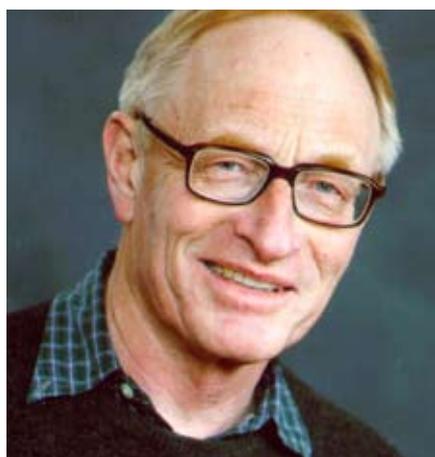




THE ACADEMY OF EUROPE

*Scientists and scholars
who collectively aim
to promote learning,
education and research.*



From the President

This is my first year as President of Academia Europaea, so it is both reasonable and understandable that members should ask as to the ideas I have on the future of the Academy, both for my term and after. The Academia Europaea has been in existence for just over twenty years. It is time to ask if the academy has developed in line with the wishes and expectations of its founders. My own view is that a definitive yes is not the answer. But, as with most visions there are both positive and negative elements. I think we could all agree that the quality, type and range of activities supported have increased over the last few years. The programmes of the annual meetings have always been interesting, but in my opinion the programmes of the last two - the ones in Toledo in 2007 and in Liverpool last year, were exceptionally good. The negative aspect is that the number of members who participate in these events remains disappointingly low. I am not sure that all members realize how cheap air transport really is within Europe today, as long as planning and bookings are done well ahead of the event. At present, some of our members appear to be satisfied with the organisation and its current list of activities, whereas others have

criticised it for not being relevant enough to scientists and scholars in their fields. So, in order to be able to remedy this perception in a real way, I need to get the suggestions and proposals from ordinary members. Ideas for actions can be communicated through your Section Committee –the Chairs of which are members of the Council, directly to the Secretariat, or to me and the members of the Board.

This year (2009), our annual members meeting will take place in Naples. The programme should be of great interest to scientists and scholars over a wide range of disciplines, and there will be plenty of interdisciplinary discussions and presentations. So, I hope that many more academy members will decide to come and many will also look at the website and decide to participate in the other events planned for this year. Five such events are now listed on the homepage.

My most worrying concern is the lack of 'visibility' of the Academia Europaea amongst those scientists and scholars who are not (yet) members. My sad experience is that most university professors and science administrators that I meet at conferences, or in Brussels and Strasbourg, have never heard about the Academy. This situation has to be radically improved.

Our Academy now has about 2200 European members. That may seem a large number, but it is not. The fact is that there are very many distinguished scientists and scholars in Europe who should already have been elected as members, but who have been missed. In the long run this is a serious problem. The authority and respect of the Academia Europaea will suffer considerably if this situation is allowed to continue. The problem differs in magnitude between

21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Risk, environment &
sustainable development**

Naples, 24-26 September 2009

see www.acadeuro.org

disciplines and countries. The main reason seems to be a perception that the nomination process is too complicated. I will establish an investigation on how to simplify the process. As of now many members seem reluctant to nominate even the very obvious candidates. There is no reason for this. I hope that a simplified process will make it possible for most members to nominate candidates for election. In the meantime, I will use other approaches to get elected those who are most deserving of membership, but who have been forgotten and missed. My long term goal is that all scientists and scholars in Europe should be aware of the academy and value it sufficiently to feel that it is essential to seek election.

What is the benefit for the individual scientist and scholar of being a member of Academia Europaea, in addition to the honour? Well, Europe has a very long academic history. We have heterogeneous academic traditions, both between countries and between disciplines. My experience from within a national academy that is an academy for both natural scientists, social scientists and scholars from the humanities, is that the understanding of the different types of problems and of the different methods used to investigate these problems increases among the members as a result of interdisciplinary dialogue. In a similar way, I believe that in a pan-European academy such as ours, the opportunities for dialogue of this sort increases the

understanding and respect for academic traditions in other countries and in other language areas. The forging of common values and shared experiences can only be of great benefit, both for the individual member of Academia Europaea, but especially also for the students at all levels that are taught and supervised by our members, and of course in the long run, for the European cultural tradition of scholarship.

The European Research Area is in a period of rapid development. The establishment of new research institutions and of new organisations for the coordination and funding of European research has created a new paradigm for the way that Scholarship and learning are undertaken and delivered. Many of these structures and the policy processes that define them are, or will be in need of expert scientific advice. The European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) was established to provide such independent advice. The Academia Europaea plays an important role in the work of this council. Current developments indicate that the European institutions will need advice not only from experts in the natural sciences, but also from social scientists and scholars in the humanities. With an improved and extended list of members from these disciplines, the Academia Europaea will be in a unique position to give the authoritative and independent advice that our European Society expects.

Finally, over the coming months, I will be taking the opportunity of our events to also meet with members. In addition, more social gatherings of national members will be arranged. These will start in March with meetings for Dutch members (in Amsterdam) and Belgian members (in Leuven), followed hopefully by a meeting in April for German members (in Berlin) and possibly in May for Italian members (in Venice). If any member wishes to arrange a 'National AE members meeting', then please let me know.

Lars Walløe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcing the 2009 Annual Business Meeting of members of the Academy.

This will take place at 15:30pm on 24th September in Naples. **PRIOR TO THE FORMAL START OF THE 21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE.**

The meeting is open to all members of the Academy. This meeting is a legal requirement.

This year will be an important meeting for all members. The Trustees and Council will seek approval of the membership for a change to the legal status of the Academia Europaea.

Other agenda items will include: Reports from the President, Treasurer and Sections. Elections and re-appointments, including auditors.

It is also an opportunity to question the President Lars Walløe about his ideas and plans for his term of office.

ANY MEMBER WISHING TO TABLE AN ITEM FOR DISCUSSION MUST PROVIDE THE MOTION, OR ITEM TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY **NO LATER THAN 31ST JULY.**

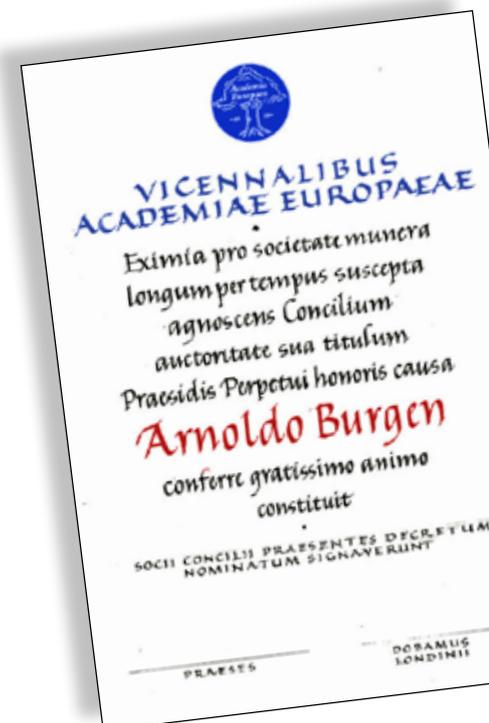
FULL DETAILS, Draft agenda and papers will be made available on the AE website in the members only section from May onwards, or on request from the London office (admin@acadeuro.org). The Agenda will be published in a future issue of the newsletter that will be sent out with the European Review.

INVITATION FOR NOMINATIONS AS TREASURER OF THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

Professor Peter Day FRS, has been our Honorary Treasurer for almost ten years, has announced his intention to retire at the Annual Business Meeting in Naples, in September

Any member who is interested in taking up this challenging role of honorary Treasurer (pro bono), should send a brief formal letter of candidature addressed to the President of the Academia setting out their reasons. Professor Day will be pleased to respond to informal enquiries about the role of the Treasurer (profpd@msn.com). The Treasurer is appointed by the Council and is an officer of the Academia. It is anticipated that future changes to the legal structure of the Academia expected from 2009, will require the Treasurer to become a Director of the Board of Management of Academia Europaea.

Offers and/or nominations and suggestions (with the nominees explicit permission) to reach the Executive Secretary **by the 20th April.**



NEWS OF MEMBERS

Jaques Tits

receives the 2008 ABEL Prize

Le mathématicien français Jacques Tits a officiellement reçu des mains du Roi Harald de Norvège le prix Abel, récompense norvégienne couronnant des avancées dans le domaine des mathématiques. Ce prix, qu'il partage avec l'Américain John Griggs Thompson, lui avait été décerné le 27 mars dernier par l'Académie norvégienne des Sciences pour «leurs découvertes fondamentales en algèbre». Cette nouvelle récompense pour un scientifique français fait suite à une série de nombreuses distinctions: prix Abel en 2003 pour Jean-Pierre Serre, médaille Fields en 2006 pour Wendelin Werner, prix Clay en 2008 pour Claire Voisin, et prix Crafoord en 2008 pour Maxim Kontsevitch. Elle confirme, pour Valérie Pécresse, «l'excellence de la recherche française en mathématiques

The French mathematician Jacques Tits officially received from the hands of King Harald of Norway the Abel Prize, Norwegian crown reward progress in the field of mathematics. This award, which he shares with the American John Griggs Thompson, had been awarded on March 27 by the Norwegian Academy of Science for "their discoveries in algebra."

This new award for a French scientist followed a series of many distinctions:

To mark the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Academia Europaea

The Council were pleased to be able to honour the member who played an instrumental part in getting the organisation started and who has continued to play a significant role in the life of the Academia ever since. This immense contribution to international scholarship and dialogue, was recognised through the creation and award of the title of 'Life President (in perpetuity)' to Arnold Burgen, at the opening ceremony of the annual conference that took place in Liverpool in September 2008.

Citation reads: At the occasion of the Twentieth anniversary meeting of the Academia Europaea. In recognition of the most distinguished service given to the Academia Europaea: the Council have under their authority, decided to honour Arnold Burgen, with the title of 'Life President' honoris causa, as a mark of their extreme gratitude.

Abel Prize in 2003 for Jean-Pierre Serre, Fields Medal in 2006 to Wendelin Werner, prices Clay in 2008 to Claire Voisin and Crafoord prize in 2008 for Maxim Kontsevitch .

Dario DiFrancesco

Awarded the 2008 Grand Prix Scientifique of the Fondation Lefoulon-Delalande- Institut de France,

a prestigious prize awarded once a year by the French Academy of Sciences for achievements in the cardiovascular field. Some information on the prize can be found at: www.institut-de-france.fr/minisite/grands_prix_2008/1097_faites_connaissance_avec_les_huit_laureats_des_sept_grands_prix.html

The Prize awarded in Paris (11th June) was for the work leading to the discovery of the "pacemaker" ("funny") ion channels (back in 1979, in Oxford while working in Denis Noble's group) and the way this discovery has led to the development of therapeutic interventions, among which the drug ivabradine, presently prescribed as a therapy against chronic angina.

Thomas Henzinger

to be President of the newly founded Austrian elite Institute for Science and Technology near Vienna <http://derstandard.at/?url=?id=1227287832259>

NOMINATIONS OF NEW MEMBERS

ALL MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIA are encouraged to consider nominating candidates for election from April 1st onwards.

The forms for nomination and the procedures can be downloaded from the website (www.acadeuro.org) or sent on request from Betty Lim (Membership secretary) at the London office (membership@acadeuro.org)

Council would like to see many more nominations in newer and emerging disciplines, for example in the Nanosciences and technologies; Management and related sciences. It is also becoming clear that with time, the balance of our membership disciplines does not reflect current European Research landscapes. Some fields for example, Law, Education, Geography, Engineering (in a broad sense), Architecture and many of the liberal and performance arts are now severely under represented by current expertise. This is not an exclusive or exhaustive list.

THE 2009 NOMINATIONS TIMETABLE

1 NOVEMBER 2009

All nomination dossiers to be received by Section chairs

31 DECEMBER 2009

Completion of Section Committee assessments

28 FEBRUARY 2010

Assessment, rankings and dossiers to the AE Office

APRIL 2010

Nominations committee meeting

APRIL 2010

COUNCIL

MAY 2010

Invitations sent to elected candidates

SEPTEMBER 2010

Introduction of new members at the annual conference

New members

The Council of the Academia Europaea at a meeting held in Heidelberg, Germany on 25th April, 2008: decided to invite the following scholars to accept membership of the Academia Europaea. [F = Foreign member]

History & Archaeology		Behavioural Sciences		Informatics		Earth & Cosmic Sciences	
Horst Pietschmann	Germany	Janette Atkinson	UK	Cristian S. Calude (F)	New Zealand	Hans-Peter Bunge	Munich
Timothy Garton-Ash	UK	Lisa F. Berkman (F)	USA	Peter Druschel	Germany	Claudio Faccenna	Rome
		Oliver Braddick	UK	Steve Furber	UK	Gerald H. Haug	Zurich
Classics & Oriental Studies		Johan P. Mackenbach	Netherlands	Yuri Gurevich (F)	USA	Angelo Peccerillo	Perugia
Carmela Baffioni	Italy	Josef Perner	Austria	Oscar H. Ibarra (F)	USA	Ronald van der Linden	Brussels
Andrea Giardina	Italy	Heinz Wimmer	Austria	Nick R. Jennings	UK	Christos S. Zerefos	Athens
Juha Janhunen	Helsinki			Joseph Sifakis	France		
Eugenio La Rocca	Italy	Social Sciences		Reinhard Wilhelm	Germany	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	
Gottthard Strohmaier	Germany	Peter Nijkamp	Netherlands	Maurice Wilkes	UK	Christopher Higgins	UK
Emmanuel Voutyras	Greece			Willy Zwaenepoel	Switzerland	Alain Jacquier	France
		Mathematics		João José Santos	Portugal	Adi Kimchi	Israel
Linguistic Studies		Noga Alon	Israel	Sentieiro		Peter O'Hare	UK
Anne Abeillé	France	Luigi Ambrosio	Italy			Félix A. Rey	France
Greville G. Corbett	UK	John Ball	UK	Physics & Engineering Sciences		Titia K. Sixma	Netherlands
Maya Hickmann	Paris	Jean Bourgain (F)	USA/ Belgium	Harald Budelmann	Germany		
Ernst Hakon Jahr	Norway	John Coates	UK	Giovanni Gallavotti	Rome	Cell Biology	
Marina Nespor	Italy	Alain Connes	France	Emmanuel E. Gdoutos	Greece	Jonathan C Howard	Germany
Ian Roberts	UK	Robbert Dijkgraaf	The Netherlands	Karl-Heinz Glassmeier	Germany		
		Gerd Faltings	Germany	Etienne Guyon	France	Physiology & Medicine	
Literary & Theatrical Studies		William T Gowers	UK	Muhsin N Harakeh	Netherlands	c. A. Verkhatsky	
Horace Engdahl	Stockholm	Helmut Hofer (F)	USA/ Germany	François Mudry	France	Corinne Antignac	Paris
Angela Esterhammer	Zurich	Frances Kirwan	UK	Laszlo Pap	Budapest	Wolfgang F. Graier	Austria
Monika Fludernik	Germany	Arjen K Lenstra	The Netherlands	Jose A R Salcedo	Portugal	Gerry G Melino	UK
Patrizia Lombardo	Geneva	Angus J Macintyre	UK	Laszlo Sarkadi	Hungary	Martin C. Michel	Netherlands
Deborah Madsen	Geneva	Paul Malliavin	France	Wolfgang P Schleich	Germany	Susan Wray	UK
Françoise Meltzer (F)	USA	Grigori Perelman	Russia	Pol D Spanos (F)	USA	Leszek Borysiewicz	UK
Susana Onega	Spain	Alexander Schrijver	The Netherlands	Jürgen Mlynek	Germany		
		Yakov G Sinai (F)	USA/Russia	Roger Elliott	UK	Organismic & Evolutionary Biology	
Musicology & History of Art & Architecture		Alain-Sol Sznitman	France/ Switzerland	Dieter Imboden	Switzerland	Michael John Crawley	UK
Harlad Herresthal	Oslo	Wendelin Werner	France	James Slevin	Ireland	Lorna Casselton	UK
Hans-Joachim Hinrichsen	Zurich	Gisbert Wüstholtz	Germany	Nicola Cabbibo	Italy	Pierre-Henri Gouyon	Paris
Laurenz Lütteken	Zurich	Jean-Christophe Yoccoz	France				
Philippe Vendrix	France	Marc Yor	France	Chemical Sciences			
				Masakazu Anpo (F)	Japan		
Philosophy, Theology & Religious Studies				Can Li (F)	China		
Tim Crane	UK			Kari Rissanen	Finland		
Onora O'Neill	UK			David King	UK		
				Julia Goodfellow	UK		
				Julia Higgins	UK		

20th anniversary Burgen Scholars –

awarded at the 20th Annual conference of the Academia in Liverpool 2008

Sir Arnold Burgen presented the 20th Anniversary Scholarships to the following young researchers at the opening ceremony of the 2008 Liverpool annual conference. The list of Burgen scholars:

David Brough

Univ. Manchester. Biochemistry and Physiology

Cécile Knai

London School of Hygiene and tropical Medicine. Public Health

Chi-Hua Chen

Dept. Anatomy and Developmental Biology, UCL. Neurobiology

Guillaume de Lartigue

Univ. Liverpool. Physiology

Sergiy O. Sylantyev

Institute of Neurology, UCL. Pharmacology

Edoardo Zamuner

Anatomy Dept. UCL. Philosophy



We were honoured that the Cambridge University Press provided book prizes and were pleased to have the support of the Leverhulme Trust for the scholars.

Each Scholar gave a short oral resumé of their research and presented a poster for discussion.

2008 Erasmus Medal and Lecture – Semir Zeki

The Erasmus Medal of the Academia Europaea, is awarded on the recommendation of the Council, to a member who has maintained over a sustained period, the highest level of international scholarship and recognition by peers. The medallist is invited to give the annual Erasmus Lecture, which in 2008 was sponsored by the **Medical Research Council** of the UK. The lecture was given at the annual conference in Liverpool in September.



The title was:

“The Neurobiology of Human Discontent”

The paper will be published in a future issue of “The European Review”.

Profile of Semir Zeki



Since 1970 Zeki has been based at University College, being appointed the

Professor of Neurobiology in 1981. He was Co-Head of the Wellcome Department of Cognitive Neuroscience at University College London from 1994 to 2001. From March 2008 he will be the first Professor of Neuroesthetics at University College London. He studied medicine then anatomy at University College London. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, London and he is a foreign Member of the American Philosophical Society, a Member of the Academia Europaea, and the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. He is a member of the Board of Scientific Governors, Scripps Scientific Research Institute, La Jolla, California and of the National Science Council of France and Editor of The Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society. He has written many articles on vision and the brain.

DID YOU KNOW?

Members can register to gain access to the restricted pages of the website – just follow the instructions on the homepage bottom right hand side –



Once you have your own password, you can then enter the restricted pages at any time and edit your personal information directly on the AE database. In due course you will also be able to pay your subscriptions securely, use online forms for nominations and events and also order Academy publications and other “memorabilia”.

Gradually over 2009, we will move away from expensive printing and Europe wide surface mailing of publications such as ‘The Tree’ and our annual reports and the Members’ Directory. ‘E-zines’ will be sent out to members by email with hypertext links to online publications and to fuller articles. This approach will allow us to increase the frequency of communication with members. It will also give us greater flexibility to develop Section specific publications of narrower interest.

As always, those members who do not use the web or email will not be forgotten. Hard copies will be sent to them and to others who may request them from the office.

I would welcome help from members (anywhere in Europe) who may be interested and have time on their hands to assist in these developments; in the stimulation, collection and production and editing of material for our newsletters etc. Any (retired) members who have an expertise and interest in web development and content are also very welcome to contact me. Depending on what can be done, some financial help may be available. Contact me – David Coates (execsec@acadeuro.org)

Eurodoc Survey on the Situation of Doctoral Candidates in Europe



EURODOC – the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior

Researchers – is conducting a Europe-wide survey of doctoral researchers. Within this framework, a group of young volunteers has set up a Europe-wide online survey. The results of this survey will help EURODOC in its efforts to improve the training and research conditions of doctoral researchers. The term “doctoral researcher” is used as a synonym for doctoral candidates, doctoral students, aspirants, PhD-students etc.

This is the first survey of its kind and roughly 100,000 European doctoral researchers will be asked to take part in this study. The survey will be conducted in Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Turkey, and Ukraine. All other European countries are welcome to participate as well.

Go to www.eurodoc.net/survey/

Future planning for AE involvement in “International Years”

The Council would like to hear from members who would be interested in helping with forward planning of Academia Europaea sponsored initiatives in support of future “International year celebrations”. Council will consider ideas for support from such celebrations that are planned for 2010 onwards. Any suggestions on how the AE could mark future “International Years” should be sent by email to David Coates or to your Section chair.

REPORT ON THE REPRESENTATION OF THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA AT THE INSTITUT DE FRANCE, 21-23 OCTOBER 2007

by Barbara Wright (Dublin)

“Les Académies en Europe au XXIe Siècle”

The formal reopening of the five Academies, which constitute the Institut de France, took place on 23 October 2007. Building on a series of long-standing exchanges, the Chancellor, M. Gabriel de Broglie, invited representatives of over sixty European Academies to participate in this formal ceremony and to reflect on the pan-European dimensions of our various activities. Jean-Paul Poirier and Barbara Wright were honoured to represent the Academia Europaea on this occasion.

Preceded by a conference on the history of the European Academies at the Fondation Singer-Polignac on 20 October, the debates took place at the Institut de France, on the Quai de Conti, Paris, on 22 and 23 October, with visits to the historic institutions for which the Institut de France is responsible: the Musée Condé, Chantilly; the Musée Jacquemart-André, Paris; the Bibliothèque Mazarine and the Bibliothèque de l’Institut.

The dominant theme was that of national identity and minds transcending borders. The borders to be straddled were, first of all territorial, forging, from the past history of war and violence in Europe, a deep and lasting respect for human rights, as argued by Otto de Habsbourg-Lorraine. Borders between traditionally established disciplines were shown by Fotis Kafatos to meld in the crucible of fundamental scientific research, and at an ever-quickening pace, thanks to digitization. In the humanities, Philippe Roberts-Jones characterized the tension between the local and the universal in art, reflecting a comparable tension between regionalism and globalization, on the social and economic front. The common theme was that, by combining its diverse strengths, European academic achievement can strive to attain a result potentially greater than the sum of its parts.

Les Académies face à l’État et à la société

Paper presented by Prof. Barbara Wright (Trinity Dublin,) on behalf of the Academia Europaea, at the Institut de France, 2007. [with editorial translation into English]

L’Academia Europaea, en commun avec toutes les Académies d’Europe, dont certaines sont subventionnées par l’État et d’autres ne le sont pas, a comme mission de sauvegarder et de promouvoir l’érudition. Elle a, de plus, la vocation de poursuivre cette mission en franchissant les frontières nationales des différents pays européens, tout en perfectionnant les différents domaines du savoir selon le principe de la pluridisciplinarité.

The Academia Europaea, in common with all the Academies in Europe, some of which are subsidized by the state and others are not, has a mission to safeguard and promote the scholarship. It [the AE] has, moreover, extended this mission in crossing the borders of different European countries, while developing the various domains of knowledge according to the principle of multidisciplinary.

Le défi actuel des Académies face à l’État et à la société vient, d’une part, de l’acceptation courante de cette notion de « pluridisciplinarité » et, d’autre part, du rôle que les Académies sont amenées à jouer, relatif aux instances des pouvoirs publics et privés.

The current challenge facing Academies of the State and society has, on the one hand, the current acceptance of this concept of ‘multidisciplinary’ and, secondly, the role that the academies have come to play, relating to the government and private sectors.

La notion de « pluridisciplinarité », ce beau « faisceau » évoqué par Ernest Renan en 1867, composé de « tous les efforts de l’esprit humain », s’est vue contaminée, dans la dernière décennie, par un concept d’« interdisciplinarité », susceptible de miner les « disciplines » qui en

forment les bases. Le patronat prône les exigences du marché et l'État croit devoir lui emboîter le pas, en encourageant deux initiatives complémentaires en principe, mais donnant lieu à des séquelles tout à fait paradoxales.

The concept of "multidisciplinarity:" the beautiful "bundles" referred to by Ernest Renan in 1867, consisting of "all the efforts of the human spirit", was contaminated in the last decade, with a concept of an "interdisciplinarity", that undermines the [pure] "disciplines" which form the basis of the multidisciplinary concept. Employers advocate market requirements and the state feels obliged to follow suit, promoting two complementary initiatives in principle, but giving rise to effects that are quite paradoxical in reality.

Ainsi l'État encourage les sciences expérimentales à aller de l'avant dans des spécialisations de plus en plus étroites, tout en orientant les sciences humaines vers une formation générale de plus en plus superficielle.

The State encourages experimental sciences to move forward with specializations, while orienting (encouraging) the humanities towards a more general education role that is increasingly superficial.

Du coup, le rôle des Académies comme lieu de « sauvegarde » et d'encouragement de la communauté scientifique se voit confronté à une situation sociologique différente de toutes celles qu'elles ont pu connaître à des époques antérieures.

Thus, the role of academies as a place of "safeguarding" and encouraging the scientific community is confronted with a sociological situation unlike any they have known in earlier times.

Par ailleurs, le rôle de tutelle auprès du grand public, l'autre versant de la double mission des Académies, risque de se voir compromettre par la commodification de l'enseignement supérieur et par les objectifs de court terme des chefs d'entreprises.

Furthermore, the role of 'guardianship' relevant to the general public, [the other side of the dual mission of the Academies], could be undermined by the pressures/demands placed by higher education and the objectives of short-term managers.

Face à ces difficultés, les Académies devront chercher un juste milieu entre, d'une part, le besoin d'être « pertinentes », à une époque où la société a un besoin croissant d'être bien informée sur les données de plus en plus complexes de la vie contemporaine, et, d'autre part, le besoin de préserver leur indépendance et leur autonomie. Il serait inadmissible que les Académies se tiennent à l'écart, mais répréhensible qu'elles tombent victimes d'une dépendance à l'égard des entreprises. Les savoir-faire ne devront pas être privilégiés au détriment des savoirs.

Faced with these difficulties, the Academies should seek a balance between, [on the one hand] the need to be "relevant" at a time when society has a growing need to be well informed on the complexities of contemporary life: and secondly, [Academies] need to preserve their independence and autonomy. It is unacceptable that the Academies are held on the sidelines, but also wrong that they (inevitably?) fall victim of a dependence on businesses. The 'skills' should not take precedence at the expense of knowledge.

Les Académies ne peuvent pas se permettre de se retirer dans une tour d'ivoire, sinon elles risquent d'être dépassées et de voir diminuer leur dynamisme. Mais il va falloir qu'elles « gardent leur distance », au prix de perdre leur ancrage dans l'érudition, la condition primordiale de leur existence.

Academies can not afford to retreat (entirely) into an ivory tower or they may see their dynamism decline. But, they [the Academies] will have to "keep their distance, at the price of losing their foothold in the world of scholarship, which was the primary focus of their existence.



Prof. Barbara Wright (left) and Jean-Paul Poirier (right) at the Institut de France.

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAS LAUNCHED:

"Harnessing European research for sustainable development"...

An exercise on how to ensure that European research is put at the service of sustainable development is being launched. More information will soon be available on http://ec.europa.eu/research/sd/index_en.html.

In this exercise, the Commission will examine how sustainable development calls for change (i) in the way we do research, (ii) in the way we design and implement research policy. Furthermore, we will look at the kind of indicators that we need to develop in order to measure the contribution of R&D to sustainable development. The exercise will include a web-based consultation that should take place between mid-February until mid-April. Please **be prepared to take part in this web-based consultation**. Another message will be sent to you as soon as it is launched.

Contact: Nicole Dewandre
Head of Unit "Sustainable Development"
Directorate Environment
DG Research
European Commission
Nicole.Dewandre@ec.europa.eu

GROUP MEETINGS REPORTS

“The Origin of Language: In the Perspective of Linguistics, Psychology, and Cognitive Neuroscience”



Fondation Singer-Polignac

Held at the Singer-Polignac
Foundation, Paris December 2007.

by Helmut Schnelle

The competence of meaningful language is a unique endowment of the human species. But how did it emerge during the development of the hominids and of homo sapiens? And how does a human embryo and an infant develop pre-linguistic competences allowing to acquire form and meaning of the language spoken in the infants environment? The workshop focused on some of relevance for answering these questions.

Particularly interesting results of recent research were presented and discussed by the Neuroscientists. G. Rizzolatti presented and discussed the essentials of his discovery of mirror-neurons, which organize a surprising cognitive competence of macaque monkeys. It also suggests a neuronal basis that might have led to primitive language competence. S. Dehaene and Gh. Dehaene-Lambertz presented fascinating results of empirical studies of brain-imaging concerning prenatal and postnatal brain-development in the cortical areas typical for language competence.

The studies of the psychologists contradicted the assumption that basic innate competence properties in children are sufficient for language acquisition. E Lieven's results clearly suggest that, in particular during the first year, social and cognitive capacities are necessary to support the learning of words, morphological and syntactic structure in subsequent years. J.Mehler agrees with the common linguistic assumption that infants have

specialized mechanisms fostering their ability to process linguistic data. But the efficiency of these mechanisms often derives from general perceptual, mnemonic, and attentional constraints.

The contributions of the linguists B. Comrie, and W. Dressler demonstrated that language development is marked by stages of complexity of language form in syntax and morphology. This was particularly well demonstrated by systematic comparison for “exotic” as well as for familiar languages.

The neurologist B. Johansson discussed the increasing evidence that music and language share a number of basic processing mechanisms in the brain. In the perception of language and music complex acoustic sequences are converted into perceptually discrete elements such as words or chords organized into hierarchical structures that convey meaning (factual information in language and mainly emotional states in music). One difference that has attracted attention is the higher need for temporal resolution in language than in music and for spatial (pitch) resolution in music.

The linguist H. Schnelle emphasized the methodological problem of interdisciplinary theorizing: Our common aim is understanding language competence, but the way in which linguists, psychologists and neurologists present models and theories which explain the results of their empirical studies are basically different. Schnelle indicated how to translate formal linguistic structure representations into working model representations that are empirically plausible in a context of functional neuroscience. Such translations aim at an interdisciplinary meta-language for organisation processes in mind and brain, in which both functional neuroscientists and linguists represent their empirical results and check whether they correspond.

REPORT ON THE 20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

University of Liverpool, UK

“Promoting a Global Science Culture”

The anniversary conference was held appropriately, in the European Capital of Culture for 2008 – Liverpool.

Local organiser and member Ole Petersen and his wife Nina Burdokova, put together a wonderful and varied programme, hosted at the Sherrington complex, courtesy of the Vice Chancellor of the University – Howard Newby.



The relaxed ambiance was augmented by a captivating display of original artworks created by Anton Burdokova, who had driven over from Berlin to set up the display.

The anniversary theme was given a sparkling start with a keynote presentation on the history of the Academia Europaea, by the Founding President and newly installed honorary life president – **Arnold Burgen**. The new President – **Lars Walløe**, counterbalanced Arnold's historical views with his own future perspectives – no doubt we will hear more of these over the coming weeks, months and years.

Of the many highlights from the programme, this year we included a number of talks given by members elected in 2007. These were:

- Donald Bruce Dingwell MAE (University of Munich). “**Dance on a volcano: Experimental views of eruptive processes**”;
- Robert Zorec MAE (Ljubljana University). “**Fusion pore: An evolutionary invention of nucleated cells**”;

- o Angela Friederici MAE (Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig). **"Language in the developing and adult brain"**,
- o Caroline Humphrey MAE (University of Cambridge). **"The Future of Socio-Cultural Anthropology"**,
- o Danielle Jacquart MAE (Sorbonne, Paris). **"Medieval reading of Greek and Arabic texts: The health of slaves"**.

This 'tradition will continue into future years, with a dedicated 'new members' session already included into the Naples 09 programme.

We were also lucky this year to have a second 'Keynote' lecture, sponsored by the University as their 2008 Sherrington Lecture and included into our programme. Katsuhiko Mikoshiba (Riken Brain Science Institute, Japan) spoke on: **"The Role of Calcium Ions in Development, Brain Function and Disorders."**

This was followed by a special session held at the Liverpool Medical Institution, where Ian Gilmore (President of the Royal College of Physicians) chaired an evening session and working dinner entitled: **"Alcohol abuse and its consequences"**.

We were especially pleased this year to have sponsorship from the UK Medical Research Council, both for the 2008 ERASMUS Lecture and also for a session entitled "Health is Wealth and Wealth is Health, chaired by our Vice President Michael Marmot.



This session was linked to a major UK and international study programme on the social determinants of health and locally in Liverpool, to the "Health is Wealth Commission".

The final session of the meeting covered a fascinating topic that resonated strongly with Liverpool as a city. Peter Emmer (Leiden) chaired a round table debate on Liverpool's historical role in the international slave trade. Speakers included:

Pieter Emmer MAE, Richard Benjamin, Seymour Drescher (University of Pittsburgh), David Eltis (Emory University Atlanta), Olivier Pétré-Grenouilleau (Institut d'étude politique de Paris, France)

To cap all of this, the conference was perfectly brought to a close with a wonderful dinner, held at the new Liverpool Maritime Museum and Museum of Slavery, right on the point of embarkation of the many thousands who moved in and out of Liverpool in the earlier decades and centuries. – To my personal regret, no singing of any local pop favourites, or more colourful sea shanties was heard—even after a good dinner! Although, to mark the retirement of President Jürgen Mittelstrass, and Vice-president Denis Weaire, there was a degree of (prolonged) colourful speechmaking.

We are indebted to our all our sponsors that also included:



And



Who generously provided bursaries for the Burgen Scholars.

As always, the Erasmus Lecture and a range of papers from the programme will be published in the European Review. The programme, delegate lists and abstracts for the papers can be accessed from the meetings archive on our website, together with a range of photos taken over the week which can be downloaded.

For details on the
2009 Conference in Naples
see page 12

From top left to right:
Arnold Burgen receiving his Life president scroll from Jürgen Mittelstrass
Inge Jonsson (Wenner Gren Foundations) receiving the Gold Medal from the President Brian Heap introducing Lord Parekhs Prof. Fotis Kafatos
The President

Bottom left to right:
Prof. Lorna Casselton (Foreign Secretary of The Royal Society) receiving her membership from the President. Ole Petersen is in the background.
Lord Rees, President of The Royal Society Sherrington Lecturer- Katsuhiko Mikoshiba
2009 Erasmus Lecturer – Semir Zeki



Russian Prizes scheme 2008 – from Moscow

by Vladimir Skulachev

The scheme was launched in 1992 for young scientists and scholars in Russia, and now applies to young scholars under 33 years of age and with a publications record, from across the Federation. Since 1992, some 339 awards have been made

Past sponsors include: The International Science Foundation, New York (Soros); Amersham International, UK; the Rayne Foundation, London; and the Danish Physical Society. In previous years additional sponsors have been the Robert Koch Microbiological Society, Heidelberg; and Mr T Mann of Cleveland.

Current sponsors include: MAIK – Nauka Interperiodica and Rosbusinessbank

The award consists of a medal, a certificate and a cash award of US\$1000. These prizes are given at a dedicated ceremony in Moscow.

Prizes are awarded in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Earth Sciences, Medicine and Humanities.

The scheme is supervised by a committee of "Russian club" members of the Academia Europaea, led by the chair - Professor Vladimir Skulachev and including A.A. Bogdanov, V.B. Braginskij, M.O. Chudakova, G.P. Georgiev, I.I. Moiseev, A.M. Nikishin, V.A. Sadovnichij. Information about the scheme is advertised in appropriate

newspapers and in universities. Initial proposals are sifted by the committee and the best are sent to international experts for assessment. About 25 prize winners are selected each year.

The scheme is highly regarded and attracts substantial local publicity.

The 2008 laureates were:

Mathematics/Mechanics:

- **Denis I. Borisov**, 1978, Bashkir State Pedagogical University, "Elliptic operators with geometric, distant, non-self-adjoint and singular perturbations", Ufa

Physics:

- **Victor V. Braguta**, 1977, Institute for High Energy Physics, "The Study of leading twist light cone wave functions of 2S state charmonium mesons", Protvino
- **Innokenty I. Novikov**, 1979, Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute RAS, "Optical waveguides based on one- and two-dimensional photonic band crystals for the creation of the coherent and spontaneous radiation semiconductor sources", Saint-Petersburg
- **Vasily F. Sharipov**, 1983, Department of Physics, Saint Petersburg State University, "Anti-hydrogen atom and molecular systems containing it", Saint-Petersburg

Chemistry:

- **Pavel A. Abramov**, 1985, A.V. Nikolaev Institute of Inorganic Chemistry SB RAS, "New approaches to synthesis of chalcogenide clusters of transition metals", Novosibirsk
- **Artem L. Gushchin**, 1981, Nikolaev

Institute of Inorganic Chemistry SB RAS, "Synthesis and reactivity of novel chalcogenide clusters of tantalum, molybdenum and tungsten", Novosibirsk

- **Mikhail A. Kiskin**, 1980, N.S. Kurnakov Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry of RAS, "Magnetoactive manganese(II) and iron(II) polymeric pivalates: synthesis, structure, magnetic properties and chemical activity", Moscow
- **Ekaterina A. Mainicheva**, 1984, Nikolaev Institute of Inorganic Chemistry SB RAS, "Supramolecular adducts of polynuclear metal aqua complexes with macrocyclic organic cavitands cucurbit[n]urils", Novosibirsk
- **Ivan P. Pozdnyakov**, 1979, Institute of Chemical Kinetics and Combustion, "From photochemistry of model systems to photoprocesses in natural waters", Novosibirsk

Earth sciences:

- **Roman V. Veselovskiy**, 1980, Geology Faculty, Moscow State University, "Some aspects of the Siberian platform paleotectonics at the Late Proterozoic and the state of the geomagnetic field at the Paleozoic-Mesozoic boundary", Moscow
- **Elena A. Volkova**, 1978, Geology Faculty, Moscow State University, "Synthesis and properties of highly efficient oxide crystals for integrated optics of new generation", Moscow
- **Andrey V. Korsakov**, 1974, Institute of Geology and Mineralogy SB RAS, "Peculiarities of mineral-forming processes under ultrahigh-pressure metamorphism", Novosibirsk

Biology:

- **Marina V. Arkhipenko**, 1974, Moscow State University, "Role of protein-protein interactions in potexvirus genomic RNA translational activation", Moscow
- **Mikhail S. Klenov**, 1979, Institute of Molecular Genetics RAS, "Dissection of short RNA-mediated silencing of transposable elements in *Drosophila*", Moscow
- **Tatyana D. Kolesnikova**, 1978,



Professor Skulachev and the sponsors at the prizegiving

Institute of Cytology and Genetics SB RAS, "Study of functional significance of Drosophila melanogaster SUUR protein and its fragments", Novosibirsk

- **Sofya A. Kuznetsova**, 1974, Centre for Theoretical Problems in Physico-Chemical Pharmacology RAS, "A new generic method for the fluorescence "readout" of single redox enzymes activity", Moscow
- **Maria M. Kurshakova**, 1980, Institute of Gene Biology RAS, "Investigation of the novel transcriptional factor E(y)2", Moscow
- **Alexey A. Pakhomov**, 1982, Shemyakin-Ovchinnikov Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry RAS, "Chemical reactions of the chromophore synthesis within red fluorescent proteins", Moscow
- **Vladimir A. Trifonov**, 1974, Institute of Cytology and Genetics SB RAS, "Generation of painting probes by flow sorting and microdissection and their application in karyotype evolution studies", Novosibirsk
- **Yulii V. Shidlovskii**, 1979, Institute of Gene Biology RAS, "Studying of mechanism of action of novel transcription factors in higher eukaryotes", Moscow

Humanities:

- **Tatyana V. Bukina**, 1978, St. Petersburg University of Humanities and Social Sciences, "Reception studies and musicology in the epoch of postmodern: searching of compromise", Saint-Petersburg
- **Sergey V. Lyubichankovsky**, 1979, Volga Region's Branch of Institute of Russian History RAS, Orenburg State Pedagogical University, "The province administration and the problem of authority's crisis in the late-imperial Russia (on materials of Ural region, 1892-1914)", Orenburg

THE COUNCIL OF THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA WERE PLEASED TO AWARD A GOLD MEDAL

TO: The Wenner Gren Foundations, Stockholm. Sweden at the 2008 Annual conference in Liverpool



The medal is given: "in recognition of the sustained support that the Foundation

has given to European science and European scholarship over the past twenty years and including support given in furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Academia Europaea."



The Wenner-Gren Foundations (The Wenner-Gren Center Foundation for Scientific Research, The Axel Wenner-Gren Foundation for International Exchange of Scientists and The Foundation Wenner-Grenska Samfundet) support international scientific exchange. The Foundations have programs:

1. to supply guest apartments at the Wenner-Gren Center in Stockholm;
2. to award fellowships to Swedish researchers, who want to go abroad, and to guest scientists, who want to visit Sweden;
3. to support the invitation of foreign guest lecturers;
4. to organize international symposia;
- or
5. in other ways to support exchange of knowledge over the borders.

The medal was accepted on behalf of the Foundations by Prof. dr. Inge Jonsson MAE, Chairman of the Board of the Foundations.

EUROPEAN ACADEMIES' SCIENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (EASAC)

"Legislation urgently needed to protect Europe's threatened environmental life-support systems"

Is the banner headline of the latest press release for an EASAC publication.



This organisation of European

Academies of Sciences, undertakes collective high level expert analyses of the latest science that is relevant to our modern day societal issues. Reports are published, that seek to advise policymakers nationally and internationally and so to better promote a culture of sound and sustainable 'Evidence Based Policymaking' by the politicians.

The Academia Europaea was a founding member of EASAC and through the participation of Professors Brian Heap, Marie-Lise Chanin, Lars Walløe, Jan Vaagen and others in various working groups, we will continue to work with our sister national academies in this important

area of policy support work.



All reports can be accessed from the EASAC website www.easac.eu. We hold copies of the most recent report:

Number 9 – **"Ecosystem Services and biodiversity in Europe"** – contact the office to ask for one.

During March, two further reports will be published: "Multi drug resistant TB" and "Bulk electrical energy transmission in Europe".

Brian Heap and Lars Walløe would welcome any suggestions for consideration by the EASAC Council for topics suitable as new expert study reports and offers from members to act as experts to the study panels.

21st Annual Conference Risks, Environment and Sustainable Development Thursday 24 to Saturday 26 September 2009, Naples

All Sessions will be held in the Church of 'SS. Marcellino and Festo, Largo S. Marcellino 10, University Federico II see <http://www.panoramio.com/photo/750574> and <http://www.napoli.com/english/blog27.php#oct7> for images

The local coordinator: is Giuseppe De Natale (Naples) (pino@ov.ingv.it)

The programme group: Carmela Baffioni (Rome), Alessandro Cavalli (Pavia), Sierd Cloetingh (Amsterdam), Peter Day (Oxford) Luigia Santella (Naples) and Lars Walløe (Oslo) .

Provisional programme and timetable

Wednesday 23rd September - Pre-conference day

Available for Section meetings and/or "mini symposia". See the website for details or contact your section chair.

Thursday 24th September - Day 1

14.00 **Conference registration desk opens**

15.00-16.30 Annual Business meeting (Academia Europaea members only)

17.30 **Opening Session of the 21st Congress**

Welcome by the President and VIP(s)

2009 Awards:

Erasmus Medal 2009 to Carlo GINZBURG (see separate piece)

Presentation of the 2009 Burgen Scholars

Introduction of New Members of the Academia Europaea

19.00 **2009 ERASMUS LECTURE:** Carlo Ginzburg

Friday 25th September - Day 2

Session 1: Natural risks 1: interdisciplinary perspectives of science, art and literature

Speakers:

Heikki Solin MAE (Helsinki)

Michele Cometa (Palermo): "Visualizing the risks of nature: the visual culture of catastrophes"

Eleonora Pasotti (Santa Cruz, US): "Cities at risk: Naples, Bogota, Chicago"

Pierpaolo Petrone

Session 2: Natural Risks 2: Opportunities for science, energy and sustainable development

Speakers:

Pieter Nijkamp MAE (Amsterdam): "The economics of natural hazards"

Franco Barberi (Rome): "Volcanic risks"

Giuseppe De Natale MAE (Napoli)

John Ludden MAE (Nottingham): "Living with the earth: managing its natural hazards and resources"

Session 3: The risks of intellectual life: sciences, humanities and society in 18th-19th century Naples

Speakers:

Brendan Dooley (Bremen): "The trials of history in the age of Giannone"

Takashi Yamada (Tokyo) : "Notes on revolution and restoration: Cimarosa and changing one's tune"

Edvige Schettino (Naples): "The Disenchantment of Mermaids: cultural and existential risks of a working scientist in 19th Century Naples"

Session 4: Presentations by new members (elected in 2008)

Speakers:

Carmela Baffioni MAE (Napoli)

Karl-Heinz Glaßmeier MAE (Braunschweig): "Planetary magnetic fields"

Claudio Faccenna MAE (Roma Tre): "Origin and evolution of the Mediterranean"

Gerald Haug MAE (Zurich): "Climate and societies"

Saturday 26th September - Day 3

Session 5: Natural risks 3: the maritime environment

Speakers:

Paul Dayton

Enrico Bonatti

Session 6: The great migration waves: Naples, Europe and the World

Panel debate: speakers & discussants:

Horst Pietschmann (Hamburg): "Early migration in the Spanish empire (1500-1800) including Naples"

Leo Lucassen (Leiden): "The migrations of 19th and 20th century Italy, north and south"

J.L. Blussé (Leiden): "Migration in Asia"

Migration and the literary Imagination in the Twentieth Century

Elleke Boehmer (Oxford): "Great Britain"

Otmar Ette (Potsdam): "The Hispanic World"

Anke Gilleir: "Germany"

Followed by Closing remarks and lunch

Sunday 27th to Wednesday 30th

The Earth and Cosmic Sciences Section have arranged a Geological Excursion in the Napoli region.

Open to any interested participants. Details will be found on a separate AE events web page. Or contact Donald Dingwell, chair of the Earth Sciences Section dingwell@lmu.de

Conference announcement received

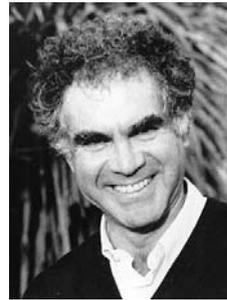
This is the 2nd Announcement for the 41st International Liège Colloquium on Ocean Dynamics hosted in University of Liège, Belgium.

Title: "**Science based management of the coastal waters**" Period: 4-9 May, 2009
<http://modb.oce.ulg.ac.be/colloquium/>

The 41st International Liege Colloquium on Ocean Dynamics will provide a forum to present and discuss recent scientific advances in the field of Integrated Coastal Zone Management, to compare the modelling and experimental approaches set up in various case studies and to identify the need for future developments. The emphasis will be particularly put on the understanding of the dynamics of coastal waters and on the development of appropriate tools and methodologies to address the issues of

- coastal oceanography;
- prevention and mitigation of coastal hazards and pollution (including coastal eutrophication);
- long term geomorphological changes;
- global changes in the coastal zone (including downscaling issues);
- operational oceanography and monitoring systems;
- social and economic aspects of ICZM multifunctionality and evaluation.

2009 ERASMUS Medallist and lecturer



The Council are pleased to announce that the award of the Erasmus Medal for 2009 will take place at the opening ceremony of our annual conference in Naples, in September

This year the award will be made to the internationally renowned historian

Carlo Ginzburg [Franklin D. Murphy
Professor of Italian renaissance Studies at UCLA]

Professor Ginzburg will also give the 2009 Erasmus lecture

Biography in brief: He was born in 1939 in Turin, Italy. He received a PhD from the University of Pisa in 1961. He has subsequently held teaching positions at the University of Bologna and at the University of California, Los Angeles (1988–2006); currently he teaches at the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa. His fields of interest range from the Italian Renaissance to early modern European History, with contributions to art history, literary studies, and the theory of historiography.

Bibliography

The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth Century Miller, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1980, ISBN 0-8018-4387-1. First published in Italian as *Il formaggio e i vermi*, 1976.

The Night Battles: Witchcraft and Agrarian Cults in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1983, ISBN 0-8018-4386-3. First published in Italian as *I benandanti*, 1966.

The Enigma of Piero, London, 1985 (revised edition, 2000), ISBN 0-86091-904-8.

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Ecstasies. Deciphering the Witches' Sabbath, New York, 1991, ISBN 0-226-29693-8. First published in Italian as *Storia notturna: Una decifrazione del Sabba*, 1989.

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History, Rhetoric, and Proof. The Menachem Stern Jerusalem Lectures, London and Hanover 1999, ISBN 0-87451-933-0.

Das Schwert und die Glühbirne. Eine neue Lektüre von Picassos Guernica, Frankfurt am Main 1999, ISBN 3-518-12103-0.

No Island is an Island. Four Glances at English Literature in a World Perspective, New York 2000, ISBN 0-231-11628-4.

Un dialogo, Milano, 2003.

Articles in *Past and Present*, *Annales*, *Quaderni storici*, *Rivista storica italiana*, *Critical Inquiry*, *Elementa* etc.

Latitude, Slaves and the Bible: An Experiment in Microhistory (PDF)
Online paper by Carlo Ginzberg.

REPORT on the 3rd International TOPO-EUROPE Workshop

**Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Roma
2nd–5th May, 2007**

Sierd Cloetingh, Earth & Cosmic Sciences

TOPO-EUROPE is the regional coordinating committee for Europe of the International Lithosphere Programme (ILP). Financial support to the TOPO-EUROPE preparatory workshops held in Budapest and Heidelberg, received from the Academia Europaea, the Klaus Tschira Foundation, the European Science Foundation (ESF), the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), the Eötvös Lorant University Budapest (ELTE), and the Netherlands Research Centre for Integrated Solid Earth Science (ISES), is gratefully acknowledged. TOPO-EUROPE has been selected by ESF as a EUROCORES programme in September 2006, with participation from 23 countries.

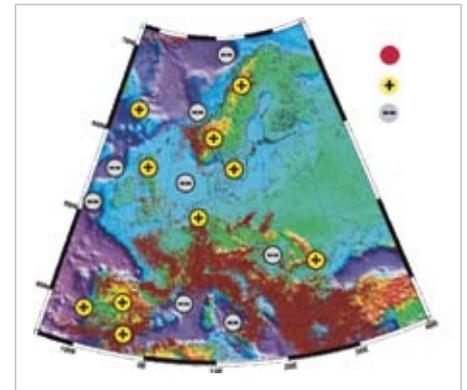
From 2nd till 5th May 2007 the 3rd TOPO-EUROPE Workshop took place at the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in Rome.

- 34 oral presentations were given.
- 32 posters were presented.
- 95 participants attended the

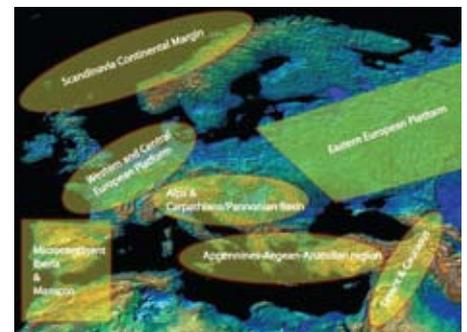
workshop, including a large number of members of the Earth and Cosmic Sciences section of Academia Europaea.

TOPO-EUROPE addresses the 4-D topographic evolution of the orogens and intra-plate regions of Europe through a multidisciplinary approach linking geology, geophysics, geodesy and geotechnology. TOPO-EUROPE integrates monitoring, imaging, reconstruction and modelling of the interplay between processes controlling continental topography and related natural hazards. Until now, research on neotectonics and related topography development of orogens and intra-plate regions has received little attention. TOPO-EUROPE initiates a number of novel studies on the quantification of rates of vertical motions, related tectonically controlled river evolution and land subsidence in carefully selected natural laboratories in Europe. From orogen through platform to continental margin, these natural laboratories include the Alps/Carpathians-Pannonian Basin System, the West and Central European Platform, the Apennines-Aegean-Anatolian region, the Iberian Peninsula, the Scandinavian Continental Margin, the East-European Platform, and the Caucasus-Levant area. TOPO-EUROPE integrates European research facilities and know-how essential to advance the understanding of the role of topography in Environmental Earth System Dynamics. The principal objective of the network is twofold.

Namely, to integrate national research programs into a common European network and, furthermore, to integrate activities among TOPO-EUROPE institutes and participants. Key objectives are to provide an interdisciplinary forum to share knowledge and information in the field of the neotectonic and topographic evolution of Europe, to promote and encourage multidisciplinary research on a truly European scale, to increase mobility of scientists and to train young scientists.



The image above is a seismicity map of Europe, illustrating present-day active intraplate deformation. Also shown are intraplate areas of Late Neogene uplift (circles with plus symbols) and subsidence (circles with minus symbols). Background elevation images are extracted from the ETOPO2 data set. Earthquake epicenters are from the NEIC data centre, and are shown as red dots. Inset map: Cenozoic rift system of Europe (after Dèzes et al., 2004).



The image above is an examples of natural laboratories selected for TOPO-EUROPE



Words spoken by G.L. Huxley

At the Inauguration of the Huxley-Whitaker Collection of Old Irish Texts and Editions in University College Dublin

It is kind of the organisers of this happy gathering to allow me to speak in English. I have no wish to cause you toe-curling embarrassment at my Saxon enunciation of Irish.

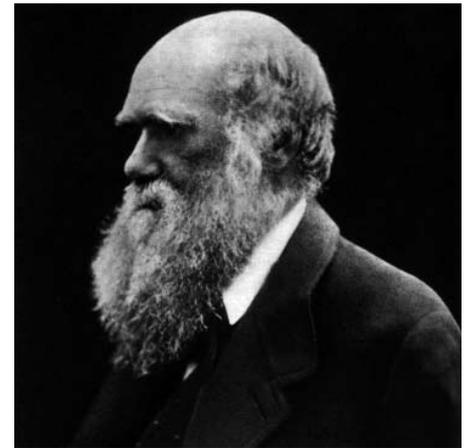
Some years ago in talking with my friend Professor Próinséas Ni Chatháin I suggested that an Old Irish Department deserved to have an Old Irish departmental library. Some funds were found and texts were from time to time purchased. They have now been impressively augmented by the addition of Dr. Whitaker's books. It is an honour indeed to have my name linked to his, since his wisdom is the fons et origo of much that has blessed Ireland in the last three decades or so. Purchases have been continued by Dr. Kelly, and I shall hope to find more money for books in future, although the decline of the United States dollar makes matters harder at present.

Old Irish is a vitally important subject – even if one subscribes to the notion that ‘importance is not important; facts are’. Old Irish studies, the more so when linked to archaeology, tell us whence we grow; to understand ourselves we have to understand our roots – that is true for me too, though I am at best a hypothetical Irishman. In an epoch of increasing social and ethnic diversity we need to think clearly about what it means nowadays to be Irish and to be European. Old Irish studies help us to ask the right questions and at least to suggest some answers. To look back far into the past enables us to see more deeply than do the exponents of Irish historical revisionism. It has been depressing to hear repetition of the fashionable remark that criticism of the revised Irish historiography is ‘nationalism with footnotes’.

The study of Old Irish is also a powerful component in Indo-European comparative philology. In the Royal Irish Academy some of us tried to foster Indo-European studies. I still hope that the long tradition of Irish scholars going to the continent and beyond to engage in philological study and exchanges will not die out. The example set by Whitley Stokes and Osborn Bergin and Myles Dillon and others deserves to be heeded.

Old Irish in University College Dublin is no longer an autonomous department, but I hope that the subject will keep an autonomous dignity. Perhaps the collection we now celebrate will strengthen the dignity. It is bewildering to me, in my senile obsolescence, that U.C.D. can afford to spend in one year 4.4 million euros on consultants but terminates a full final honours single subjects degree in Old Irish. The merit of learned, humane, subjects, even in an idolatrous world of the corporate image, is not to be measured by numbers of students. Let us bear in mind the precept given to the ruler in Audacht Morainn: *Is tre fir flathemon ro-saig cech dán mochtide mide suithe*. ‘It is through the justice of the ruler that every man of art attains the crown of knowledge’.

2009 is Darwin Year



The list of international events to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and his collected works are almost incalculable. But, a quick ‘Google search’ has come up with the following links and portals for members who may be interested:

www.darwin200.org/

<http://darwin-online.org.uk/2009.html>

www.darwinday.org/

www.nature.com/news/specials/darwin/index.html

Other specific notices we have recently received for ‘Darwin’ themed events include:

Das Symposium «Darwin in Science and Society» wird am 4. und 5.

September 2009 in Zürich stattfinden.

Weitere Informationen und das Anmeldeformular finden Sie ab sofort unter:

<http://darwin-symposium.swiss-academies.ch>

and in case anyone wants the counter-view?

<http://zenoferox.blogspot.com/2009/01/darwin-anti-celebration.html>

<http://creationontheweb.com/content/view/6263/>

2009 is also the year of Astronomy. Useful links can be found through: www.astronomy2009.co.uk/index.php/about-mainmenu-45

Section chairs & committee members (as at December 8th, 2008)

Section:	Chairperson:	Committee
A1. History & Archaeology		
	Pieter C. Emmer Leiden University Dept. of History, P O Box 9515 2300 RA Leiden THE NETHERLANDS p.c.emmer@let.leidenuniv.nl	Colin Renfrew Peer Vries Olivier Pétré- Grenouilleau Danielle Jacquart David Abulafia
A2. Classics & Oriental Studies		
	Heikki Solin Klassillisen Filologian Laitos Helsingin Yliopisto PL4, (Yliopistonkatu 3) FIN-00014, HelsinkiFINLAND heikki.solin@helsinki.fi	Margarethe Billerbeck I. Hijiya-Kirschneireit Tonio Hölscher Barbara Kellner- Heinkele Harm Pinkster
A3. Linguistic Studies		
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A4. Literary & Theatrical Studies		
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- **"SEX IN AN AGE OF TECHNOLOGICAL REPRODUCTION ICSI and Taboos"**. Carl Djerassi. Publication Date: September 5, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-299-22790-6 Univ. Wisconsin Press
- **"HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS" Conceptual Frameworks, Comparative Perspectives, Empirical Findings**. Ulrich Teichler: published by Sense Publishers, Rotterdam 2007.

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ERW 17.2 **IN PREPARATION**
Complexity (as a basic given in science – 12 articles)

ERW 17.3 **IN PREPARATION**
(Focus "Global Science" (papers by Burgen, Mittelstrass, Parekh, Kafatos, Markl, Fenstad)

Focus number of articles still to be determined) Health in Europe Criddle, Woodward, ...

Focus 5 papers on The European Slave Trade

ERW 17.4 Focus: "Darwin's legacy" (Bateson, Lachmann, Ruse – 8 papers anticipated)

Focus "diversification of higher education and the Academic Profession" – 8 to 10 papers

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OBITUARY

V. N. Constantinescu

It is with profound sadness that the Romanian Academy announced the passing away, on January 31 2009, of Professor Virgiliu N. Constantinescu, one of Romania's leading scientists and scholars, President of the Section of Technical Sciences of the Academy and its former President.

Virgiliu N. Constantinescu was born in 1931 in Bucharest, Romania. His distinguished career started with engineering studies at the Polytechnic Institute, Faculty of Mechanics, from which he graduated in 1952, as an aircraft engineer. He has received his PhD in aerodynamics and fluid mechanics at the Institute of Applied Mechanics of the Romanian Academy in 1956. In 1974 he was awarded the D. Sc. (doctor docent) title. He has been a professor at the Military Technical Academy of Romania and joined in 1954 the Faculty of the Polytechnic Institute in Bucharest where he became in Professor in 1971. His research and teaching at the Institute in Bucharest spanned 55 years and focused on fluid mechanics, aerodynamics, aircraft and rocket engineering, special materials and tribology.

Between 1990-1992 he was Rector of the Polytechnic Institute and President of the National Rectors Conference of Romania.

Virgiliu N. Constantinescu was a pioneer of applied mechanics, a founder of the gas lubrication field and has brought major contributions to fluid mechanics, tribology and aerodynamics. In 1969 and 1970 he was Visiting Scientist at Mechanical Technology Inc., Latham, New York, and in 1972-1974 Visiting Professor at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York. In 1993 he was visiting professor at the Université de Poitiers, and in 1994 was an Invited Professor at the Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Lyon. He has published 19 books, such as *Lubrifica_ia cu gaze* (1963), *Teoria*

lubrifica_iei turbulente (1965), *Tratatul de dinamica fluidelor* (1993), some of which have been translated in other languages, as a measure of their international impact (*Gas Lubrication*, published by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 1969; *Theory of turbulent lubrication*, translated into English by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and published by the U. S. Government Printing Office; or *Laminar Viscous Flow* published by Springer in 1995). His last book, *Dinamica fluidelor în regim turbulent* was published in 2008 at the Romanian Academy Printing House. He has published over 200 research articles in prestigious journals and had been awarded seven patents. He was the first President of the Romanian Space Agency and, up to his death, President of its Scientific Council.

Virgiliu Constantinescu was elected corresponding member of the Romanian Academy in November 1990 and full member of the Academy in December 1991. He was President of the Academy between 1994 and 1998.

Virgiliu N. Constantinescu has been elected a Member of the Académie Royale des Sciences, des Lettres and des Beaux-Arts de Belgique (membre associé), of the Academia Europaea, of the International Academy of Astronautics, of the World Academy of Arts and Sciences and has been awarded honorary degrees (Doctor honoris causa) of the Université de Poitiers (France), Université de Liège (Belgium), of the Polytechnic University of Cluj-Napoca, of The Technical University of Timisoara, of the University of Suceava and of the Military Technical Academy of Romania in Bucharest.

Virgiliu N. Constantinescu was awarded in 1995 the "Légion d'honneur of France (Officier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'honneur de France). In 2003 he was awarded the order of Leopold II (Grand Croix) of Belgium. He was a knight of the order of Marie de

Hongrie. For his scientific achievements, he was a recipient of the Gold Medal for Tribology (Great Britain 1996), of the Gustave Trasenster Medal of the Engineers of Belgium. In Romania he was distinguished with the Order of "Steaua României" (Mare Ofi_er).

Between 1997-2003 Virgiliu N. Constantinescu has been Romania's Ambassador to Belgium, where he represented with honor and brilliance our country, contributing to the integration of Romania in the European Union family.

In both his life and in his career, as Professor, Rector, President of the Romanian Academy and Ambassador, Virgiliu Constantinescu was known for his discretion, elegance and competence. His word was listened to and followed with respect.

The name of Virgiliu Nicolae Constantinescu will remain engraved with golden letters in the history of the Romanian Academy.

February 3, 2009

(Translated/adapted into English from the Romanian Academy Necrolog of V. N. Constantinescu and from the Obituary written by Acad. Ionel Haiduc, President of the Romanian Academy)

DECEASED MEMBERS

It is with great sorrow, that we record here the names of members of this Academy whose deaths were notified after the publication of the 2008 Directory.

Professor John Barron, London
April 1934 – August 2008

Professor Oscar Botto, CESMEO, Italy
July 1922 – August 2008

Professor Francesco Degrada, Milan
May 1940 – May 2005

Professor Manuel Fortes, Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon
October 1938 - 2007

Professor Claudio Gallico, Montova, Italy
December 1929 - 2006

Dr. Susan Hollán, Central Inst. of Hungarian National Blood Transfusion
October 1920 - October 2008

Professor Gerhard Neuweiler, Universität München, Germany
May 1935 – August 2008

Professor Olga Oleinik, Moscow State University
July 1925 - date unknown

Professor Wolfgang Osthoff, Würzburg, Germany
March 1927 – summer 2008

Professor Laurence Picken, Jesus College, Cambridge
July 1909 – March 2007

Professor Andrej Popov, St Petersburg
October 1939 - January, 2009

Professor Pierre Potier, Paris
August 1934 – date unknown

Professor Gilbert Reaney, University of California
January 1924 - March 2008

Professor Virgiliu. N. Constantinescu, Bucharest
March 1931 – January 2009

Future events**The following events are already planned for 2009**

All events can be found on the website at www.acadeuro.org.

Details can be requested from the office (admin@acadeuro.org) or by phone.

26-28 March. Turin. "Diversification of Higher Education and the Academic Profession" - an international symposium. Organised by Profs Alessandro Cavalli (Pavia) and Ulrich Teichler (Kassel). This is one of our 'HERCULES' group series (**H**igher Education, **R**esearch and **C**ULTure in **E**uropean **S**ociety) of symposia Organised by Profs Alessandro Cavalli (Pavia) and Ulrich Teichler (Kassel). The event is sponsored by the Compagnia di San Paolo

22 – 23 May, Venice. "**Basic Concepts in Science**". The third of the high-level workshop series exploring 'basic concepts', will take place in late spring 2009. The topic will be "Causality". The programme will be organised by prof. J. Mittelstrass, K. Mainzer and J. Deutsch.

June, 4 – 6. Helsinki. Symposium on "Constantine the African and his 'Liber Pantegni'. Europe's First Textbook of Medicine". Organisers: Prof. Matti Haltia (Physiology & Medicine Section), and Heikki Solin (Classics & Oriental Studies Section). Sponsored by the Academia Europaea 'New Initiatives Fund' and the Gyllenberg Foundation.

September, 24 – 26. Naples. 21st Annual conference. "Risks, Environment and Sustainable Development". Local organisers: Alessandro Cavalli, Guiseppe de Natale, Luigia Santella.

October, 15 – 17. Heidelberg. Earth and Cosmic Sciences Section workshop: "Topo-Europe: the Geoscience of Coupled Deep Earth Processes". Organiser, Prof. Sierd Cloetingh (Amsterdam). Sponsored by the Klaus Tschira Foundation.

November, 5 – 7. Stockholm. International workshop and symposium. "From Information to Knowledge: From Knowledge to Wisdom". One of the AE 'HERCULES' series of events. AE coordinator: Prof. Erik de Corte, Univ. Leuven. Sponsored by the Wenner Gren Foundations.

Events planned but without a fixed date or venue

'**Structuring the European Humanities**'. A policy workshop will look at the prospects for and practicalities of establishing a virtual European Institute for 'applied and conceptual Humanities research'. Date and venue to be agreed: organisers are Profs. J. Mittelstrass, D. Føllesdal and G. Stöck.



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