



*distinction with scholarship*

# the tree

Issue 20—March 2005

## The Architecture of Man in Nature

Potsdam 22 – 24 September 2005

Registrations are invited to participate in the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual conference of the Academia Europaea.

The opening ceremony and pre-conference events will take place on 22 September at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy, in Berlin.

**The Council are honoured that Professor Pierre Lena, the noted astrophysicist of the Observatoire de Paris at Meudon, has agreed to accept the award of the Erasmus medal of the Academia Europaea, and will deliver the 2005 Erasmus lecture during the opening ceremony.**

The main conference programme will be held on the historically significant Telegrafenberg site in Potsdam.

2005 is the International year of Physics; the International year of Planet Earth and also marks the celebration of Einstein as scientist, philosopher and humanist.

The Academia is honoured to be the guest of the GeoForschungsZentrum (GFZ), located at the Einstein Science Park in Potsdam – scene of some of Einstein's seminal works and the historical heart of European Geophysics.

The local organising group of: Prof. Dr. Rolf Emmermann, Jürgen Mittelstrass, Sierd Cloetingh, Heinz Duddeck, Jürgen Ehlers, Karl Fuchs, Detlev Ganten, Gotthilf Hempel, Reinhard



Hüttl and Joachim Treusch, have put together a challenging, multidisciplinary programme that is focussed on four sessions:

- **The Impact of Einstein on European Science and Culture**
- **System Earth – A view from the outside**
- **System man – Communities**
- **System man – Individuals**

All members will have received a mailing of the draft programme. The website ([www.acadeuro.org](http://www.acadeuro.org)) contains registration forms and the latest information on programme and accompanying events. The conference is open to non-members of the Academy.

This year there will also be public lecture, by Professor Jean Paul Poirier (Paris) assessing the impact of the Lisbon Earthquake on European science and culture. This will be accompanied by a concert by Professor Frank Scherbaum (Potsdam) interpreting "the Earth as a musical instrument".

Main conference speakers include:

Bernard Schutz (Gölm), Martin Rees (Cambridge), Jürgen Renn (Berlin), Hans Küng (Tübingen), Rolf Emmermann (Potsdam), André Brack (Orleans), André Berger (Louvain), John Ludden (Nancy), Colin Renfrew (Cambridge), Richard Sennet (London), Frauke Kraas (Köln), Christian Lehman (Erfurt), Antoine Compagnon (Columbia), Johannes Siegrist (Düsseldorf), Carl Gethmann (Duisberg-Essen), Jean Pierre Changeux (Paris), Luigi Cavalli-Sforza (Stanford, USA).

# Editorial



2004 was a busy year in the life of our Academy, culminating in the Annual Meeting in Helsinki. The Academy has intensified its scientific life, and it has also come much closer to reach its aim of playing a significant role in European science policy.

Among the scientific events there was a workshop on Brain Plasticity (in cooperation with the Tschira Foundation in Heidelberg), and several other workshops, for instance on Risk (in Brussels), on Post Colonial Literature (in Helsinki), on Islamic Art in the Periphery of Europe (in Berlin) and on the Role of the Humanities in Europe (with the Royal Belgian Academies and the ESF in Brussels). In January

this year we have held our first workshop in the series on Basic Ideas in Science (in London); its theme was mirror-symmetry.

Regarding matters of science policy, let me refer once again to our Statement on the Role of the Humanities in European Research Policy, and repeated participation in many events of the European Commission. For instance, the Liege meeting on The Europe of Knowledge 2020, the ESOF meeting in Stockholm (with a workshop organised by us, on Moral Challenges to Science), and the active involvement in the Forum on University – Based Research, set up by the European Commission. Subsequent to our Annual Meeting in Helsinki, we held a meeting with the Estonian Academy of Science in Tallinn. Our advocacy in favour of a European Research Council also seems to bear fruit.

We are still concerned that some sections are hardly active at all, both in terms of nominations for membership and events. The New Initiatives Fund, recently significantly increased, should be an incentive for all Sections to develop scientific activities, and thus to increase the highly desirable visibility of the Academy. Concerning elections, the new chair of the nominations committee -Ole Petersen, has called together all Section chairs to discuss candidates and the process for the coming year. Members should press their committees on what they are doing on their behalf!

I wish all members a happy new year and hope to see many of you at our Annual Meeting in Berlin and Potsdam!

# Europe in Change

**September 2 – 4, 2004**

THE beautiful, northern city of Helsinki played host to a highly successful, 16<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Academy. Some 200 plus members and guest participants, started the conference in style, with an opening ceremony held in the grand hall of the University of Helsinki, in Senate Square – the heart of the city. Speeches were made by the President (Mittelstrass), the Rector of the University (Ilkka Niiniluoto) and representatives of the two leading Finnish Academies (Matti Klinge of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters) and Simo Knuutila (Finnish Academy of Sciences and Letters). Mirja Arajärvi represented the Finnish Ministry of Education

20 new members of the Academy were welcomed and signed the roll of honour. Once again we were pleased that Professor Arnold Burgen was present to hand out the Burgen Scholarships to the ten young scholars who had been nominated by our members in Finland. Once again the Cambridge University Press kindly supported these scholarships with the provision of individual book prizes.

The event provided an opportunity to honour Dr h.c. Klaus Tschira with a Gold medal of the Academy. This award is made infrequently and in recognition of a non-member's sustained contribution and efforts in supporting European scholarship. The Klaus Tschira Foundation ([www.ktf.villa-bosch.de](http://www.ktf.villa-bosch.de)), based at the Villa Bosch in Heidelberg,

is a focus of research and of multidisciplinary support to the sciences and culture across Europe. Dr Tschira has been a friend to the Academy over a number of years and is internationally recognised for his personal support of science education.

With typical Finnish efficiency, our local organiser Heikki Solin and his team provided a challenging programme, both intellectual and social, and keeping it in the family, the participants were treated to an evening of superb music at the Cathedral where a selection of spiritual pieces by Montverde, were performed and featured Heikki's son, Lauri Solin, as the bass vocalist.



The President and Heikki Solin (local organiser)

This year we were honoured to welcome Professor Stig Strömholt (Uppsala), as recipient of the 2004 Erasmus medal. The award recognised his long and internationally distinguished contributions to scholarship in the Law. Professor Strömholt gave the 2004 Erasmus lecture entitled: 'Identity in change: Is it a European Dilemma?' The lecture will be published in a forthcoming issue of our journal *The European Review*.

As with all our events; the abstracts, speaker profiles and other programme information for the annual conference are archived on our website, where they can be viewed.

We would like to thank the sponsors of our conference. In particular, the rector and authorities of the University of Helsinki, the Lord Mayor and city authorities of the City of Helsinki, the Finnish Cultural Foundation, the Finnish Academy of Sciences and Letters and the Society of Science and Letters; The Society of Swedish Literature in Finland, the Ministry of Education and finally Nokia.

Programme sessions and speakers included:

#### **The shaping of Europe**

Chair: Sierd Cloetingh (Amsterdam)

- Plate tectonic changes and the shaping of the European continent: Past, present and future. *Trond Torsvik (Trondheim)*
- Glacial and interglacial climate variability: How do they compare? What are the implications for the future? *Jean-Claude Duplessy (Gif-sur-Yvette)*
- Biodiversity in European fragmented landscapes. *Ilkka Hanski (Helsinki)*
- European populations and the post genome era. *Leena Peltonen-Palotie (Helsinki)*  
New member paper: Heavy metals for the benefit of Europe. Jan Reedijk (Leiden)

#### **Turning points in European culture**

Chair: Ilkka Niiniluoto (Helsinki)

- The emergence of justification in ethics. *Dagfinn Føllesdal (Oslo)*
- On long-term change in the dominance relations of



Rector Niiniluoto addressing the assembly



The Treasurer Peter Day reading the citation for the 2004 Erasmus Medal



The Great Hall of the  
University of Helsinki – venue  
of the opening ceremony



Stig Strömholm receiving the  
2004 Erasmus Medal from the  
President

European languages. *Jan Svartvik (Lund)*

- History – changing the forms or forming the changes? *Svend Erik Larsen (Aarhus)*

- The Birth of Music out of the Spirit of Language: Constellations in the European Musical Firmament around 1600. *Ulrich Konrad (Würzburg)*

### **Is there a common European society?**

Chair: Stig Strömholm (Uppsala)

- Social and economic change and health in Europe East and West *Michael Marmot (London)*

- How distinct is the Nordic welfare model? *Matti Heikkilä (Helsinki)*

- The problem of a political identity of the Europeans *Furio Cerutti (Firenze)*

New Members paper : Islam and Christianity: A Mutual Intellectual Challenge *Heikki Räisänen (Helsinki)*

### **Building a Europe of networks**

Chair: Denis Weaire (Dublin)

- From analogue to digital – convergence and divergence *Yrjö Neuvo (Espoo)*

- The architecture of complexity: From the topology of the WWW to the cell's genetic networks *Albert-László Barabási (Notre Dame)*

- Market driven energy supply with growing shares of nuclear energy and biomass *Pekka Pirilä (Helsinki)*

- Innovation networks for complex technologies in complex societies *Felix Reed-Tsochas (Oxford)*

- Research Networks in Europe – Building collaboration in the enlarged Europe *Francesco Fedi (President of COST)*.



Dr Klaus Tschira receiving the Gold Medal of the Academy from the President

**Don't forget:** registrations for this year's conference in Berlin-Potsdam are now open. Put the date into your diaries 22 –24 September. Please come and celebrate the 'International Year of Physics', 'Einstein year' and the 'Year of Planet Earth', with fellow members of your Academy. See [www.acadeuro.org](http://www.acadeuro.org) for programme and registration details.



Some of the new members receiving their certificates – 2004

# Burgen Scholars, 2004



PRESENTED at the opening ceremony of the annual conference in Helsinki. This year, Burgen scholars provided both static posters of their research and also gave 10 minute “mini-papers”.

Awards went to:

- Dr Taija Finni (University of Jyväskylä) – Human Physiology
- Dr Petri Helo (University of Vaasa) – Economics
- Dr Mika Hirvensalo (University of Turku) – Mathematics
- Dr Ilkka Huhtra (University of Helsinki) – Church History
- Dr Ari Hytyinen (Helsinki University of Economics)  
– Economics
- Dr Janne Lahtinen (Helsinki University of Technology)  
– Satellite technology
- Dr Matti Miestamo (University of Helsinki) – Linguistics
- Dr Jouni Rättyä (University of Joensuu) – Mathematics
- Dr Kirsi Salonen (University of Tampere) – Medieval History
- Dr Sanna Sundqvist (University of Lappeenranta) –  
Production technology

## Opportunity for Funding

**ALL members** are eligible to apply for support to the “new initiatives fund” The Board are pleased to bring to members’ attention, the availability of limited financial support for activities and initiatives that support the aims of the Academy. Proposals should be made in line with the guidelines that are published below.

[Guidelines for proposals to the “new Initiatives” fund \(approved by the Board January 2005\)](#)

### Conditions

- The Board makes decisions on applications and their decision will be final.
- Applications can be submitted to the Secretariat office in London at any time and will be considered at the next available Board meeting, after receipt.
- All applications will be acknowledged.
- Applications may be made electronically, but a signed and dated copy of the proposal should also be sent by mail.
- Applications will only be considered where these are submitted by a member of the Academia. The proposing member will be held responsible for execution of the grant, if awarded.
- Applications for grants may be made by individual members, by collective groups of members, including by the Section Committees.
- There is no prescribed format for applications, but the case should be clear and contain enough information to allow the Board to make a decision. Any financial requests should be justified, as part of the proposal.
- The Board reserves the right to seek advice on any proposal received and to consult with the appropriate Section Committees where necessary.
- An upper-limit on grants will apply. This limit will be set by the Board and reviewed on an annual basis.

### Scope of the awards

- 1). Proposals should be for small amounts (a maximum of 5k euros (for 2005), smaller amounts may be given preference).
- 2). The intention is to provide limited, seed corn money, that would be used to deliver the mission of the Academia;

- Support planning meetings or exploratory workshops that would lead to major events attracting significant external finance.
- To finance smaller, more specialist events with limited but high-level participation. These could be “in-house” events.
- To support regional meetings and cross-disciplinary meetings of members within a single country.

- 3). Proposals for initiatives other than meetings will be welcome. For example, proposals for small scale studies, scholarly publications under the Academia name, or other initiatives that would help to raise the profile of the Academia, and to meet our charitable objectives.

### Reporting

The proposer of the application will be required to submit a report and financial statement on the use of the grant. within three months of the completion of the event/activity All support will be acknowledged in publicity materials and in any publications that may arise from the activity.

**Activities will be announced through the website and a report should be suitable for publication in the Academia newsletter “The Tree” and on the website.**

# Brief Report on a Literary and Theatrical Studies Colloquium

## Held as a pre-meeting to the Academia Europaea Helsinki General Meeting of 2-4 September 2004.

Theo D'haen, Leuven and Leiden Universities

ON 1 September 2004, in the margin of the AE annual General Meeting, the AE Literary and Theatrical Studies Section organized a colloquium on "What the Postcolonial Means to Us: European Literature(s) and Postcolonialism." The Chair of the Section concerned, Theo D'haen, from Leuven (Louvain) and Leiden (Leyden) Universities, acted as over-all convener, with Clas Zilliacus from Abo Academy, and Heikki Solin, University of Helsinki, general organizer of the Helsinki General Meeting, and his team providing on site back-up. Over the day, in four sessions, and in the order that follows, the following topics were addressed.

In "The Case of the Missing Empire, or The Continuing Relevance of Multatuli's Novel *Max Havelaar* (1860)," Reinier Salverda, University College London, started from the observation that the Dutch maritime and colonial empire in South East Asia (1600-1950) and its literature seem to be curiously missing from the contemporary postcolonial debate. Salverda explored why and how this missing Dutch empire and its literature matter to postcolonial theory. To this end, he assessed the continuing relevance of the classic *Max Havelaar or the Coffee Auctions of the Dutch Trading Company* (1860), by the Dutch author Multatuli (penname of Edward Douwes Dekker). Salverda considered in particular the issues of justice and humanity raised by this novel about the human cost of coffee production. Next, Svend Erik Larsen, University of Aarhus, offered a paper on 'The National Landscape' National Identity or Post-colonial Experience?' He analyzed the idea of the national landscape as a cultural invention, and underscored how literature clearly articulates that landscape's conflictual complexity. Via analyses of texts by South African

novelists Nadine Gordimer, J. M. Coetzee, and André Brink, and the Danish romanticist and scientist Hans Christian Ørsted, Larsen suggested how the European reflection on national identity in relation to landscape and language from the period of nation-building in the nineteenth century is both repeated and criticized in the emerging new nations of the post-colonial era.

**The second session started out with two papers on Portuguese literature. Helena Carvalhão Buescu, University of Lisbon, discussed the postcolonial experience as reflected in the work of António Lobo Antunes.** In 'To Dwell in Grief: António Lobo Antunes,' she

started out from the premise that leaving and returning are two basic movements that permeate the Portuguese symbolic imagination. She traced this movement in Lobo Antunes' *The Return of the Caravels*, published in 1988 and translated into English in 2002 by Gregory Rabassa. If there is a contemporary Portuguese novelist for whom the unrest and anxiety of identity and belonging are at the very core of his or her literary project, this novelist is certainly Lobo Antunes. In all sixteen novels that he has published since 1979, "Portugal" is much more than just the name of the place where characters live: it is a name for an anxiety about place, that is of course not exclusive to Portugal, but which is given a distinctively Portuguese tinge through a deep reflection on the meaning of belonging. Sometimes, this meaning can be quite meaningless, which is just another way of thinking about how man experiences his relationship to the earth and land. How the present may endure and live up to the glorious experiences of history is at the heart of the story unfolded in *The Return of the Caravels*. In "Postcolonial Memories and Lusophone Literatures," Paulo de Medeiros, Utrecht University, claimed that focusing exclusively on British colonialism, postcolonial theory has failed to take into consideration other histories of colonization and other forms of postcoloniality. By way of Portuguese colonialism, and lusophone texts, he problematized this limited perspective on postcolonial studies. At the same time, he pondered on the

fact that so much in postcolonial literature depends on acts of remembrance. Ruins, all sorts of ruins, form a privileged space for the construction of postcolonial memories, and in his presentation De Medeiros focused especially on the shipwreck as an especially marking figure for varied postcolonial memories. In the process he made a case for the reconsideration of European literature, via the example of Portuguese literature, from a postcolonial point of view. Kai Mikkonen, University of Helsinki, focused upon "The Modernist Traveller in Africa: Africanism and the European Author's Self-Fashioning." He centred upon the relationship between the self-fashioning of European modernist travelers, and the representation of Sub-Saharan African cultures, spaces and cross-cultural encounters in the early twentieth century. The high modernist, and in many ways critical narratives of Michel Leiris, Evelyn Waugh, Graham Greene, Louis-Ferdinand Céline, André Gide, Karen Blixen and Akseli Gallen-Kallela pose the question of the phenomenology of travel in terms of textual authority. In their self-reflective strategies, in a literary continuum stemming from Joseph Conrad and Pierre Loti, such travel and colonial texts anticipate many later theoretical formations in postcolonial studies. The authors concerned, for instance, concentrate on the question of how to portray cross-cultural encounters, how to conceive of the object of description'especially in the light of earlier textual formations, both fact and fiction'and how to fashion the self in the contact zone of travel and sojourn.

The third session centred on literature from the Americas. Liesbeth De Bleeker, Leuven University, presented a paper co-written with Lieven D'hulst, also Leuven University, entitled "From 'Habitation' to 'En-Ville': the play with European models of space in the French Caribbean novel (Zobel and Chamoiseau)." They traced the evolution of the representation of space in the Caribbean novel of the 1960s through the 1990s. Initially, the rural space of the 'Habitation' is seen as a token of indigenous identity, mimetically referring to a regionalist and naturalistic model of space. Early authors hardly question the relation between the Creole and the French language, and confirm the nationalist model as it was developed by the European romantics, following the triadic structure of language, nation and territory. Layter authors interpret urban space as a token of hybrid identity. On the one hand, the new city of "Texaco," for instance, in Patrick Chamoiseau's eponymous novel, refers to urban models as developed in European and Western cultural geography, and thus seems to replace the model of the 'Habitation'. On the other hand, the new urban space is understood as a displacement of the center, as it becomes the meeting place of intersecting cultures. Focusing upon an other Caribbean author, Aleid Fokkema, Utrecht University, discussed "Identity, Trauma and Exile: Caryl Phillips on Surviving." She started from the premise that the unrepresentable event of the holocaust is one of the most salient, defining features of the history and identity of Europe. Its suitability for artistic representation has formed the focus of an intense debate, largely conducted within Europe (Adorno, Steiner, Ricoeur, Kertész), and fictions about the holocaust were, until recently, the domain of European (and Isreali) authors. In *The Nature of Blood*, Caryl Phillips – a British author from the Caribbean island St. Kitts, currently living in the USA – defies this tradition and claims

the holocaust as a natural subject for his seemingly disparate narratives that are also concerned with the first ghetto in Europe, the character of Othello, and zionism in Isreal. This unlikely mixture is not a mere postcolonial appropriation of metropolitan history, and cannot be explained by the mechanism of 'the empire writing back' that characterizes so much postcolonial fictions of the 1970-1990s. Rather, it explores some of the ideas developed in Frantz Fanon's *Peau noire, masques blancs*, which in its rhetorical linking of the holocaust with racism and imperialist repression is in turn indebted to Jean Paul Sartre. Nadia Lie, Leuven University, then moved across to Mexico, with "Postcolonialism and Latin American literature: the case of Carlos Fuentes." First, Lie briefly outlined two opposite currents in postcolonial studies as far as Latin American literature is concerned. The first current constructs the relationship between Latin American and European literature as oppositional, whereas the second focuses in a more harmonious way on their interrelationship. Both currents cluster around a divergent reading of the cannibal-metaphor. Lie then centred on the position of the Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes, who participates, through his work, in both postcolonial tendencies. She illustrated her case by focusing upon Fuentes' early novella *Aura*, and to the tension therein between Europe and Latin America, both on a literary level, via intertextuality, and a historical level, via colonisation and nation-building.

Ruth Morse, University Paris 7, opened the final session with "Racination and Ratiocination: The Case of Post-Colonial Crime." Crime fiction is currently one of the most globalized, popular, and biggest-selling of commercial genres, but there has been almost no attempt to study it in relation to post-colonial literature. There is no bibliography of crime writers as 'post-colonial', no survey, and no attempt to generalize about such a body of fiction. Based on an analysis of work by over fifty Anglophone or Francophone crime authors who might be categorized as 'post-colonial' by birth or residence, Morse tested post-colonial theory against crime fiction. She argued that crime fiction's strong generic conventions call into question some of post-colonial theory's received ideas. She specifically questioned the possibility of imagined geopolitical units as identity-forming, especially in genres which are informed by social criticism and call into question the demand for literature as a source of national identity. Silvia Albertazzi, Bologna University, continued with "An Equal Music, an Alien World: Postcolonial Literature and the Representation of European culture." Specifically, she set out to show how a Postcolonial representation of European culture can alter our (European) perspectives on Western arts. The case of the novel "An Equal Music" by the Indian writer Vikram Seth is particularly interesting. Though set in Europe (between London, Vienna and Venice) and dealing with European characters, situations, landscapes, and cultural myths, the book offers a peculiarly Postcolonial reading of our classical music. Therefore, by applying Edward Said's contrapuntal analysis to Postcolonial writing, Albertazzi tried to deal with "What the Postcolonial means for us", taking into account, besides European Literature and Postcolonialism, also the relationship between European music and the postcolonial sensibility, using essays by Said and Milan Kundera as keys to Seth's musical and fictional world. The day concluded with a paper on "Postcolonialism

and Finland," by Joel Kuortti, of the University of Tampere. Postcolonial literature and theory have so far mostly been related to the cultures and societies of the erstwhile colonies. However, postcolonial theory can be – and has been – applied to cultures that have not normally been thought to fit the colonial/postcolonial paradigm. Recently, an anthology of critical articles on Finnish postcolonial studies was produced: *Postcolonialism and Finland*. A lot of postcolonial research is going on within and on Finland and its culture and literature. Yet, this has largely gone unrecognised by the institutional structures within Finnish academe in terms of funding or posts. The anthology mentioned aims to arouse general, academic and institutional awareness and to highlight the variety, depth and importance of postcolonial studies in and for Finland, within a European and global environment.

A number of Finnish colleagues, as well as a number of Academia Europaea members, attended the colloquium. Each paper presentation was followed by lively discussion. A number of the colleagues that presented papers are, or soon hope to be, members of the Academia Europaea. A selection of the papers, with some additions, will be published as two successive "Foci" in forthcoming issues of *The European Review*.

**Editor's note:** This workshop was supported from the new initiatives fund. See details of how to apply in this issue of *The Tree*.



# Membership cycle 2005

ALL members (including those elected as foreign members) may nominate candidates for election as new members of the Academia Europaea.

## The 2005 cycle is now open

Nominations must be submitted only on the forms provided for this purpose. These can be downloaded from the website ([www.acadeuro.org](http://www.acadeuro.org)), or obtained on request from the membership secretary (Betty Lim) on [membership@acadeuro.org](mailto:membership@acadeuro.org)

The timetable is:

- All completed nominations forms to be sent direct to the chair of the appropriate Section by **7 October 2005**
- Section committees will assess all nominations received (**by the 30 November 2005**) and provide ranked lists to the secretariat in London, by the **30 December 2005**.
- Nominations sub-committee will assess all lists during **February 2006**
- Council will elect new members during **April 2006**.
- Invitations to newly elected members are posted during **May 2006**
- New members "presented" at the Annual conference in **Autumn 2006 – Budapest**.

# Annual Business meeting

## Helsinki, 22 September 2004.

DRAFT

MINUTES of the 2004 annual meeting of the Academia Europaea, held at the University of Helsinki.

Present: The President, Executive Secretary and 59 members

Apologies were received from the following members of the Council and trustees of the Academia: Professors Paul Baltes, Aaron Klug, Tony Wrigley, Bertil Andersson, William Shea

The draft agenda was adopted. and the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 12 September 2003, were approved and signed.

### Matters arising.

In reply to a question concerning the proposed re-location of the secretariat to Strasbourg, the President reported that the Board had fully considered the initial offer by the Mayor and had decided that the move to the Institute of Physics premises in London provided the best value available at the time. The Board would keep the situation under review, subject to normal lease practise. Strasbourg would remain as one possible option.

### Report of the President.

The President reported on events of the past year and tabled a summary of meetings held and of publications released by the Academia. In particular it was noted that the Academia had played an active part in discussions surrounding the proposed development of new European Research Council and had contributed to the discussions on the role of Universities in the Europe of Knowledge. The President was able to record that this increase in policy related activity had made a positive impact across Europe. Further work was continuing with respect to the role of the Humanities in the European Research Council. The President announced that as a result of a successful bid for financial support to the

Riksbankens Jubileumsfond of Sweden, Council had approved a doubling of the budget available to support new initiatives. All members were invited to put forward proposals and to develop ideas for meetings, workshops and other types of initiative for consideration, including for support for national group meetings of Academia members from all disciplines. The president particularly noted that the Dutch members of the Academia had held such a meeting, organised by Henk Wesseling. The President reported that the Academia had supported a workshop in memory of Prof. Werner Rathmayer, held at the University of Konstanz. Prof. Hubert Markl had spoken on behalf of the Academy. The Council had agreed to make a sum of money available on an annual basis, for the Committee of organismic and Evolutionary Biology, to support future activities in memory of Prof. Rathmayer. The President recorded the thanks of the Academia Europaea to all those organisations that had supported specific events over the past year, including the Heinz-Nixdorf Foundation, The Klaus Tschira Foundation, The Compagnia di San Paolo and in particular thanks to Prof. Siegfried Bauer for his organisation of the 2003 Graz conference. The President reported that the Academia had participated in the first ever European Science festival (ESOF 2004), in Stockholm. This had been organised under the umbrella of the EUROSCIENCE and the Academia had organised a half-day debate on the Moral challenges of Science. The next such event was planned for Munich in 2006 and the Council would consider any possible involvement in due course.

In response to questions from the floor: The President took note of a comment that the Council should consider developing more common activities with Euroscience, including the possibility of joint annual conferences.

On how to better influence European Policy: The President reminded the meeting that the Academia also worked as a member of the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC). The Academia member of EASAC was the chairman of trustees, Professor Brian Heap, who was also a vice-president of that body.

At the request of the President, the Executive Secretary reported on future developments of the website, as a part of the communications strategy. The intention was increasingly to operate as a 'virtual' organisation. Over the coming year, a new online database and financial contributions facility would be made available in the member's section. A new communications officer would be contracted, to improve the content and editorial value of the website, to edit The Tree newsletter and to provide more issues, and to provide for more direct and regular liaison with Sections. The President urged members to look at, use and provide feedback on the website regularly and to contact events coordinators.

The President reported changes in trustees over the past year. Professor Brian Heap assumed the chairmanship of the Board of trustees. Professor Burgen stepped down as chair, but remained as a trustee. There were no other changes. The continuing trustees were: Professor Stig Strömholm, Professor Sir Aaron Klug, Professor Peter Day (also Honorary Treasurer of the Academia). Professor Paul Baltes, Professor Sir Brian Heap, Professor Sir Arnold Burgen, and Professor Sir Tony Wrigley

#### Governance of the Academia Europaea

The President reported, that over the past year the Council had been considering the current procedures and structures that govern the Academia. Council had felt that the present regulations and structures – Council, Sections, regulations governing elections and membership procedures – were collectively limiting the opportunities for a more dynamic and active Academia. Council had discussed one possible model for change: That of a Council composed of the Section chairs, with only small number of directly elected individual members, and with all Section committees becoming directly elected by the Section membership – a situation that was not the current practise. The President invited the meeting to discuss these proposals and announced that the Council had decided to establish a small group to develop recommendations for change. This group would report by the end of 2004 and Council would put any recommendations for change in governance to the annual meeting in 2005.

There were no views forthcoming from the floor. The President then proposed that the group should be composed of: Professor Heap (as chair of the trustees), Professor Ole Petersen (as Chair of the Nominations sub committee) and Professor Bertil Andersson (member of the Council). The President invited any member present to offer themselves as members of the group. No one accepted the invitation and there were no objections to the three names proposed. The President stated that the group would consult widely on the issues involved, including through the website and they would be pleased to receive any comments and suggestions from the membership at large.

The President then reported that Council had agreed to recommend to the meeting a temporary change to the regulations. The proposed change to Article 9 would allow co-option of Section chairs onto Council where that was necessary to improve balance and involvement in the governance of the Academia. Council had also proposed a reduction by two in the number of directly elected individual members of Council over the next year. These changes would be considered as interim

measures and would be subject to any future changes made by the governance group to the annual meeting in 2005.

On a show of hands the meeting approved the changes to the regulations, and the change in elected members of Council.

#### Change to Article 9

*"The Council shall consist of the President, Vice Presidents, and the Treasurer. Up to a maximum of twelve (12) ordinary members of the Academia may be elected in accordance with Article 13.4 of these regulations. The number of elected ordinary members shall be determined from time to time by the Academia in general meeting, but shall be not less than four (4). Where it is deemed necessary, Council shall ensure the representation of each section committee by co-option".*

And

*Under the provisions of Article 9(1) and 12 (2c); the annual meeting approve the number of elected members of Council for 2004/2005 at 11 and from the 2005/2006 annual meeting to 10.*

#### Re-appointments and elections to the Council

The President announced that **Professor Barbara Kellner-Heinkele (Classics and Oriental Studies, Berlin)** had reached the end of her first term and was eligible for re-appointment to a second (and final) term of office.

**At the invitation of the President, the meeting re-elected Professor Kellner-Heinkele for a second and final term of three years.**

**The President reported that Professor Miklós Maróth (Classics and Oriental Studies, Budapest), had completed his first term on Council, but had decided not to stand for re-election.**

The President announced that Professors Ole Petersen (Medicine and Physiology, Liverpool) and Lev Kisilev (Molecular Biology, Moscow) had completed a second and final term on Council. By the closing date for nominations, announced in issue 19 of The Tree, three candidates had been declared for two seats on Council. The candidates were: Professors, Alexey Bogdanov (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Moscow), Gérard Férey (Chemistry, Versailles) and Eugene Sverdlov (Molecular Biology, Moscow).

The President appointed Professor David Hiley and Mr Chan as tellers. After a secret ballot, **the President announced that Professor Bogdanov and Professor Férey had been elected to serve on Council for three years.**

The President moved a vote of thanks to the retiring members of the Council and announced that because Professor Petersen had recently replaced Professor Peter Swinnerton-Dyer as chair of the Nominations sub-committee, he would remain as a co-opted member of the Council.

The President agreed to a request from the floor to publish the names and details of future candidates for election on the website, prior to the annual meeting.

## Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer introduced the annual report and accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2004. He reminded the meeting that in the UK, the financial year was the twelve months from 1 April – 31 March. The meeting was also reminded that the annual report and accounts was a legal requirement, to meet obligations under UK charity law. The Academia Europaea is legally constituted as a UK, not-for-profit charity.

The Treasurer reported that the financial position of the Academia was more stable than had been the case in previous years. The re-location of the office was delivering year-on-year savings in costs. The running costs had been kept under tight control. The main sponsors had maintained their levels of support, which had improved available cash because of the cost savings, and recent successful bids to external Foundations had provided more income for the next three years. All of these factors had provided for a break-even situation in a context of an increasing programme of activities, that were fully in support of the objectives of the Academia and the trust. However, the deficit recorded in the accounts, was attributable to an under funding of the Graz annual conference. This had been totally unexpected and was the result of local political changes. As a result, the Academia had to underwrite the event. Of particular note was the steady year-on-year increase in income from voluntary contributions of members, although there was still much to do, as significantly less than half of the membership made any contribution at all. Council had reaffirmed the policy of not imposing a compulsory subscription. The Treasurer asked all members to consider making some level of annual contribution, in support for future events and activities. The Treasurer then reminded members that they all received copies of The Tree and also the European Review. The Review was a significant cost for the Academia and Council had decided that those members who did not make a general contribution, would in the future, be invited to pay to receive the journal.

The Treasurer asked to record thanks to the secretariat for their smooth management of the re-location and for their work in enabling the increase in activity as reported.

The Treasurer then moved a motion inviting the adoption of the annual report and accounts. Professor Spearman and Professor Pecker proposed and the meeting concurred.

Professors Spearman and Pecker then proposed a motion for the re-appointment of the auditors: Messrs Keith Vaudrey and Co Ltd. of London, for a further year. The meeting concurred.

## Nomination of new members – a discussion

The President invited the new chair of the nominations sub-committee (Professor Ole Petersen) to take the floor. Professor Petersen outlined his vision for future improvements to the nomination, peer review and recruitment process of members. He pointed out the imbalance in Sections; the failure to achieve Council target of 2500 members and that the age profile was of real concern. He noted that there had been an actual drop in numbers over the past year and many sections were not recruiting in a sustainable manner. He suggested there was a need to make the process more robust and to build confidence in the quality of candidates nominated. He suggested, that over time, there should be more competition between Sections for new members and

that where appropriate there should be external peer review of nominations.

He proposed that during the current cycle, there would be a joint meeting of Section chairs with the nominations committee. Candidates would be discussed, prior to the committee then considering a final shortlist of new members. That joint meeting would also be used to agree policy and targets for the next annual cycle of nominations.

In discussion, concerns were raised that using external reviewers was both time consuming, costly and an additional administrative burden. There had already been a number of complaints about delays and lost nominations and often-current committee members failed to complete their part of the review process. In response, Prof. Petersen advised that where such problems occurred, those Sections should change their committee members.

There was some support for the idea of joint meetings, but concern at the possible additional cost of such a process.

In summary, the President announced that the 2004 cycle would proceed in the way described, and that a report would be made to the meeting in 2005.

The President asked that the minutes record thanks to Professor Swinnerton-Dyer for his many years of impartial service and wise counsel, as chair of the nominations committee. The meeting concurred.

## Information from the Sections

Professor Sierd Cloetingh (Chair, Earth and Cosmic Sciences) announced that his Section would be proposing to the Academia Board, several new workshop ideas. These would be collaborations with the ESF and would have a theme 'Topo-Europe' The initiative would be linked to new Masters degree level courses.

No other Sections took the floor.

## Any other business.

No other business had been notified, and there were no interventions from the floor.

The President announced that the 2005 Annual Business Meeting would take place at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy, in Berlin, on the afternoon of 22 September. The main conference would take place courtesy of the GeoForschungsZentrum (GFZ), at the Telegrafenberg, Potsdam, 23 –24 September.

The President declared the 2004 Annual meeting closed.

## Annual report and accounts 2004

The business meeting held at Helsinki on September approved the annual report and accounts for the financial year that ended on 31 March 2004.

The document can be downloaded from the website ([www.acadeuro.org](http://www.acadeuro.org)), or a hard copy can be posted, on request from the secretariat in London.

# The European Review



THE Editor-in-chief (Arnold Burgen) writes:

The review is developing well and although there has been only a small increase in full commercial subscriptions for the journal, the distribution is increasing because of a change in the way that the Cambridge University Press is managing its institutional subscriptions. More large institutions are taking out collective subscriptions for a basket of

journals – the European Review is included automatically in these institutional ‘baskets’.

Why not check with your University or Institute library to see if the European Review is available online?

One benefit of your membership of the Academy, is an individual subscription for the journal, paid for by the Academia Europaea. This subscription covers not only the hard copy journal, special issues and supplements, but also gives you full personal online access. Go to the CUP website and follow the instructions. You will need to use the unique reference number that is printed on the address label of the envelope that the journal arrives in.

We now pay for over 2300 individual subscriptions each year on behalf of members. For the Academy this is a substantial cost and you should know that this sum now equals the total that we receive from members' individual and voluntary donations!

During the spring, all members will be receiving a specific letter asking you to **opt-in** to receiving future issues of the European Review. Please make sure that you respond to that letter. All those who decline to receive future issues of the European

Review, or who fail to respond to the letter will be removed from the subscription lists, with effect from the last issue of 2005. Members will still receive other publications.

Future issues of the European Review will include:

## **EUROPEAN REVIEW 2005 Vol.13, No1**

### The Erasmus Lecture 2004

Identity in Change – a European Dilemma? ---STIG STRÖMHL

The Stages of New Political Regimes: The Transformation of Capital Cities--- WIM BLOCKMANS

History—Changing the Forms or Forming the Changes? --- SVEND ERIK LARSEN

In the Spirit of Cultural Communication with Reflections on the Nobel Prize for Literature\* ---STURE ALLÉN

### **Focus: Postcolonial Literature:**

Introduction: What the Postcolonial Means to Us: European Literature(s)and Post colonialism--- THEO D'HAEN  
Racination and Ratioincination: Post-Colonial Crime--- RUTH MORSE

Europe And Post-Colonial Creativity: A Metaphysical Cross-Culturalism--- HENA MAES-JELINEK

An Equal Music, an Alien World: Postcolonial Literature and the Representation of European culture--- SILVIA ALBERTAZZI

The Modernist Traveller in Africa: Africanism and the European Author's Self-Fashioning--- KAI MIKKONEN

The Case of the Missing Empire, or The Continuing Relevance of Multatuli's Novel *Max Havelaar* (1860)--- REINIER SALVERDA

Postcolonialism and Latin American literature: the case of Carlos Fuentes.--- NADIA LIE

Postcolonial Memories and Lusophone Literatures--- PAULO DE MEDEIROS

## **EUROPEAN REVIEW Vol.13 No. 2**

Editorial: Europe strikes back. Piotr Sztompka

The emergence of justification in ethics. Dagfinn Føllesdal  
The big bang ? Three questions without a reply. Jean-Claude Pecker

Art And Science, Can They Ever Be One And The Same?

Harold Kroto

### **Focus: Border Cities**

Introduction: Border Cities: Contested Identities Of The European City. Ed Taverne & Cor Wagenaar

*The Last Avenue Of The 'Other' Europe. Ed Taverne*

The City Builder. Cor Wagenaar and György Konrád

*Wroclaw and the myth of the multicultural border city. Gregor Thum*

The End of the European City? Hartmut Häussermann

Urban Formations of Difference: Borders and Cities in Post-1989 Europe. Andrew Herscher

### **Focus: Further Postcolonial Literature**

Time Displaced: Post-Colonial Experience In António Lobo Antunes. Helena Carvalhão Buescu

From 'Habitation' to 'En-Ville': the play with European models of space in the French Caribbean novel (Zobel and Chamoiseau). Lieven D'hulst and Liesbeth Debleeker

Identity, trauma and exile: Caryl Phillips on surviving. Aleid Fokkema

The National Landscape – National Identity or Post-colonial Experience? Svend Erik Larsen

### **Book reviews.**

The First Domino. International Decision Making during the Hungarian Crisis of 1956. Johanna Granville

Der Holocaust und die westdeutschen Historiker. Erforschung und Erinnerung. Nicolas Berg

### **VOL 13 Supplement No.1, January 2005**

#### **Transformations of the State?**

#### **A New Perspective of the State**

1 Reconfiguring the National Constellation

Michael Zürn, Stephan Leibfried

#### **The Modern Territorial State:**

#### **Limits to Internationalisation of the State's Resources**

2 The Monopoly of Legitimate Force: Denationalisation, or Business as Usual? Markus Jachtenfuchs

3 Globalisation and the Transformation of the Tax State.

Philipp Genschel

#### **The Rule of Law:**

#### **Internationalisation and Privatisation**

4 Is There an Emerging International Rule of Law?

Bernhard Zangl

5 Free Trade: The Erosion of National, and the Birth of Transnational Governance. Christian Joerges, Christine Godt

#### **The Democratic Nation State:**

#### **Erosion, or Transformation, of Legitimacy**

6 Is There a Legitimation Crisis of the Nation State?

Achim Hurrelmann, Zuzanna Krell-Laluhová, Roland Lhotta, Frank Nullmeier, Steffen Schneider

7 National and Transnational Public Spheres: The Case of the EU. Bernhard Peters, Stefanie Sifft, Michael Brüggemann, Katherine Kleinen-v. Königslöw, Andreas Wimmel

#### **The Intervention State:**

#### **The Shifting Welfare Component**

8 Welfare State Transformation in Small Open Economies.

Herbert Obinger, Stephan Leibfried, Claudia Bogedan, Edith Gindulis, Julia Moser, Peter Starke

9 The Changing Role of the State in Health Care Systems.

Heinz Rothgang, Mirella Cacace, Simone Grimmeisen, Claus Wendt

# Deceased members

## advised since Tree 19

Professor Hubert Curien. February 2005

Professor Sir John Vane, November 2004

Professor Mauro Capelletti, November 2004

Professor Proinsias Mac Cana, May 2004

# Honours and awards

## notified since issue 19 of The Tree

**Professor Henk Wesseling** has been awarded the Gold Medal for Science and Art of the Private Order of the House of Orange, by HRH the Queen of the Netherlands

**Professor Robin J.H. Clark** was appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) in HM the Queen's Birthday Honours List, 2004, for services to Science and to New Zealand's interests in the UK. He was also awarded the Liversidge Medal and Lecture of the Royal Society of Chemistry for 2003/2004.

**Sir Michael Atiyah** was awarded the Abel prize for Mathematics in 2004.

**Professor Sir Michael Marmot** was awarded the 2004 Balzan Prize for Epidemiology

**Sergej S. Zilitinkevich** awarded the Marie Curie Chair of Boundary-layer Physics at the Division of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Helsinki

**Professor Koen Lenaerts** was appointed as a judge to the European Court of Justice, October 2003.

**Professor John Enderby**, was awarded a knighthood for services to Science and technology in 2004.

**Professor András Spät** was awarded the Sechenyi prize by the President of Hungary.

**Professor Norbert Kroo** awarded the Honorary Medal "De Scientia et Humanitate Optime Meritus" of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

# Workshops and conferences in 2005

ANYONE wishing to participate in these events should look at the **website** ([www.acadeuro.org](http://www.acadeuro.org)) for information on programme, registration and any charges.

## March

**"Reactive Oxygen Species in Health and Disease":** Academia Europaea- Klaus Tschira Foundation workshop, Heidelberg, 10 – 12 March. This event has very limited space. No registration fee, but participants must pay their own travel and accommodation costs. Organiser – Ole Petersen and the Medicine & Physiology Section ([o.h.petersen@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:o.h.petersen@liverpool.ac.uk))

**"Topo-Europe – 4D Topography Evolution in Europe. Uplift, Subsidence and Sea Level Rise":** Academia Europaea, ESF, ELTE event in Budapest. 17 – 18 March.

Organised by Sierd Cloetingh and the Earth and Cosmic Sciences Section ([sierd.cloetingh@faww.vu.nl](mailto:sierd.cloetingh@faww.vu.nl) or Anna du Pree [[anna.du.pree@faww.vu.nl](mailto:anna.du.pree@faww.vu.nl) ]

## May

**"Common values in the European Research Area: European scientists and scholars meeting their responsibilities":** organised by ALLEA, and AE. Amsterdam (KNAW), 19 – 20 May. Contact Pieter Drenthe on [secretariat@allea.org](mailto:secretariat@allea.org) to register. Participants must pay their own travel and accommodation costs.

## September

**"The Scientific and Cultural Architecture of Man in Nature":** 17<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Academia Europaea in Potsdam and Berlin, Germany 22-24 September. See website for registration and programme information. Local organiser contact Jörn Lauterjung ([lau@gfz-potsdam.de](mailto:lau@gfz-potsdam.de)). **Registration open.**

**"Why the World Needs Chemistry?":** An international conference, Krakow, Poland. September (dates to be agreed). Organised by the Chemistry Section. Local organiser Jerzy Haber ([nchaber@cyf-kr.edu.pl](mailto:nchaber@cyf-kr.edu.pl) ).

## November

**"Earth-System Modelling: GEOMOTION "**: Academia Europaea – Klaus Tschira Foundation workshop in Heidleberg. November. Organised by the Earth and Cosmic Sciences section. Numbers will be limited: Contact Sierd Cloetingh ([sierd.cloetingh@faww.vu.nl](mailto:sierd.cloetingh@faww.vu.nl) ) or Anna du Pree [[anna.du.pree@faww.vu.nl](mailto:anna.du.pree@faww.vu.nl) ] for programme information. All participants will have to pay their own travel and accommodation costs. There is no registration fee.

**"The Formative Years of Scholars"**: An international conference organised by the Academia Europaea and Wenner Gren Foundation. Stockholm, 9 – 12 November.

Programme organiser, Ullrich Teichler, Kassel ([teichler@hochschulforschung.uni-kassel.de](mailto:teichler@hochschulforschung.uni-kassel.de)). See AE website for registration and programme information. No registration fee but participants must cover the cost of travel and hotel accommodation. A symposium volume will be published and provided free to all participants.

# KLAUS TSCHIRA FOUNDATION

## Brain Plasticity: From Neurobiology to Neurology

Heidelberg, Germany, 4<sup>th</sup>  
– 6<sup>th</sup> March 2004

OLE Petersen and the committee of the Physiology and Medicine Section of the Academy, organised a highly successful international workshop, under the kind auspices of the Klaus Tschira Foundation. The event brought together leading researchers in a discussion forum at the leading edge of the subject area. Uniquely amongst the many such events, speakers are invited to bring along two of their post-doctoral workers, to take part in the session discussions.

Summary slides and abstracts of all the papers are archived on the Academia website

The 2005 meeting took place March 10 – 12, at the Studio of the Villa Bosch in Heidelberg. The topic was “Reactive Oxygen Species in Health and Disease”. A report will appear in a later issue.

Contact:  
Ole Petersen  
[\(o.h.petersen@liv.ac.uk\)](mailto:(o.h.petersen@liv.ac.uk))

The 2004 meeting included presentations from:

- Bert Sakmann** (Max-Planck-Institute, Heidelberg, Germany)  
[\[zpsecr@sun0.mpimf-heidelberg.mpg.de\]](mailto:[zpsecr@sun0.mpimf-heidelberg.mpg.de]); **Cortical microcircuits and their plasticity**
- Fritjof Helmchen** (Max-Planck-Institute, Heidelberg, Germany)  
[\[fritjof@mpimf-heidelberg.mpg.de\]](mailto:[fritjof@mpimf-heidelberg.mpg.de]); **From synapses to networks: In vivo imaging in the neocortex**
- Carl Petersen** (EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland) [\[carl.petersen@epfl.ch\]](mailto:[carl.petersen@epfl.ch]); **Dynamics and plasticity of neocortical columns**
- Michael Häusser** (University College London, UK) [\[m.hausser@ucl.ac.uk\]](mailto:[m.hausser@ucl.ac.uk]); **Synaptic integration and plasticity in the cerebellar cortex**
- Graham Collingridge** (MRC Centre, University of Bristol, UK)  
[\[g.l.collingridge@bristol.ac.uk\]](mailto:[g.l.collingridge@bristol.ac.uk]); **Glutamate receptors and synaptic plasticity in the hippocampus**
- Jacopo Meldolesi** (San Raffaele, Milano, Italy) [\[meldolesi.jacopo@hsr.it\]](mailto:[meldolesi.jacopo@hsr.it]); **Molecular cell biology of synaptic function**
- Michael Ashby** (MRC Centre, University of Bristol, UK)  
[\[M.C.Ashby@bristol.ac.uk\]](mailto:[M.C.Ashby@bristol.ac.uk]); **Real-time visualization of changes in AMPA receptor number at the postsynaptic cell surface**
- Alan North** (University of Sheffield, UK) [\[r.a.north@sheffield.ac.uk\]](mailto:[r.a.north@sheffield.ac.uk]); **P2X receptors: possible roles in synaptic transmission?**
- Oleg Krishtal** (Bogomoletz Institute, Kiev, Ukraine)  
[\[krishtal@serv.biph.kiev.ua\]](mailto:[krishtal@serv.biph.kiev.ua]); **Hippocampal neurons learn to count spikes in bursts by recruiting extrasynaptic receptors**
- Arthur Konnerth** (University of Munich, Germany)  
[\[konnerth@lrz.uni-muenchen.de\]](mailto:[konnerth@lrz.uni-muenchen.de]); **Role of BDNF in synaptic plasticity**
- Ralf Schneggenburger** (MPI, Göttingen, Germany)  
[\[rschneg@gwdg.de\]](mailto:[rschneg@gwdg.de]); **Ca<sup>2+</sup> dependent mechanisms of synaptic short-term enhancement**
- Craig Montell** (Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, USA)  
[\[cmontell@jhmi.edu\]](mailto:[cmontell@jhmi.edu]); **Roles of Drosophila TRP channels in Sensory Signaling**
- Alex Verkhratsky** (University of Manchester, UK)  
[\[alexej.verkhratsky@man.ac.uk\]](mailto:[alexej.verkhratsky@man.ac.uk]); **Neuronal-glia circuits: An overview**
- Andrea Volterra** (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)  
[\[Andrea.Volterra@ibcm.unil.ch\]](mailto:[Andrea.Volterra@ibcm.unil.ch]); **Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent glutamate release from astrocytes: mechanism and impact on synaptic functions**
- Colin Blakemore** (Medical Research Council, London, UK)  
[\[Kate.Ravey@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk\]](mailto:[Kate.Ravey@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk]); **Molecular basis of activity-dependent neuronal differentiation**
- Eva Sykova** (Inst. Experimental Medicine, Prague, Czech Republic)  
[\[sykova@biomed.cas.cz\]](mailto:[sykova@biomed.cas.cz]); **Neuron-glia communication by volume transmission – quadrupartite synapse**
- Sylvester Vizi** (Hungarian Academy of Science, Budapest)  
[\[futo@office.mta.hu\]](mailto:[futo@office.mta.hu]); **Non-synaptic chemical interactions in the brain**
- Nancy Rothwell** (University of Manchester, UK)  
[\[nancy.rothwell@man.ac.uk\]](mailto:[nancy.rothwell@man.ac.uk]); **Role of glia and cytokines in neuronal death**
- Ernesto Carafoli** (University of Padova, Italy)  
[\[Ernesto.carafoli@unipd.it\]](mailto:[Ernesto.carafoli@unipd.it]); **Membrane transport of Ca<sup>2+</sup> and neuronal apoptosis**
- Pierluigi Nicotera** (MRC Leicester, UK) [\[pn10@leicester.ac.uk\]](mailto:[pn10@leicester.ac.uk]); **Subroutines of the death programme and spatial control of neuronal death**
- Oleg Gerasimenko** (University of Liverpool, UK)  
[\[o.v.gerasimenko@liv.ac.uk\]](mailto:[o.v.gerasimenko@liv.ac.uk]); **Calcium signalling in the nucleus and apoptosis**
- Richard Frackowiak** (University College London, UK)  
[\[rsjf@fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk\]](mailto:[rsjf@fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk]); **Functional and structural neuroimaging studies of plasticity and functional recovery from stroke**
- Barbro Johansson** (University of Lund, Sweden)  
[\[Barbro.Johansson@neurol.lu.se\]](mailto:[Barbro.Johansson@neurol.lu.se]); **Environmental and pharmacological influence on brain plasticity in the intact and lesioned brain**

# Islamic world in history

## Crimea, Caucasus and the Volga-Ural Region: Islamic Art and Architecture in the European Periphery (17–21 Sept. 2004)

Report, Barbara Kellner-Heinkele

### Introductory remarks

THE central areas of the Islamic world in history – North Africa, the Near East (with Asia Minor), Iran, India and Central Asia – possess a unique heritage of art and architecture from the spread of Islam to our times. Since the late nineteenth century, research on Islamic architecture and fine arts in these regions has constituted a branch in its own right within the wider discipline of art history. An impressive amount of publications, exhibitions and conferences has made this field known to an international public. Much less attention has been given to the Islamic heritage on the periphery of Europe (with the exception of south-eastern Europe), i.e. the Black Sea region, the Caucasus and the Volga-Ural region, and no conference had hitherto been devoted to the particular character of its Islamic art treasures and architectural monuments.

Therefore, the aim of the symposium was to take a closer look at these regions by offering specialists of Islamic art and architecture from the post-Soviet republics of Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation (including Russia, Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Daghestan) an opportunity to present current research and major sites as well as collections in their respective countries, and to discuss methods and problems specific to their material with colleagues from western European countries.

### Preparations

With the assistance of Western and Eastern colleagues, the organizers of the symposium, Prof. Dr. Barbara Kellner-Heinkele and Dr. Joachim Gierlichs of Freie Universität Berlin, contacted

more than 30 art historians, archaeologists and curators of museum collections in order to gather a representative number of scholars working in different fields and concerned with different periods of Islamic art and architecture in the relevant regions. The response was very encouraging, although not all specialists invited were able to accept. On the basis of their cooperation with scholars from Ukraine and Georgia, four Turkish scholars were also invited. It must be pointed out that the number of researchers in the West focussing on Islamic art and architecture in the Crimea, the northern shore of the Black Sea, the Caucasus and the Volga-Ural region is minimal. Three specialists of Islamic art (London, Paris, New York) accepted the invitation to an encounter with colleagues working in an unfamiliar field. Unfortunately, several other colleagues were unable to attend the symposium, because a conference on Islamic manuscripts was to take place in London at the same time.

The organizers as well as the participants gratefully acknowledge the financial support of Academia Europaea, Volkswagen Foundation and Freie Universität Berlin.

In the months preceding the symposium the organizing team (including Ms. Brigitte Heuer, a specialist on Central Asia, Freie Universität Berlin) met with a number of obstacles usually not encountered during the preparation of a conference, such as bureaucratic problems in the home countries of participants, problems to obtain a visa for Germany, difficulties in contacting participants (telephone, fax and e-mail connections were sometimes difficult to establish, or participants were unavailable, because they were away on field trips). In some cases the organizers had to accept that superiors did not wish their collaborators to travel.

In order to facilitate the dialogue during the symposium, the organizers put together a booklet of paper abstracts in Russian and English complete with a CV and résumé of the main publications and research interests of the respective participants (copies are available under the following e-mail address: [turkinst@zedat.fu-berlin.de](mailto:turkinst@zedat.fu-berlin.de)). Simultaneous translation of papers

from Russian into English and English into Russian was also provided during the symposium to secure an intensive working atmosphere. Several speakers of Russian and students from the Institute of Turkic Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, lent indispensable support towards the realization of the symposium.

Since the programme was rather dense, 15 to 20 minutes were given to each paper. Most of them were accompanied by power-point or slide presentations. Lively, sometimes heated discussions followed. The contributions were not all of the same high quality, but given the enormous financial, technical and bureaucratic difficulties most participants face in their professional routine, the results and interpretations presented add up to an invaluable improvement of our knowledge of these almost unnoticed – at least in the West – research areas. This opinion was also voiced by the Western colleagues (Doris Behrens-Abouseif/London, Marthe Bernus-Taylor/Paris, Ernst J. Grube/London, Eleanor Sims/New York-London) who participated dedicatedly in exchanges on method and interpretation. Up to 20 colleagues and guests from academic institutions, museums and government offices in Berlin, Dresden and Halle attended the sessions.

#### Evaluation

The symposium was a great success in every respect. The active participants were delighted with the possibility of discussing their work and of presenting their findings or collections. To mention only a few examples: The excavations that have been carried out for years in Ottoman settlements on the northern and north-western shores of the Black Sea are the direct result of successful collaboration between Ukrainian and Turkish colleagues (Svetlana Bilyayeva, Ninel Bokiy, Yuriy Boltryk, Inci Kuyulu-Ersoy, Bozkurt Ersoy). In the Crimean peninsula, Mark Kramarovsky has unearthed spectacular objects from the Golden Horde period, while since the 1990s, the study of Crimean Tatar sites by Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian scholars (Ibrahim A. Abdullaev, Elena Aybabina, Oleksa Haiworonski, Valeriy Sidorenko, Valeriy Vozgrin) as well as by a Swiss researcher working in Turkey (Nicole Kancal-Ferrari) has rendered impressive results, although major works have been lost or destroyed over the decades of Russian and Soviet rule. Recent work on folk art and fine arts of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in the Crimea (Viktor Gankievich, Ismet Zaatov) and the Caucasus (Svetlana Chervonnaya, Leyla Geybatova, Ramazan Kereytov, Fuad Pepinov) shows a vitality of creative impetus that is surprising, considering the fact that the suppression of Islam has lasted for generations. In Azerbaijan (Kyubra Alieva, Nailya Velikhanli) and Georgia (Irina Khoshordise), first-class collections of Islamic art do exist, but are more or less unknown to most Western specialists, while in the north-eastern part of Turkey Georgian architectural monuments (Mine Kadiroglu-Leube) suffer from a lack of attention and financial means. The Volga-Ural region was underrepresented, because some researchers invited were unable to come. Anife Ahmetshina and Zilya Imamutdinova, however, presented surveys of Tatar and Bashkir religious art.

#### Outlook

The organizers of the symposium intend to publish the abstracts and accompanying illustrations, plans and maps on the homepage of the Institute of Turkic Studies in order to

draw attention to the unusual and valuable material presented during the symposium. They also plan to publish the papers together with some of the picture material in a collective volume. A follow-up symposium focussing on one of the regions dealt with is also being considered.

Barbara Kellner-Heinkele Joachim Gierlichs

*Editor's note:* This event was supported from the 'New initiatives fund' of the Academia. For details on how to apply for support, see the entry in this issue of *The Tree*. Abstracts and programme information for the event are archived on the website.

## Events

### announced by other organisations:

**Green Cities Mundaneum 2005:** IV International Reunion of Architecture  
San José, Costa Rica  
23-25 June 2005

The Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of **Universidad del Diseño** organizes **<sup>3</sup>MUNDANEUM: International Reunion on Architecture**<sup>2</sup> every two years. Mundaneum has been held in 1999, 2001, and 2003 with the participation of architects and thinkers whose work is recognized world wide. This year, **Green Cities Mundaneum** will be dedicated to the city, with a special interest on its impact on the natural environment. Speakers include Jaime Lerner of Curitiba, Brasil, Albert Pope of Rice University, Michael Sorkin and Steven Ehrlich as well as other experts from Europe and Latin America.

Registration deadline, March 31, 2005 [www.unidis.ac.cr/](http://www.unidis.ac.cr/)  
[info@unidis.ac.cr](mailto:info@unidis.ac.cr)

### **Eco-Architecture Studio 2005**

San José, Costa Rica  
20 June-9 July, 2005

The Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of **Universidad del Diseño** is inviting students and practitioners of architecture, landscape architecture and other allied professions throughout the world to participate in the three-week **<sup>3</sup>Eco-Architecture Studio 2005.**<sup>2</sup> The objective of the studio is to familiarize participants with the biophysical and sociocultural conditions of architectural and landscape design in the Tropics.  
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# Russia Prizes for outstanding young scholars

PROFESSOR Vladimir P. Skulachev and fellow 'Russia club' members were present at the 11th Contest of AE Russian Prizes for young scientists. This glittering event, took place in the White-Blue Ceremony Hall at the Moscow State University Building on 23, November 2004.



Professor V.P. Skulachev and 'Praesidiūm' members at the Russia Prizes awards ceremony for 2004

Twenty-two laureates received diplomas, medals and a \$1000 cash prize, at the celebration . As in previous years winners were drawn from across all disciplines of scholarship and competition was of a very high standard.

The Council of the Academia Europaea wish to give their thanks to our main sponsors of these prizes – the Publishing House "MAIK-Interperiodika" (Mr. N.G. Avanesov, the Deputy Director) and Rosbusinessbank (Prof. S. Khadjiev, Chairman of the Board and Mr. V.V. Maslov, Managing Director). Once again the awards received strong media coverage in "Poisk" (the newspaper for scientists, university teachers and students).

Pizewinners included:

#### Mathematics/Mechanics:

**Alexander S. Cherny**, 1976, Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics, Moscow State University, 'Stochastic differential equations and integralfunction of diffusion processes'.

#### Physics:

**Nikolay M. Zubarev**, 1971, Electrophysics Institute, Ural Division of the Russian Academy of Sciences. 'Nonlinear electrohydrodynamics of liquids with free surfaces'

**Igor P.Lokhtin**, 1970, D.V.SkobeltsynInstitute of Nuclear Physics, M.V.Lomonosov Moscow State University. 'Production, rescattering and energy loss of heavy quarks in ultrarelativistic heavy ion collisions'

**Andrei V. Naumov**, 1974, Institute of Spectroscopy, Russian Academy of Sciences, Troitsk. 'Single molecule spectroscopy and photon echo as the tools for study of dynamics of disordered solids'.

**Georgii N. Sankin**, 1974, Lavrentyev Institute of Hydrodynamics, Novosibirsk. 'Dynamics and luminescence of bubble cluster in cavitation in focusing acoustic pulse'.

#### Chemistry:

**Aleksandr V. Akimov**, 1970, Institute of Problems of Chemical hysics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Chernogolovka. 'Novel Open-Shell Intermediates Generated in hemical Reactions of Mobile Fluorine Atoms with Molecules Trapped in Rare as Matrices'.

**Oxana B. Flekhter**, 1970, Institute of organic chemistry Ufa Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Science. 'Design and synthesis of high active compounds with antiviral and hepatoprotective activity on the basis of lupane triterpenoids'.

#### Earth sciences:

**Anton B. Kuznetsov**, 1970, Institute of Precambrian Geology and Geochronology, the Russian Academy of Sciences, St.Petersburg. 'Sr isotope composition in Proterozoic carbonate rocks: diagenesis of sediments, chemostratigraphy and geodynamic reconstructions'.

**Oleg G. Safonov**, 1973, Institute of experimental mineralogy, Russian Academy of Science, Charnogolovka. 'The problem of genesis and evolution of mantle ultra-potassic liquids.'

**Sergey V. Krivovichev**, 1972, Faculty of Geology, St.Petersburg State University. 'Crystal Chemistry of Minerals and Inorganic Compounds of Uranium, Thorium and Lead'.



Musical interlude – during the 2004 Russia Prizes ceremony

#### **Biology:**

**Mikhail Y. Vyssokikh**, 1971, A.N.Belozersky Institute of Physico-Chemical Biology, Moscow State University. 'The regulation of energy metabolism and apoptosis induction by protein complexes of mitochondrial contact sites in animal cell'.  
**Anton K. Golovnin**, 1973, Institute of Gene Biology, Moscow. 'Highly unstable mutations, insulators and long-distance interactions in Drosophila'.

**Vladislav V. Zakharov**, 1975, Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute of RAS. 'Structural modifications and molecular mechanisms of function of brain signal proteins GAP-43 and BASP1'.

**Nadezhda G. Muzyka**, 1972, Institute of Ecology and Genetics of Microorganisms of Russian Academy of Sciences, Perm. 'Investigation role of glutathione in oxidative stress in Escherichia coli'.

**Maxim V. Skulachev**, 1973, Faculty of Biology, Moscow State University. 'Characterization of tobamovirus internal ribosome entry sites'.

**Irina M. Yakovleva**, 1972, Institute of Marine Biology Far East Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok. 'Tolerance of marine macroalgae and hermatypic corals to irradiance and temperature stress: mechanisms of damage and protection; acclimation'.

#### **Medicine:**

**Igor N. Iezhitsa**, 1971, Volgograd State Medical University, Research Inst. Of Pharmacology. 'Psycho- and neurotoxicological study of "actoprotective" drugs in acute and long-term administration'.

**Julia O. Fedotova**, 1973, Institute for Experimental Medicine of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, St.Petersburg. 'Search of neurotropic agents for pharmacocorrection of cognitive disorders in imbalance of sexual hormones'.

#### **Humanities:**

**Irina A. Gordeeva**, 1975, Russian State University for Humanities, Moscow. "The Lost People": The History of Russian Communitarian Movement.

**Olga G. Egorova**, 1975, Astrakhan State University. 'The Development of the Cycle and Genre Transformations in the Russian Prose of the 20th Century, First Half'.

**Irina A. Oretskaya**, 1973, State Institute of Arts, Moscow. 'Greek Illuminated Manuscripts of the 9th Century'.

**Konstantin V. Kharchenko**, 1980, Belgorod State University. 'Power-Property-Human: The Property Redistribution in Bolshevik Russia 1917 – early 1921'.



Professor Skulachev (centre) and winners of the Academia Europaea 2004 Russia Prizes

# European Research Policy



THE Academia is responding to the challenges of Europe as policy develops in the areas of Universities and research.

The President Jürgen Mittelstrass has been invited by the European Commission as a member of a high-level panel for the future of Universities. We have also taken the lead amongst our sister Academies, with regard to the role of the Humanities in the developing European Research Council.

In order to maintain this momentum, we will be supporting a small group of members to provide a focus for European efforts in promoting the role of Humanities research both in any European Research Council and more generally in support of research at the European level. Any members willing to give time to this initiative, should contact either of Professors Jørgen Rischel [rischel@privat.dk] and Prof. Denis Weaire [denis.weaire@tcd.ie].

In December 2004, we organised a one-day workshop at the Palais des Académies in Brussels. Some 50 representatives of European Academies and funding bodies took part. The meeting discussed the practicalities and problems surrounding support for Humanities by a new European Research Council. The report can be downloaded from the website. In a future issue of *The Tree*, we will focus on European Research Policy, Framework 7 issues and the new European Research Council. To start the process, a short perspective by Jørgen Rischel on the issues surrounding the Humanities in Europe and a paper by Prof. Mittelstrass are presented.

## SALIENT FEATURES OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE HUMANITIES:

### How can the Humanities be supported at a European level?

(Jørgen Rischel, Academia Europaea, presented at a meeting of the Initiative for Science in Europe, Paris, November 2004).

IT is my point of departure that in talking about the Humanities in the ERC context we should focus entirely on *competitive basic research*, just as in the case of the Natural Sciences. I must further make precise that when I speak about "the Humanities" it is really a cover term; I think it should include what might be called the "*soft*" *social sciences*, such as cultural anthropology.

The objects studied in the humanities are of a high order of complexity, and their complexity is often in part inaccessible. Only in certain cases can one establish experimental situations where a factor can be singled out for observation and statistical processing of the data, while other variables are kept constant. The phenomena that are accessible to study are often embedded in an irreversible chronology. All of that requires *qualitative* analytical approaches of an interpretive kind to the raw data the researcher is working on.

In today's society the humanities have lost their former prestige to the natural sciences because of the spectacular explanatory power of physics and biology and also because technological and economic progress has become a dominant success criterion in Western culture. Politicians question the *True European Added-value* in supporting basic research in the humanities, although—as everybody should know—the humanities furnish the knowledge base all across Europe for qualified teaching on a whole range of subjects which identify our own identity and our historical origins.

Contemporary Europe, and in particular the EU, has a special situation as *a unity with diversity*. This multicultural and multilingual experience gives us a great potential when we approach other cultures. If we devote enough effort to in-depth understanding of ethnic groups and their traditions and religious beliefs we stand a better chance of integrating New Europeans and also of interacting fruitfully with other peoples outside Europe. Some of the problems that face us in the post-colonial era have arisen out of ignorance about the real impact of Europe's long history of influence in Africa and Asia, and about persistent, deep-rooted cultural differences. Unfortunately, universities across Europe have long been shrinking or even closing departments which guaranteed the presence of broad expertise on languages and cultures outside the Western World.

I know that it is not obvious to all why research in the humanities should be supported at all *at a European level* rather than just nationally. I think this reflects an under-estimation of the goals of the humanities. Many of the most important issues addressed in the humanities are of *universal relevance* to human knowledge, just like the basic issues in the natural sciences. This is very much true in philosophy, psychology and general linguistics; an example would be research on learning strategies. – And by studying scenarios involving cultural change or decay one can identify *societal factors that crucially affect human life or human lifestyle*. We see that in the media-promoted uniformation of mass culture among the youth, and likewise in the accelerating loss of linguistic and cultural diversity in Third World countries. – Then again some issues have an *areal perspective* embracing several cultures of Europe because there have been shared trends in the shaping of European civilization. This applies to much current research in archeology, history, art history, musicology, folklore and literary studies. Immigration to Europe is a transdisciplinary challenge of this kind.

The remainder of my brief contribution will deal with ways in which an ERC could serve the humanities best. I strive to be explicit and maybe even provocative so as to invite discussion about ways in which guidelines for funding within the humanities could be made operational.

(1) My first issue is: What is specific for research within the humanities? It must be recognized that although research groups are becoming more common in the humanities, also at the European level, much research is, and will continue to be, performed by singletons who work alone or with more or less qualified assistance from their students. In the humanities it takes many years to become a mature scholar with high expertise as well as a broad knowledge of the field, and preferably also of adjacent fields. In return, many scholars continue to be the driving forces in research of excellence, or do such research all alone, well into their retirement age.

The European centres of expertise in the humanities are geographically fragmented, and important research areas suffer from undermanning of university staffs. ERC funding could contribute to the reestablishment of *a critical mass of scholarship* in Europe. That could be done by boosting the research activity in fields in which Europe is already strong, wherever the home base of the leading scholars happens to be. But it is at least as important to stimulate highly promising students and

junior researchers so that they dare to specialize in areas that are currently suffering from serious underfunding at national levels.

Although research institutions do exist there is less tradition in the humanities than in the natural sciences for specialized milieus in which many scholars cooperate on trail-blazing research. It might be a good idea to establish "Centres of Excellence" (I personally might prefer the term *Centres of Learning*) with longer or shorter time horizons and with enough staff. That might stimulate outstanding research projects and at the same time encourage researchers from developing countries.

(2) My second issue is: What *format* of application should be prescribed in guidelines for the humanities. I would strongly advise flexibility on this point because projects are so different in nature and manpower. I would in fact call on the ERC to assist project groups administratively, especially in the case of projects which have few participants but display originality and a potential for real new insights. Such projects are easily quenched by rigid and complex formats of research administration, as they often have little access to professional secretarial aid.

It is common knowledge that research in the humanities is cheap compared with much of what is going on in the natural sciences; the humanities are more like mathematics in that respect. But that is not the whole truth. Some disciplines are actually experimental, some use costly equipment for the retrieval or sophisticated technical analyses of data, for example archeology. But the real cost factor is *time*. A project in the humanities may not involve many people but in return it is likely to have a long time horizon. I suggest that one can apply to the ERC for support up to at least six years, with evaluation after every biannual period. If the maximum time span is shorter projects easily end up without completion since they may not be able to secure continued funding at national levels.

(3) The next issue is: what kinds of project costs should be covered by ERC funding? Even renowned institutions in the humanities suffer from recent cuts leaving glaring vacancies, and in many places money for assistants is nonexistent except if provided by external funding. Thus, salaries is the big issue when people apply for project money, and there is the additional problem of national budget differences across Europe.

By funding excellent projects the ERC could keep outstanding young scholars in the field, and in Europe. But it is equally important to ensure that those in charge of projects can devote enough time to them. The ERC might ease the institutional burdens of senior scholars by negotiated agreements compensating institutions for the salaries of leaders of projects. There should also be sufficient money available for group meetings and workshops, and for travel expenditures, so as to strengthen the scholarly cooperation between different parts of Europe.

(4) A main issue is: How can one assess the quality and competitiveness of projects in such a heterogeneous landscape as the humanities? How can different types of projects from different countries be compared? I do *not* see that as a

prohibitive problem. In evaluations and appraisals at national levels we experience the very same heterogeneity. A Dane might write a thesis on some aspect of Polish history or on French grammar; in fact, such research across frontiers is a commonplace in the humanities. There is so much unity of research methods that the experienced scholar can most often assess the general quality of a project proposal or a progress report without expert knowledge of the particular field. *Academia Europaea* could help with the reviewing by defining a panel of independent specialists whom the ERC could call upon.

To the extent that the ERC subdivides the humanities into sections their domains should, in my view, *not* be geographically defined, nor need they follow traditional divisions of faculties into departments. One should leave it to a fast-working expert group to come up with a proposal about the internal structure of the humanities so that we do not lose momentum in the integration of the humanities into an ERC.

The *criteria of excellence* that projects are judged by, should be similar to those of other sciences (also because the ERC may invite interdisciplinary studies). Projects must of course be well designed and lucidly presented and involve first-rate expertise and good personal networking. In qualitative terms one can access such parameters as *originality, theoretical rigor, challenging problem formulations, interesting perspectivizations, and relevance to the field and to our general level of knowledge*. But it is rather specific to the humanities that one often has to cope with a very heterogeneous knowledge base which has accumulated within the field. Applicants must show high competence in handling that enormous apparatus, as a prerequisite to their innovative research.

(5) I shall end with a practical consideration, namely what languages to recognize as vehicles of communication at an ERC level. This is an issue in the humanities since national cultures are embedded in different languages, and much scholarly literature is written in those languages. At the ERC level, I think the use of *one* language across the board is the only practical choice. I suggest that scholars who want to apply for funding at a European level should be requested to use English in applications and in reports on the progress of their projects. Otherwise one invites difficulties when it comes to the appraisal and comparison of competing projects.

I hope these remarks have demonstrated that although there certainly *are features that are very specific to the humanities they are not of such a nature that they compromise the inclusion of the humanities into an ERC*.

## WHY ARE THE HUMANITIES RELEVANT TO EUROPE?

### Jürgen Mittelstrass (Brussels, Dec. 2004)

THE question I am going to answer is revealing. Nobody would ask a question like: why are the natural sciences relevant to Europe?, or why are the social sciences relevant to Europe? It is, indeed, obvious that modern society depends on the efficiency of the natural and the social sciences, including political sciences as well as economics and jurisprudence, but does it also depend on the efficiency of the humanities? Many seem to believe that this is not the case, that the world of the humanities is just the academic world, and that their contribution to modern society and its future, compared with the contributions of other disciplines, is neglectable, also with respect to the European project, the framing of Europe. Perhaps with one exception. It is sometimes said that the aim of the humanities is to compensate the damages arising due to technological progress. It should, however, be clear that this is a very restricted view on the humanities and their role in the past and today, particularly with regard to Europe and what the essence of European culture is.

First of all, Europe was and is not so much a reality, for instance a geographical, political or economical one, as a cultural idea – the idea of a continent with identifiably cultural structures and a form of life which, since the Greek discovery of reason, has understood itself as a rational form of life. To this belong the ideas of freedom and equality, autonomy (leading to the declaration of the human rights), universality (in terms of ethics), tolerance and reason. They all are European inventions or discoveries, they all belong to the identity of Europe. And this again is why the humanities, dealing with these ideas and this identity, are an integral part of what could be called the project of Europe.

In a recent statement on the humanities in Europe, the *Academia Europaea* has stressed the fact that the modern world is, more than ever, a product of human interaction with the natural and social world. Only people well-educated in the core disciplines shaping the modern world, which includes the thoughts and ideologies of mankind, will be able to profit fully from the wealth of human achievements, and be able to grasp in their complexity, and attempt to solve, today's problems and challenges. For example, the radical political changes we have experienced in Europe, and will continue to experience, necessitate a high degree of intellectual flexibility in its citizens. It is only by understanding other civilizations, countries, and social structures, that a deep unification going far beyond a shared political and economical apparatus may be achieved. Research into the existing social conditions, intellectual histories, and political systems is, in this respect, a prerequisite for reaching such understanding, and hence is a basic condition for the sound development of the European Union with its own identity as a union of enlightened citizens. This is why the humanities are equally deserving of public support, and why policy should aim at fostering the interest in the humanities just as it should justifiably foster interest in the natural and social sciences.

At the same time a process were to be undone, in which under the dominance of the modern incantations of globalisation,

of innovation, of societies of information and knowledge, the humanities have lost their public status, and are furthermore threatened by their marginalisation in the systems of science and research. In the Europe of research, of researchers, the humanities scarcely play a role when compared to the natural and the social sciences. And this is so even though Europe is saturated with culture. It appears as if a giant has contented himself with the role of a dwarf. This may be due in the main to political and economic priorities. But one cannot dismiss the possibility that the idea and the reality of the humanities, above all the discrepancy between idea and reality, are also involved.

Notwithstanding the role the humanities themselves play in this process, the humanities' loss of status reflects a cultural loss in society. The latter – and this holds equally well for European society – no longer understands that all of its work- and life-forms are expressions of a cultural form of the world. By cultural form I don't mean that part of an amputated culture that was marked as the territory of the humanities in the framework of the so-called two-cultures debate. According to Charles Percy Snow who started this debate, the relations between a scientific and a basically humanistic culture are essentially characterized by mutual ignorance and impoverishment, although the humanities come off significantly worse than the natural sciences in the comparison. Snow says, the natural sciences have "the future in their bones," the humanities have only the past in mind. The natural sciences are science, weighing and measuring, the humanities are evidently only "literature" or learning and remembrance. This, however, is less a description – in some cases it may be true – than a misunderstanding. What we need is a broader concept of culture, a concept that includes the natural sciences, technology and the humanities themselves as its parts, and which reveals itself as the totality of all human labor and forms of life.

In the humanities, one is concerned with this concept, i.e. with the cultural form of the world in general, and with the repeated effort of validating this form. This, again, will not be done along the way of positive knowledge such as the positive sciences provide (in the sense of dispositional knowledge) but rather along the lines of orientational knowledge. Even if there is no orientational science in the strict sense, there is indeed an orientational task which should also be served by science. That here the humanities are especially called upon lies in the fact that the objects that they study, e.g. historical and literary objects, themselves often have an orientational form. In research in the humanities this form is joined to the cultural form of the world.

A self-validation, which is a culture's living knowledge of itself in the form of a science, is of equal importance to the development and stabilisation of modern societies as their scientifically supported technical know-how. The humanistic understanding would not only have to say how the world once was before it became the modern world, but also how the modern world is as opposed, for instance, to the technological understanding that says what this world can do. Without an awareness of what they are, modern societies and the modern world are in danger of losing all orientation in the midst of their overpowering know-how. Therefore, there is indeed a systematic connection between the humanities and orientation without, however, making orientation sciences out of the humanities. On the other hand, this does not mean a thorough-going historization. The reality of the mind is always also its history, but the mind does not "belong"

to its history. And while the humanities are always also educated knowledge, this does not mean that they are purely educational sciences. Again, the justification of the humanities and their actual tasks could and should consist in a self-validation of modern culture – particularly in facing the future role of Europe.

Indeed, culture is that form in which the modern world might also preserve, or regain, its humanity. Furthermore, it is the most creative form of orientation, of oriented dealings with a common world, of transformations of the world into our world. Where culture fades, our orientations fade, and the modern world loses its human dynamic, the subject loses his freedom of motion and of judgement. And so Leonardo was also right with regard to the cultural form of the world: He who is tied to a star, doesn't turn back.

Europe's star is its culture – not as a tourist attraction, but in the encompassing senses I have developed, in which culture is the essence of all life- and work-forms, in which it is a form of the world. This could be a future role of Europe and the humanities in Europe. For when everything is measured only by its economic value, this value itself loses its meaning, or at the least its basis in a frame of reference, for such a frame cannot itself be primarily economic. This is the actual source of so many contemporary debates that have gripped modern society, as well as being what is responsible for so much of the imprecision and superficiality of the modern rhetoric of modernisation. Talk of the information society that we have supposedly already become, and of the knowledge society which we are to be, does not change anything, quite aside from the fact that these concepts enchant not the least through their enchanting unclarity. And this too should call the humanities to action, for, after all, the theory of a knowledge society will surely be a "humanistic" theory.

To put it in another than a philosophical language, and to concentrate on particular cultural problems: The challenges Europe and the world are exposed to that seem to arise from cross-cultural misunderstandings are among the most difficult and pressing ones. Experience shows, for instance, that comparative studies of countries and civilizations are of fundamental importance to achieve effective cooperation. Such studies are difficult to undertake without supranational support, e.g. a future ERC funding. As Professor Jørgen Rischel, a member of the Academia Europaea, on a recent ise meeting in Paris has pointed out, scholarship in the humanities may have a scope which makes it just as supranational as major projects in the natural sciences. This scope may be general, like studies of language learning strategies, or areal, encompassing a whole region rather than a European state per se.

The effect of such research is to decrease all and any sorts of barriers to communication and to restore faith and confidence in common European culture and civilisation; as a result, barriers to trade and economic cooperation will also decrease. The failure to realise the importance of the role of the humanities in this process might not entail the loss of any economic benefits in the short run, but it will certainly mean a less stable integration in the long run. Europe would remain more vulnerable than necessary. This must not be the aim of European research policy.

# Hubert Curien (1924-2005)



## In memoriam – statesman and scholar

PROFESSOR Hubert Curien, one of the founding fathers and second President of the Academia Europaea died on February 6, 2005.

Hubert Curien, born in 1924 in the Vosges (eastern France), graduated from the prestigious Ecole normale supérieure in Paris, which he entered in 1945, after a year in the underground resistance.

After defending a doctor's thesis in crystallography, he became assistant professor in the University of Paris, and full professor in 1956.

Hubert Curien was soon called to high offices, which he filled with great distinction, without ever relinquishing his teaching duties.

From 1969 to 1973, he served as Director General of the Centre

national de recherche scientifique (CNRS). As President of the Centre national d'études spatiales (CNES), from 1976 to 1984, and President of the European Space Agency from 1981 to 1984, he was one of the chief promoters of the European launcher Ariane.

From 1984 to 1986, H. Curien was appointed Minister of Research and Technology, and from 1988 to 1993, Minister of Research and Space. Elected to the Academy of sciences in 1993, he was its President for 2000 and 2001.

Firmly convinced of the importance of promoting European science, Hubert Curien was one of the founders and the first President of the European Foundation of Science (1979-1984).

Together with A. Burgen, U. Columbo, D. Magnusson, E. Seibold and R. van Lieshout, he was one of the founders of the Academia Europaea, and became its second President, after Sir Arnold Burgen. He was a trustee of the Academia until 2003.

Hubert Curien was an eminent scholar, a European statesman, and a courteous and generous man, of whom it can truly be said that he had only friends. He will be sorely missed.

Jean-Paul Poirier

## EASAC

### European Academies Science Advisory Council



THE Academia Europaea recognises the need for European general public policy to be built on the strong foundations of robust

evidence. That evidence base relies substantially on the knowledge that investments in 'sound science' can provide.

Since 2002, the Academia Europaea has been a founding and active member of the Council of European Academies who collectively draw on their independence and scientific expertise of their fellows to assess, interpret and advise on those issues of science that are relevant to the making of policy.

Through the preparatory work of the Executive Secretary and Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, the Academia Europaea is a key member of the work of the Council. Professor Brian Heap (chair of our Board of trustees and Council member) is currently a Vice Chair of EASAC. Professor Marie-Lise Chanin

is a member of the Environment panel of EASAC. All members of the Council are nominated by the European Academies, but, act independently of their sponsoring organisations. This independence of action is critical in generating confidence that the advice that the Council provides is both impartial and reliable.

EASAC undertakes studies, workshops and other actions that identify and synthesis the latest scientific thinking on key subjects that are of concern to Society – for example, Genomics and crops. EASAC has no commercial or business sponsors.

Further information on the EASC programme, publications and reports that have been published can be found on the EASAC website ([www.easac.org](http://www.easac.org)), or through the secretariat at the Royal Society in London (+44(0)207 451 2584) [peter.collins@royalsoc.ac.uk](mailto:peter.collins@royalsoc.ac.uk).

**If members have suggestions for issues of public policy concern that would benefit from an analysis of the current scientific thinking on the subject, please contact Brian Heap for a discussion ([rjh22@cam.ac.uk](mailto:rjh22@cam.ac.uk)).**

# Royal Irish Academy award Cunningham Medal to member of Academia Europaea



Prof. Denis Weaire with the sculpture commissioned in recognition of his contribution to the 'physics of foam'.

## Exploring connections in science and poetry



The Royal Irish Academy's highest research award, the Cunningham Medal, goes to Denis Weaire of TCD, writes Dick Ahlstrom

Scientific research is a lot like writing poetry. Both are highly creative endeavours, both demand the application of exacting technique and both are frequently misunderstood by the general public.

In his acceptance address as winner of the 2005 Royal Irish Academy Cunningham Medal, due to be presented last night in Dublin, Prof Denis Weaire explores the links between poetry and research. "What people like me are trying to do is like writing poetry," says Weaire.

The medal is considered the academy's premier award. Weaire has had a long and distinguished career in physics. He is the Erasmus Smith Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy, a chair instituted in 1724 by the philanthropist after whom it is named. Its first holder was Richard Helsham, physician to Jonathan Swift.

The sense of history associated with the medal has a strong impact on the scientist, he agrees. "I prize it very highly precisely because I have a historical view

of things. That makes it meaningful for me to receive something that makes a connection with history." Previous winners have included Ireland's greatest scientists, William Rowan Hamilton and Sir William Wilde, the famous father of the famous son, Oscar.

Weaire is known internationally for work completed in 1994 with his research student, Robert Phelan. They started collecting legions around the world with their publication of research establishing a new, more efficient packing density for same-size objects.

The challenge is to pack the maximum number of objects in a given volume with the minimum of wasted space. The previous best was established more than a century ago with a conjecture from no less than the great Lord Kelvin, with whom Weaire shares an early Belfast background.

The new Weaire-Phelan conjecture improved on Kelvin's, establishing the new conjecture as the current world-record holder.

They proved their conjecture by creating a foam structure, which might seem a pointless exercise in pedantry given the transient nature of soap bubbles. Yet their design has useful applications. The Weaire-Phelan structure is being used as a construction technique in the massive aquatic centre, the Water Cube, being ready for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

TCD has also unveiled a sculpture representing the foam structure to honour the two scientists who discovered it and in particular to celebrate Denis Weaire's wider accomplishments, not least his induction as a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Weaire is also a thinker in a broader sense and finds himself alarmed by the debt evident in the way universities do business. Is their primary goal to educate or to create knowledge? or to create wealth? "I am a devoted advocate of evolutionary change in the universities," he says.

"We have come to terms with the dominant values of our age, which come from the corporate world. They are from domination. The present expectations of Government are founded on them."

It works through the system in unusual ways, he believes, not least when scientists bid for research funding.

"We have to predict exactly what we are going to do, how we are going to do it and what we will find," he says, despite the obvious unpredictability of creative effort.

Sense of history; above right, Denis Weaire, with colleagues from TCD physics department, Steve Grusse and Michael Orenstein, behind a sculpture marking Weaire's internationalised work.

"There is pressure on us all the time to conform to stated goals. The idea that you can plan research is of limited value."

Working scientists in Ireland have come to terms with these new commercial values, he believes. "This does not mean that we allow ourselves to be entirely taken over by these values. We can combine the best of both worlds and not allow a chasm to develop between them."

He also believes that it is not a coincidence to suggest that the universities should have much more independence than they do today. "There is a European trend in that direction, particularly in Austria and Germany, but as yet it is little recognised here," he says. "We spend far too much time trying to interpret the instructions and read the minds of the masters."

He believes that the third-level sector has earned the right to expect more. "The universities deserve more credit than they are getting for what they have achieved," he argues. The record of the Irish universities over the past 30 years "has been magnificent, given their resources".

This is why he resists too strong a push towards economic justifications for conducting research. "There [the universities'] role in our economic success story is now widely recognised and we are being encouraged to lay more golden eggs. So why pluck the goose? Too many university staff members are feeling the cold," he concludes.

# New Members

## Admitted during 2004

The list of members was approved by Council, April 2004.

NAME	COUNTRY	DISCIPLINE	Y.O.B
<b>A1. HISTORY &amp; ARCHAEOLOGY</b>			
Richard Bradley	UK	Archaeology	1946
Pieter C. Emmer	Netherlands	History of European Expansion	1944
Eva Österberg	Sweden	History	1942
Jürgen Osterhammel	Germany	History	1952
<b>A2. CLASSICS &amp; ORIENTAL STUDIES</b>			
Jan Assmann	Germany	Egyptology	1938
Giuseppe Camodeca**	Italy	Roman History	1945
Pierre Gros	France	Classical Arch.& Culture	1939
<b>A4. LITERARY &amp; THEATRICAL STUDIES</b>			
Hans Bertens #	Netherlands	English & Americal Literature	1945
Helena Buescu #	Portugal	Comparative Literature	1956
Dennis Kennedy	Ireland	Theatre Studies	1940
Svend Erik Larsen #	Denmark	Comparative Literature	1946
<b>A5. MUSICOLOGY &amp; HISTORY OF ART &amp; ARCHITECTURE</b>			
Henri Vanhulst	Belgium	Musicology	1943
<b>A6. PHILOSOPHY, THEOLOGY &amp; RELIGIOUS STUDIES</b>			
Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu	Turkey	Philosophy	1943
Simo Knuutila #	Finland	Medieval Philosophy & Theology	1946
Ilkka Niiniluoto #	Finland	Philosophy of Science	1946
Heikki Räisänen #	Finland	Biblical & Religious studies	1941
<b>A8. SOCIAL SCIENCES</b>			
Frauke Kraas	Germany	Geography	1962
Saskia Sassen ( <b>Foreign</b> )**	USA	Sociology	1949

NAME	COUNTRY	DISCIPLINE	Y.O.B
<b>B2. PHYSICS &amp; ENGINEERING SCIENCES</b>			
Edouard Brézin	France	Theoretical Physics	1938
Martial Ducloy	France	Physics	1945
<b>B3. CHEMICAL SCIENCES</b>			
<b>Nils Per Ahlberg # (last year)</b>	Sweden	Chemistry/Organic chemistry	1938
Marius Andruh	Romania	Inorganic chemistry	1954
<b>Jan Reedijk #</b>	Netherlands	Inorganic chemistry	1943
<b>B4. EARTH &amp; COSMIC SCIENCES</b>			
<b>Paul Andriessen #</b>	Netherlands	Earth Sciences	1951
Angelo Camerlenghi**	Italy	Geological Oceanography	1960
Valentin P. Dymnikov	Russia	Earth & Cosmic Sciences	1938
<b>Jacob T. Fokkema #</b>	Netherlands	Earth Sciences	1948
Gerard Gilmore	UK	Astronomy	1951
<b>Falko Langenhorst #</b>	Germany	Mineralogy	1964
Timonthy Palmer	UK	Meteorology	1952
<b>Annie Souriau-Thevenard #</b>	France	Seismology	1947
<b>Hans Thybo #</b>	Denmark	Geology	1954
Rudolf A. Treumann	Germany	Space Physics	1940
<b>Walter D. Mooney (last yr) (Foreign)</b>	USA	Geophysics	1951
<b>C1. BIOCHEMISTRY &amp; MOLECULAR BIOLOGY</b>			
<b>Bernard F.Gannon #</b>	Germany	Molecular Biology	1947
Eugene Sverdlov	Russia	Bioorganic Chemistry	1938
Mariano Barbacid (2001)	Spain	Biology	1949
<b>C3. PHYSIOLOGY &amp; MEDICINE</b>			
Patrik Brundin	Sweden	Neurology	1961
Herta Flor	Germany	Neuropsychology	1954
Eugene Grishin**	Russia	Molecular Neurobiology	1946
Arthur Konnerth	Germany	Developmental Neurobiology	1953
Ivica Kostovic	Croatia	Developmental Neuroscience	1943
Laszlo Kovacs	Hungary	Physiology	1939
Richard Alan North	UK	Physiology	1944
Carlo Patrono	Italy	Clinical Pharmacology	1944
Luigia Santella	Italy	Developmental Physiology & Biology	1957
<b>Ketty Schwartz #</b>	France	Molecular Genetics	1937
Josef Syka	Czech Republic	Neuroscience	1940
<b>C4. ORGANISMIC &amp; EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY</b>			
<b>Bernd-Olaf Küppers #</b>	Germany	Biophysical Chemistry & Philosophy	1944
<b>Gunnar Oquist #</b>	Sweden	Plant Physiology	1941
<b>Joao S. Pereira #</b>	Portugal	Forest Ecology	1948

Note:  
 # attending Helsinki AGM  
 \*\* have not replied (as of 17 August)

# Section chairs & committee members 2004

Section:	Chairperson:	Committee Members:
<b>A1. History &amp; Archaeology</b>	<b>Peter Burke</b>	
	Emmanuel College	Henk Wesseling
	Cambridge CB2 3AP, UK	
	Upb1000@cam.ac.uk	
<b>A2. Classics &amp; Oriental Studies</b>	<b>Heikki Solin</b>	Marianne Bergmann
	Klassillisen Filologian Laitos	Margarethe Billerbeck
	Helsingin Yliopisto	Barbara Kellner-Heinkele
	PL4, (Yliopistonkatu 3)	Harm Pinkster
	FIN-00014, Helsinki	
	FINLAND	
	heikki.solin@helsinki.fi	
<b>A3. Linguistic Studies</b>	<b>Jørgen Rischel</b>	Eva Hajicová
	Stenhojgaardsvej 57	Fred Karlsson
	3460 Birkerd	Helmut Schnelle
	DENMARK	
	jr@cphling.dk	
<b>A4. Literary &amp; Theatrical Studies</b>	Theo D'haen	Douwe Fokkema
	Dept. Literatuurwetenschap	Erika Fischer-Lichte
	Leuven University	Maria-Alzira Seixo
	Blijde Inkomststr. 21	Mihály Szegedy-Mászak
	B-3000 Leuven	
	BELGIUM	
	Theo.dhaen@arts.kuleuven.ac.be	
<b>A.5 Musicology &amp; History of Art &amp; Architecture</b>	David Hiley	<b>Laszlo Dobszay</b>
	Insitute für Musikwissenschaft	Rudolf Flotzinger
	Universität Regensburg	Roger Stalley
	D-93040 Regensburg	
	GERMANY	
	david.hiley@psk.uni-regensburg.de	
<b>A.6 Philosophy, Theology &amp; Religious Studies</b>	<b>Dagfinn Føllesdal</b>	Anders Jeffner
	Staverhagan 7	
	1341 Slepden	
	NORWAY	
	dagfinn.follesdal@filosofi.uio.no	
<b>A7. Behavioural Sciences</b>	<b>Johannes Siegrist</b>	Paul Baltes
	Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf	Michael Rutter
	Dept. of Medical Sociology	Michael Marmot
	P B 101007	
	D-40001 Düsseldorf	
	GERMANY	
	siegrist@uni-duesseldorf.de	
<b>A8. Social Sciences</b>	<b>Robert Erikson</b>	Jean Blondel
	Swedish Institute for Social	Elina Haavio-Mannila
	Research/Stockholm University	Konstantinos Kerameus
	S-10691 Stockholm	Walther Manshard
	SWEDEN	
	Robert.erikson@sofi.su.se	

<b>Section:</b>	<b>Chairperson:</b>	<b>Committee Members:</b>
<b>B1. Mathematics and Informatics</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	Dines Bjørner Manfred Broy
<b>B2. Physics and Engineering Sciences</b>	<b>Norbert Kroo</b>  Hungarian Academy of Sciences Roosevelt tér 9 H-1051 Budapest HUNGARY kroo@office.mta.hu	Ian Butterworth Robert Dautray Heinz Duddeck Vladimir Kljuev László Csernai Herbert Walther Peter de Witt Huberts
<b>B3. Chemical Sciences</b>	<b>Jerzy Haber</b>  Institute of Catalysis and Surface Chemistry ul. Niezapominajek 8 PL-30239 Cracow POLAND nchaber@cyf-kr.edu.pl	Peter Day Torbjörn Norin Frigyes Solymosi John Meurig Thomas Michel Che Herbert Roesky
<b>B4. Earth and Cosmic Sciences</b>	<b>Sierd Cloetingh</b>  Faculty of Earth Sciences Vrije Universiteit De Boelelaan 1085 1081 Amsterdam NETHERLANDS cloeting@geo.vu.nl	Enric Banda André Berger Paul Crutzen Jean Dercourt Jean-Claude Duplessy Kerstin Fredga Camiel de Loore
<b>C1. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology</b>	<b>Moshe Yaniv</b>  Institut Pasteur Dept. des Biotechnologies 25 rue du Docteur Roux 75724 Paris Cedex 15, FRANCE yaniv@pasteur.fr	Piet Borst Riccardo Cortese Michel Lazdunski Tomas Lindahl Margarita Salas Gottfried Schatz
<b>C2. Cell Biology</b>	<b>Frank Grosveld</b>  Erasmus University Rotterdam Dept. of Cell Biology & Genetics/POBox 1738 3000-DR Rotterdam NETHERLANDS f.grosveld@erasmusmc.nl	Michael Ashburner Margaret Buckingham Meinrad Busslinger Enrico Coen Ingrid Grummt
<b>C3. Physiology and Medicine</b>	<b>Ole Petersen</b>  University of Liverpool Department of Physiology P.O. Box 147 <b>Crown Street</b> <b>Liverpool L69 3BX</b> o.h.petersen@liverpool.ac.uk	Raymond Ardaillou Theophile Godfraind Barbro Johansson Oleg Krishtal <b>Harald Reuter</b> <b>András Spät</b> Alexej Verkhratsky
<b>C4. Organismic and Evolutionary Biology</b>	<b>Lars Walløe</b>  University of Oslo Dept. of Physiology P O Box 1103 Blindern N-0317 Oslo NORWAY lars.walloe@basalmed.uio.no	Friedrich Ehrendorfer Gotthilf Hempel Carlos Herrera Richard Southwood Rüdiger Wehner

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### Symposium volumes available free, on request

2003 "Excellence in Higher Education" – published by the Portland Press. Edited by Erik de Corte (Wenner Gren symposium volume 82). Copies available free on request from the Secretariat ([admin@acadeuro.org](mailto:admin@acadeuro.org)).

- Psychosocial Disorders in young people: Edited by Michael Rutter and David Smith. (Wiley publ.1995)
- Virtual University? Educational environments of the future. Edited by Henk van der Molen (Wenner Gren symposium series number 79).

### Statement published by the Council:

- "The importance of the Humanities in the context of European Research Area" September 2004.

Copies of this and earlier statements can be downloaded from the website, or provided on request to the secretariat.

**Members have an open invitation to submit articles and items of interest for publication in The Tree. The editor reserves the right to edit for length. Next issue (21) will be published in July 2005.**

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It has a membership of 2300 leading scholars from thirty-five European and seven non-European countries. It held plenary meetings in London (1989), Strasbourg (1990), Heidelberg (1991), Budapest (1992), Uppsala (1993), Parma (1994), Kraków (1995), Barcelona (1996), Gent (1997), Basel (1998), Copenhagen (1999), Prague (2000), Rotterdam (2001), Lisbon (2002), Graz (2003), Helsinki (2004). The 2005 meeting is in Potsdam, Berlin.

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