising fast-moving consumer goods. Together we ensure that media practices serve a tool for interaction between people in all areas of the world. Nevertheless, we question if mediated interaction enhances efficient communication between people that serve as a tool for sustainability?" Yulduz Rashidova

"(...) prof. Graham Murdock talked about the importance use of natural resources. For instance, he said: "natural resources have rights as well and they cannot be used however we please". He changed my point of view on this subject; without a doubt, we must be more conscious of our natural resources and how we decide to make the best of them. Additionally, media is a powerful tool that we can use to bring more awareness to everyone who has access to it. (...) We need to be more respectful of mother Earth and try our best to not contribute in a negative way and try as hard as possible to be considerate of our actions", Paola Morales

"There are many problems with current media and the world overall, but how can we tackle these problems? I think that media has become a resource of social sustainability, but it depends what we do with it that will make a difference. The main goal is communication, because, as prof. Göran Bolin said, "society lives in communication, and not by it". By looking into the basics of human needs, foundations of well-being, and opportunity, we will find that in the end, media as a communicative resource, needs to be considered a common good and being able to identify problems will not be enough. Media is one of the main components to social progress and it needs to be recognized as a public good", Teah Major

"(...) we should work on changing things for our own benefit, we should seek solutions to these problems. There is nothing in the whole world that we cannot solve by using communication. And we should not hide behind excuses and most importantly awareness is the main thing we should focus on", Burcu Sevinc

#### Workshop with Prof. Johan Fornas: Towards development of the mediatization research II. - 13.12.2018 r.

On December 13, 2018, the Institute of Journalism and Social Communication and the Europaea Wrocław Knowledge Hub Academy held a specialization seminar *Towards development of the mediatization research II*, which this year was led by Prof. Johan Fornäs from Södertörn University.

In his academic work Prof. Johan Fornäs deals, among others, with the issues of media culture. His interdisciplinary research is based mainly on hermeneutical interpretation, discourse analysis and media ethnography. He is graduated in mathematics, philosophy, musicology and experienced in cultural and media research. He has worked at Göteborg University, Stockholm University, Catholic University of Leuven, Linköping University, National Institute for Working Life in Norrköping and Linköping University. He is the author of among others: Defending culture: Conceptual foundations and contemporary debate (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), Signifying Europe (Intellect, 2012) and Cultural theory and late modernity (Sage, 1995).

The meeting was of a closed-ended and workshop character, the introduction to which was a lecture by an invited expert. This year's theme was the cultural aspects of mediatization. The meeting was attended by researchers representing universities from Great Britain, Sweden, Poland, Russia, Croatia and Kazakhstan.

The idea of the seminars is based on the intensive work on materials previously provided by the participants: research results, research projects, works in progress, articles, dissertations. The dominant part of the meeting is devoted to discussions and consultations. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the attached program and photos made during the event (by Wojciech Duszyński)



#### Annual AE Conference – Barcelona, 27-29 November, 2018

During the Annual Conference AE Wrocław Hub presented its activities and plans during the General Assembly meeting. All its initiatives were accepted and further events were planned accordingly to the Board decisions.

#### Administrative support to two Classes of AE: A1, A2

The Wrocław hub supports two Classes of AE – A1 Humanities and A2 Social Sciences. Agnieszka Szymerowska from Wrocław Hub took part in A2 Class meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, 3-4 July 2018, Katarzyna Majkowska from Wrocław Hub took part in A1 Class meetings Paris, France, on 2 July, 2018), where the nomination cycle was finalized.



#### **Promotional materials**

In 2017 the Hub helped with creating business cards of the Board Members, updated the AE Directory, printed a new batch of folders, created and sent welcome packs for New Members of Academia Europaea.