

# ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

## WROCLAW HUB



## Annual Report 2024



# INTRODUCTION

We are delighted to present the Annual Report of the Academia Europaea Wrocław Hub, offering a comprehensive overview of our center's activities and achievements over the past year. This report highlights the dedication and collaboration of our members, partners, and staff in advancing the mission of Academia Europaea.

Within these pages you'll find key milestones from our initiatives, projects and events, all aimed at fostering excellence in scholarship, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, and advancing knowledge across Europe and beyond.

One of the standout achievements of the year was the successful organization of the Building Bridges Conference 2024. This landmark event brought together distinguished scientists, researchers, and thought leaders from diverse fields, providing a dynamic platform for dialogue, partnership-building, and collaborative problem-solving. It underscored our role as a hub for addressing global challenges collectively.

Another major accomplishment was our progress in shaping the future of urban living through ongoing collaboration with the municipal government on the Smart City project. This initiative explores the integration of cutting-edge technology and innovative solutions to improve urban life while focusing on sustainability, efficiency, and inclusivity. By addressing regulatory barriers and embracing forward-thinking approaches, the project continues to pave the way for transformative urban development.

Additionally, our partnership with the Interdisciplinary Scientific Seminar (Interdyscyplinarne Seminarium Naukowe, ISN) has been particularly impactful. This collaboration has significantly enhanced opportunities for knowledge sharing and interdisciplinary engagement, reinforcing our commitment to fostering meaningful scientific dialogue.

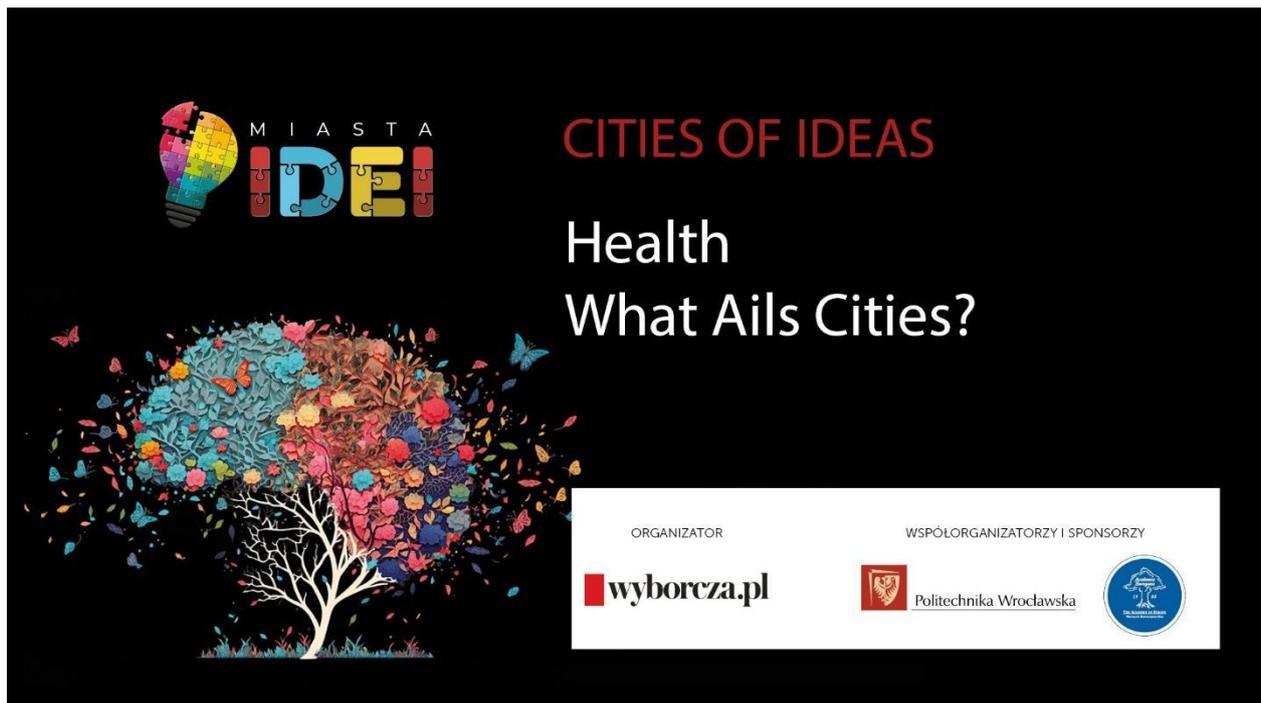
As part of Academia Europaea, the Wrocław Hub continues to leverage its vast network of leading experts from a range of disciplines. By hosting renowned scientists at Wrocław University of Science and Technology, we have created a vibrant environment for groundbreaking research and innovation, while encouraging dialogue that transcends traditional academic boundaries.

Reflecting on our achievements, we are inspired by the opportunities and challenges ahead. We remain committed to being a beacon of academic excellence and a driving force for positive change. This report not only celebrates the progress made but also sets the stage for an even brighter future in scholarship and innovation. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our success over the past year.



# Debate "Cities of Ideas" Health - What Ails Cities?

April 18, 2024



On April 18th, Wrocław University of Science and Technology held the third installment of the “Cities of Ideas” debate series. Participants discussed pressing urban issues such as light pollution, noise, smog, lack of access to green areas, urban heat islands, and positive and negative examples of spatial planning.

The debate hosted esteemed **Academia Europaea member, Professor Joanna Rymaszewska**, head of the Department of Clinical Neuroscience at the Faculty of Medicine of Wrocław University of Science and Technology. Professor Joanna Rymaszewska is a specialist psychiatrist, passionate about brain health and researches methods of neurostimulation in psychiatric disorders and holistic approach to the body. Every year, she organizes the Psychiatry – Interdisciplinary Dialogues conference in Wrocław. The remaining guests were

**Dr. Eng. Arch. Maciej Szarejko**, urban planner from the Faculty of Architecture at Wrocław University of Science and Technology, **Prof. Paweł Sienkiewicz** from the Poznań University of Life Sciences and **Krzysztof Smolnicki** – President of the EcoDevelopment Foundation, leader of the Lower Silesian Smog Alarm.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the issue of health back into public discourse as one of the key topics. Meanwhile, in cities, people suffer from diseases closely related to how our

metropolises are structured. Some of them are associated with pollution, which causes, among other things, lung diseases. Others are civilization-related diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, linked, for example, to lack of physical activity and stress. All of these subjects were discussed during the debate, during which the hosts, in addition to highlighting the issues, were endeavoring to identify available solutions.

The event is a part of the “Cities of Ideas” debate series and is organised as collaboration between the prominent Polish newspaper “Gazeta Wyborcza” and Wrocław University of Science and Technology.

Admission was free, but registration was required via the event’s website.



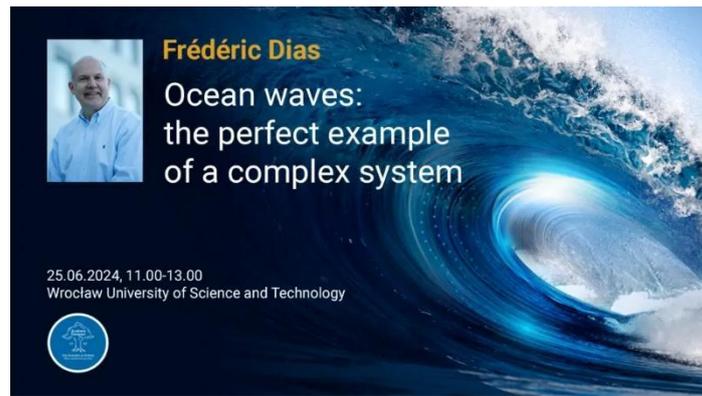
## Ocean Waves The Perfect Example of a Complex System

---

Hybrid Seminar featured by a Prof. Frédéric Dias, MAE

June 25, 2024

As part of a series of events on the topic of Smart Cities Academia Europaea Wrocław Knowledge Hub together with Science meets Social Science seminar invited scientists, scholars, and enthusiasts to an insightful seminar held by Professor Frédéric Dias focused on the mechanisms and dynamics of the natural forces that shape our planet.



The seminar examined the complexities of ocean waves, addressed the challenges they pose and highlighted innovative efforts to harness their energy, while underlying also the importance of local community involvement in ocean waves related projects. It was an interdisciplinary event, both in the selection of topics and the use of expert knowledge from diverse areas of science of building a wave observation station. Our special guest Professor Frederic Dias, is an Academia Europaea Member, affiliated with ENS Paris-Saclay and University College Dublin. He is a leader in hydrodynamics, focusing on extreme waves and wave measurement. The professor oversees the ENSPS/UCD wave group and has received four ERC grants.

### Short Abstract:

Scales in ocean waves range from the molecule size (of the order of the nanometre) to the size of the earth (several thousands of kilometres). In this talk, we will explore the complexity of this wide range of waves. We will describe the scientific challenges associated with the study of ocean waves and how a multidisciplinary approach is often the only way to move forward. Ocean waves can be both beneficial to society and damaging to infrastructures when they become highly energetic. We will focus on two particular topics: (i) Extracting the energy of ocean waves: why has it mostly failed so far? and (ii) Building our own wave observation station in a remote area on the west coast of Ireland: how involving the local community has played a vital role in shaping the success of the station.

Academia Europaea together with Radio Luz has also conducted an interview with Professor Frederic Dias, which was the first in a series of interviews/podcasts that Wrocław Hub is planning to carry out to create a platform for dialogue between the academic community and the general public.

**Organizers:** The seminar was organized jointly by Academia Europaea Wrocław Knowledge Hub and Science meets Social Science seminar.

**Venue:** Wrocław University of Science and Technology, 27 Wybrzeże Stanisława Wyspiańskiego Street, Building A-1, Room No. 241 Wrocław

# Science-Region Discussions SystemEU Climate Neutral, Smart Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change

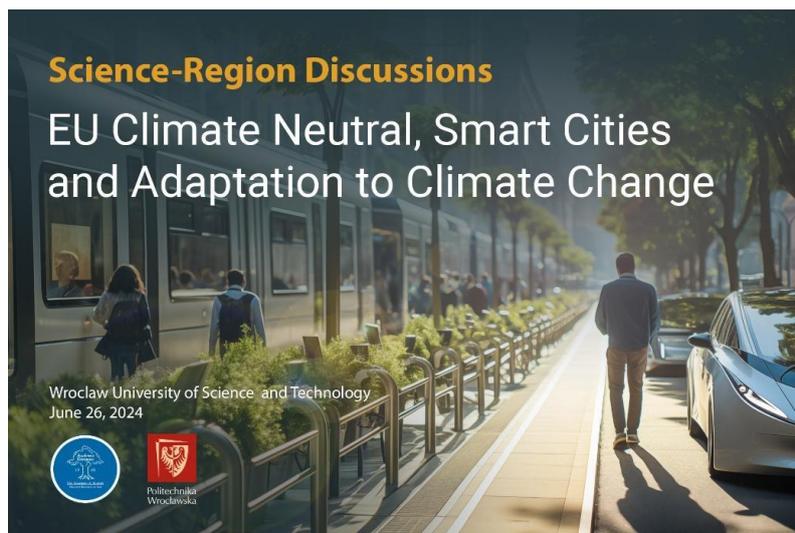
AE Wrocław Hub hosts the inaugural Smart City Debate Series

June 26, 2024

## Leading the Change: Wrocław in EU's 100 Climate-Neutral Cities by 2030

On June 26th, the Academia Europaea Wrocław Hub organized a roundtable debate Science-RegionDebate. The event brought together leading experts, planners, environmental scientists, community leaders and directors to discuss a strategic approach to urban development.

**Venue:** Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Building A1, Senat Old Hall, Wrocław



The aim of the meeting was to discuss how scientists could support Wrocław in its transformation into a smart and climate-neutral city. This initiative aligns with the EU Climate Neutral and Smart Cities mission, which aims to achieve climate neutrality in 100 cities by 2030 through the creation and implementation of Climate City Contracts with the participation of citizens and local stakeholders, as well as in adaptive strategies and building resilience in the context of the EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change.

## The discussions centered on the identification of the following themes:

- Identifying Strategic areas for green transformation requiring joint efforts by Science and the Region
- Identifying problems and gaps in regulations, hindering actions in the Area of Green Transformation
- The importance of collaboration between researchers, policymakers and the private sector

## Priority areas:

### Energy and Buildings:

- Thermal modernization of buildings
- Renewable Energy Sources (RES)
- Coal combustion in a combined heat and power plant

### Water and Infrastructure:

- Water (rainwater, surface water), water resources
- Water retention, rain gardens
- Hydrodynamic models (rainwater)
- Blue-green infrastructure

### Greenery and Environment:

- Monitoring urban greenery
- Greenery's response to climate change
- Quality of life (greenery)
- Estimating ecosystem services

### Education and Community:

- Social education
- Ethical code for graduates (responsible engineer, sustainable development)
- Local education
- Socially excluded individuals

### Funding and Projects:

- Funding adaptation actions
- LIFE projects, funds from the Marshal's Office, demonstrators, fast track
- Cascading grants, investments, green public procurement
- Theses commissioned by the city
- Oceans and Waters Mission
- Horizon-seed money

## Participants in the discussion panel included:

Wojciech Adamski – President of TBS Wrocław

Prof. Barbara Widera – Wrocław University of Science and Technology, member of the Mission Board of the EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change

Monika Pec-Święcicka – Deputy Director, Municipal Landscape Architect, Board of Urban Greenery, Wrocław City Hall

Ilona Ligocka – Department of Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change, Department of Climate Change Adaptation and Urban Policy

Magdalena Głogowska – National Contact Point for EU Missions, Global Challenges Section

Magdalena Okulowska – President of the Wrocław Agglomeration Development Agency

Tomasz Janoś – Director, Wrocław Academic Center

Prof. Rafał Weron – member of Academia Europaea, Wrocław University of Science and Technology

Dr. Anna Brdulak – Wrocław University of Science and Technology

Prof. Łukasz Sadowski – Wrocław University of Science and Technology

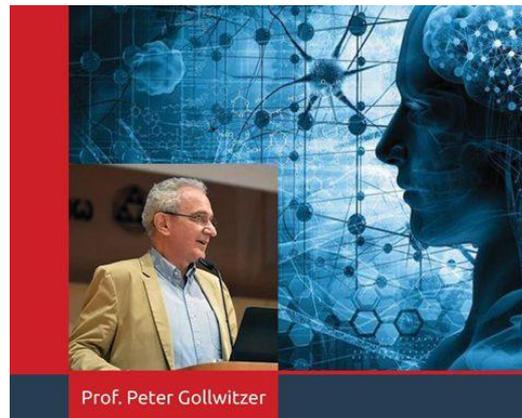


## Goals, mindsets and plans - Providing a context for social cognition

On-site seminar was featured by, Prof. Peter Gollwitzer, MAE

June 26, 2024

Venue: Wroclaw University of Science and Technology, Building H-14, Wroclaw



Wroclaw Hub has started a partnership with the Interdisciplinary Scientific Seminar (ISN) from WroclawTech, which has significantly enhanced the dissemination of expertise to a broader audience. The aim of this collaboration has been to extend the reach and impact of the seminars to diverse groups including students, doctoral candidates, researchers and individuals keen on expanding their knowledge.



On the 26th of June Prof. Peter Gollwitzer from New York University, Academia Europaea renowned member was a guest of the seminar organised by ISN at Wrocław University of Science and Technology. The speaker, Professor Peter M. Gollwitzer, famous for his work at prestigious academic institutions in the US and Germany, including the Max Planck Institute for Psychological Research, shared his insights on effective self-regulation of thought, affect, and action.

Professor Gollwitzer's research spans various methodologies, from laboratory studies using cognitive tasks and neuro-physiological measures (EEG, fMRI, MEG) to field experiments and intervention studies with clinical samples, such as children with ADHD, stroke patients, and individuals suffering from addictions or anxiety disorders. Throughout his career, he has developed several influential models of self-



regulation, including the Theory of Symbolic Self-Completion, the Rubicon Model of Action Phases, the Auto-motive Model of Goal Striving, the Mindset Theory of Action Phases, and the Theory of Planning with implementation intentions (if-then plans).

The lecture focused on these models and their applications in understanding social cognition, providing attendees with a comprehensive context for how goals, mindsets, and plans influence behavior and thought processes.



## Science-Region Discussions Competitions for Sustainable Development 2025

Driving a Better Future: Collaborative Initiatives for Wrocław

October 14 and November 05, 2024

**Venue:** Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Building H-14, Wrocław

AE Wrocław Hub continued its commitment to fostering smart city development by hosting other insightful events, dedicating the meeting to innovative projects under the Horizon Europe Program.



On the 5<sup>th</sup> of November an important meeting focused on the future of Wrocław was held in the Dean's Hall of WrocławTech in the Building H-14. Scientists and city representatives met to discuss joint projects aimed at contributing to the sustainable development of the city.

The event, titled "**Science-City: Competitions for Sustainable Development 2025**", provided an opportunity to present innovative concepts across key areas:

### New European Bauhaus

- Utilizing modern construction solutions to increase access to affordable housing.
- Exploring bio-fabricated materials for sustainable and aesthetically pleasing buildings.

### Driving Urban Transition

- Integrating green energy solutions and circular economy practices into urban infrastructure.

### Innovative Cities

- Developing projects to enhance residents' quality of life and promote environmental sustainability.

Detailed project proposals developed from prior work were presented during this meeting. Experts from various fields had the chance to discuss and formulate a shared vision for the development of Wrocław. The aim of the event was to establish a consortium responsible for preparing and submitting a joint project proposal under the **Horizon Europe** program. That action could allow Wrocław to secure funding for ambitious initiatives that would enhance the quality of life for residents and strengthen the city's position as a leader in sustainable development.

## Innovation Through Diversity: Prof. Norihisa Miki

Interdisciplinary Scientific Seminars Series

November 5, 2024

How to innovate in micro- and nanotechnology? What solutions are used in the design of an artificial kidney? As part of the Interdisciplinary Scientific Seminar Series Prof. Norihisa Miki from Keio University discussed those topics during his lecture at Wrocław University of Science and Technology.



**Prof. Norihisa Miki** is an expert in MEMS technology. His scientific interests focus on the design of biomedical devices based on microelectromechanical systems. He also works in the fields of medical engineering, neuroscience, and media arts. He leads a laboratory in the Faculty of Science and Technology



at Keio University, where innovative devices are being developed that integrate the human body with machines, taking into account not only all human senses but also virtual reality and cognitive sciences.

Prof. Norihisa Miki's team works closely with the medical community to design devices, including transplantable artificial organs and advanced diagnostic systems. He is also involved in education on entrepreneurship, sharing his own experience in founding a healthcare startup. Additionally, he is the president of the university's ice skating club (Keio Ice Skating Club).

Interdisciplinary Scientific Seminars is a series aimed at a wide audience—students, doctoral candidates, researchers, and anyone interested in expanding their knowledge. Wrocław University of Science and Technology regularly hosts experts from various fields who are eager to share the results of their research.

Admission was free, but prior registration was required.

**Venue:** Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Congress Centre ( Building D-20), 8 Janiszewskiego St., Wrocław

## The Role of Transfers in Creating Literary Fields and Trends in Humanities in Central and Eastern Europe from 19th c. to the Present

---

Collaborative event with University of Wrocław

November 18-19, 2024

Uniwersytet  
Wrocławski



The conference focused on exploring the literatures and cultures of Central and Eastern Europe through a postcolonial perspective, particularly examining the region's complex relationship with European modernity and the coloniality of power embedded within it. Hosted by the Postdependence Studies Centre, the 2024 annual conference emphasized the essential differences in historical and cultural experiences of Central and Eastern Europe compared to colonial regions of European empires, while considering shared frameworks of coloniality.

The main theme of the conference was cultural transfers and their significant role in shaping literary fields, critical schools, and academic discourses from the 19th to the 21st centuries. Key topics included the



influence of political and social contexts on the strategies and politics of these transfers, the role of translation in the development of literary languages and forms, and the dynamics of hegemony and resistance reflected in such exchanges. By examining the politics of translation, the conference attempted to analyze patterns of cultural influence and domination, the role of institutions in shaping literary and intellectual transfers, and the interplay between globalized and localized cultural dynamics.

The conference also investigated the inequality in cultural transfers affecting Central and Eastern Europe, exploring how hegemonies and cultural politics manifest in literary and academic exchanges. Discussions addressed topics such as world literature models, the decolonizing potential of cultural transfers, translation as a practice of inclusivity and intercultural dialogue, and the challenges posed by untranslatability of specific cultural and linguistic contexts.

**Venue:** Institute of Polish Philology UWr, plac Nankiera 15b, 50-996 Wrocław

## Wrocław

# Towards development of mediatization research VIII – Mediatization(s) Conversations of Theories, Concepts and Traditions

---

The on-line workshop led by Professor Carlos A. Scolari of Pompeu Fabra University, MAE

### November 22, 2024

The 2024 workshop, titled "**Mediatization(s). Conversations of Theories, Concepts, and Traditions**," focused on interdisciplinary approaches to mediatization studies, emphasizing emerging themes such as cognitive science integration, eco-evolutionary perspectives, and global frameworks. Participants explored the transfer of theories and concepts into mediatization studies, addressing challenges like theoretical flexibility, methodological innovation, and the field's boundaries and limitations.

This year's workshop prioritized collaborative discussions, providing participants with the opportunity to refine their research materials under the expert guidance of Professor Scolari. Materials, including drafts, proposals, and works in progress, were shared in advance to ensure thorough preparation by all participants. The format emphasized group discussions and expert feedback over formal presentations, fostering an interactive and supportive environment for critical exploration of mediatization-related topics.

#### Key themes of the workshop included:

- The transfer and integration of schools, traditions, and concepts into mediatization studies.
- Methodological and conceptual innovations within the field.
- Addressing theoretical flexibility vs. inflexibility and clashes of ideas.
- Non-obviousness and uncovering overlooked areas in mediatization studies.
- Defining and challenging the boundaries of the field.

The workshop began with an introductory lecture by Professor Scolari and continued with group discussions that focused on deepening understanding and advancing individual research projects. It provided a platform for mediatization scholars to engage in focused, collaborative dialogue while



benefiting from expert guidance and peer feedback.

### Partners:

Institute of Social Communication and Media Studies  
 Department of Mediatization of Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin  
 Wrocław Academic Centre  
 Academia Europaea Wrocław Knowledge Hub



## **Building Bridges 2024**

### The 35th Annual Conference of Academia Europaea (AE) and the meeting of Young Academy of Europe (YAE) in Wrocław, Poland

---

November 26-28, 2024

**Venue:** Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Wrocław, Poland



In 2024 Academia Europaea Wrocław Hub hosted Academia Europaea's annual conference, Building Bridges. Members of Academia Europaea had the pleasure to rejoin and welcome new Members of Academia Europaea.

Participants had also the opportunity to enjoy an exciting and rich programme, featuring distinguished Members of Academia Europaea from Europe and beyond, sharing insights, innovations, and perspectives across various disciplines. From groundbreaking research to interdisciplinary dialogues, the programme was designed to inspire and challenge, providing an engaging



platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

The plenary lectures were given by the most famous academic authorities, like: Professor Emmanuelle Charpentier, Professor Mónica Bello, Professor Yvonne Buckley, Professor Heino Falcke, Professor Willerslev Eske, Professor Stephen Evans, Professor Ambrogio Fasoli, Professor Elżbieta Frąckowiak, Professor Helen Kennedy, Professor Michele Lamont, Professor Shalom Lappin, Professor Samuel Lieu, Professor Rubina Raja, Professor Edyta Roszko, Professor Piotr Sztompka, Professor Willerslev Eske.



### Event Key Insights:

Here are some of the standout moments and event key insights from the event:

#### Day 1: Exploring the Concept of Heritage Monday, November 25

The conference began with a half-day roundtable discussion on the evolving concept of heritage. This session, co-hosted with the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences and the International Union of Academies, set the tone for the event, emphasizing the importance of cultural and intellectual heritage in shaping global solutions.

#### Day 2: Sustainability and Collaborative Leadership Tuesday, November 26

The second day saw a full schedule of insightful lectures, panels, and networking opportunities. Sustainability centered around the theme: “What do we have to do next? And what clever things will we have to do after that?” In his lecture Professor Steve Evans of Wolfson College, Cambridge engaged local high school students with thought-provoking ideas about sustainability, inspiring the next generation to tackle global challenges.

The day also featured a warm welcome by Marja Makarow, President of Academia Europaea, and Arkadiusz Wójs, Director of the Wrocław Hub. Their remarks celebrated the collaboration and

camaraderie that define the Building Bridges series.

### Day 3: Scientific Excellence and Groundbreaking Ideas Wednesday, November 27

The conference shifted focus to groundbreaking scientific advancements. Highlights included:

Heino Falcke, the renowned astroparticle physicist, shared his experience of capturing the first-ever image of a black hole, offering a glimpse into the possibilities of scientific discovery.

Verena Winiwarter explored the historical shifts in energy use and the lessons they offer for modern energy policy and the transition to sustainable systems.

Nobel laureate Emmanuelle Charpentier captivated attendees with her insights on transformative innovations and the role of science in addressing societal challenges.

Ambrogio Fasoli shared his extensive expertise and vision on fusion energy as a transformative solution for future base-load electricity production.

The plenary session featured also a lecture on “Art & Science” by Monica Bello, who fosters collaboration between artists and scientists, exploring how these interactions inspire innovation and creative perspectives in both disciplines.

The day also celebrated the achievements of Jacek Kolanowski, winner of the 2024 YAE André Mischke Prize for Science and Policy, for his work on trans-sectoral engagement in research.

Additionally, Yvonne Buckley, an ecologist and zoology professor, examined how climate action and land use impact biodiversity, offering critical perspectives for policymakers and researchers alike, Eske Willerslev explored the processes shaping human genetic diversity, distribution, and disease load, drawing from his extensive research in ecology, evolution, and ancient DNA. Besides, Botond Roska in his lecture “Restoring Vision,” highlighting his groundbreaking research on neuronal networks in the retina, thalamus, and cortex.

### Day 4: Future-Focused Panels and Inclusive Dialogues Thursday, November 28

The final day was packed with forward-looking discussions, focusing on creating smart, inclusive, climate-neutral urban spaces and building a fair, inclusive digital society.

Katarzyna Chojnacka shared strategies for fostering resilient urban development.

Helen Kennedy tackled the pressing question of what makes a good digital society, emphasizing inclusivity and fairness. Samuel Lieu lectured on “Between Rome and China – Christianity and Manichaeism on the Silk Road, while Shalom Lappin explored the application of probabilistic methods and machine learning to syntax, semantics, and language acquisition.

Other plenary sessions featured: Rubina Raja on the historiography of urban archaeology in the MENA



region; Piotr Sztompka on the return to classical sociology and moral visions of society; Edyta Roszko on freshwater access and Austronesian ethnography; Jürgen Kocka on industrial culture and bourgeois society and Michèle Lamont on group boundaries, inequality, and fostering resilience

The closing class chair session, “Sciences and Scholarship in the Face of the Future,” brought together experts to discuss how cross-disciplinary collaboration can drive sustainable, equitable progress.

## YAE Participation

The Young Academy of Europe (YAE) had also a very important role in Building Bridges, particularly in advocating for early- and mid-career researchers. Katalin Solymosi, Chair of the YAE session, introduced an exciting mix of science policy discussions and interdisciplinary presentations.

Some sessions discussed the issues of organisations supporting early-career researchers, such as Academia Iuvenum and the Polish Young Academy. These groups play a vital role in mentoring young scientists and advocating for greater participation in science policy.

As Solymosi explained it, “By connecting younger researchers with broader academic and societal contexts, we can empower the next generation to lead the way in scientific discovery and innovation.”

This year’s Building Bridges conference offered not just a showcase of cutting-edge research but also a forum for collaboration and exchange. From space and time to genomics, energy, and biodiversity, the event had a wide-ranging programme with opportunities to engage, connect, and contribute to global solutions.



The sessions were video-recorded and streamed. The video is available here:

[Conference Building Bridges – Video Recording](#)

Detailed Programme:

[Building Bridges 2024 Programme](#)



# Academia Europaea Wroclaw Hub

15 Na Grobli Street Building L-1 room 343  
Wroclaw , PL

