
Academia Europaea Newsletter, August 2026

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Thu, Aug 6, 2026 at 1:24 PM

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Academia Europaea Newsletter, August 2026**Published 6 August.**

Our monthly Newsletter keeps you up-to-date with what's happening at Academia Europaea.

SAVE THE DATE



Early bird registration until 1 September: Building Bridges 2026

Please note that early bird registration for [Building Bridges 2026](#) (12 to 16 October) is currently available at a reduced rate until 1 September 2026. Secure your place [here](#).

The early bird registration is the best way to reduce your attendance cost, but in addition, the organisers of BB26 have created the possibility to cover part of the costs for some participants who find themselves in exceptional circumstances. Read more about this limited option [here](#).

The conference, held under the theme [Building Bridges '26](#), will bring together leading European scholars from across the disciplines for five days of plenary lectures, discussion, and cross-disciplinary exchange.

Information on the programme and the plenary lectures can be found [here](#). We can already confirm that the following distinguished scholars will deliver plenary lectures: [Stefan Hell](#) MAE, [Sierd Cloetingh](#) MAE, [Aditi Lahiri](#) MAE, [Konstantin Novoselov](#) MAE and [Paul Schulze-Lefert](#).

Speaker Spotlight: Sierd Cloetingh

We are deeply honoured to announce that Professor Sierd Cloetingh MAE, Utrecht University Distinguished Professor of Earth Sciences and past President of the Academia Europaea, will be a keynote speaker at Building Bridges 2026. His presentation, titled "Coupled Systems: The Deep Earth and the Surface Crisis," will offer our community an invaluable perspective on how deep-Earth geodynamics directly shape surface environments, offering crucial insights into natural hazards, climate

resilience, and the sustainable management of Earth's resources. Find the latest updates on the conference programme and speakers [here](#).



EVENTS



Hybrid event: The EU's coming ERA Act and the Fifth Freedom

The [AE Barcelona Knowledge Hub](#) is a co-organizer of the 29 September hybrid event "The EU's coming ERA Act and the Fifth Freedom: Advancing Science in and for Europe". In a 2024 report, the Fifth Freedom – the "Freedom of Knowledge" – is described as an important instrument for completing and boosting the Single Market. At the same time, this Fifth Freedom has long been considered crucial for creating a fully integrated European Research Area. What is the Fifth Freedom? Why is it needed now? The Barcelona hybrid event on 29 September at 12 pm includes presentations from leading experts and a Q&A. [Read more and find registration link here](#).

Wrocław summer school: Holocaust in Literature and Film

The Summer School in Holocaust Literature and Film: "Sites, Memory, Representation" will be held in Wrocław between 7 and 11 September. Participants will explore contemporary literary and cinematic representations of the Holocaust, with particular attention to topographical sites that functioned as spaces of persecution, extermination, and commemoration. It examines how these landscapes are reimagined in narrative and film and how they participate in commemorative practices. The Summer School is organised and led by Professor [Helena Duffy](#) MAE. The [2026 Summer School in Wrocław](#) is supported by the [Hubert Curien Fund](#). [Read more here](#).

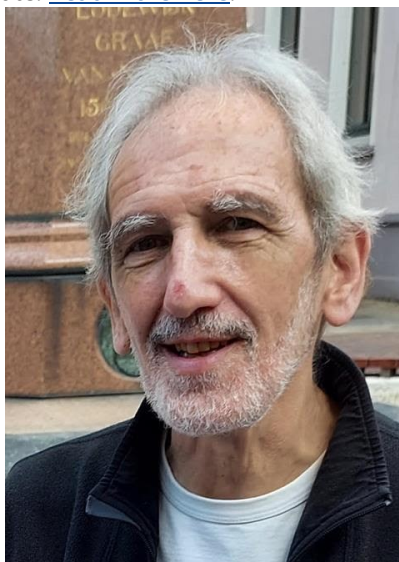


Widening European Participation in ERC grants

[Academia Europaea Budapest Knowledge Hub](#) hosts an online event to discuss possibilities of Widening European participation in European Research Council (ERC) grants on 2 September from 15:00 to 16:30 CEST. The event will feature a keynote introductory speech by Prof. Maria Leptin (MAE, President of the ERC) presenting the white paper of the ERC working group on Widening European participation. This talk will be followed by two best practice examples from widening countries. These presentations will be followed by a Q&A session moderated by Katalin Solymosi (FYAE, vice academic director of the AE Budapest Hub). [Read more and find registration link here](#).

Bucharest conference: Attacks on History and Historians

Professor of History, [Antoon De Baets](#) MAE, has been advancing a human rights framework to address all forms of attacks on history and historians. He has inspired many researchers, resulting in presentations, publications, debates, etc. De Baets is one of four conveners at the 29 to 31 October conference "Attacks on History and Historians" in Bucharest, drawing on De Baets' work, but also with [Sorin Antohi](#) MAE starting from the Romanian case, while also adding more contextual, historical and theoretical dimensions of the debate. [Read more here](#).



The AE Budapest Hub's "Empowering Women in Science" project presents a
2nd Leadership Coaching session
by **Andrea Tamási** (professional women leadership coach)
**When Passion Becomes the Problem –
Understanding Burnout and What to Do About It**
on 4 September 2026 at 9:00-11:30 CEST, Online



Registration:
<https://shorturl.at/03wgc>



RECENT EVENTS

Hosted by the Bucharest Hub: The Past and Futures of Utopia

In keeping with its strategy, the [Academia Europaea Bucharest Knowledge Hub](#) works closely with major international institutions and academic networks. Thus, on 1 to 4 July 2027, the Hub hosted, with the assistance of many partners and sponsors, the 26th annual conference of the Utopian Studies Society / Europe (USS/E). Its main theme was "The Past and Futures of Utopia", and it gathered 130 participants (18 online) from 25 countries. [Read more here](#).

Tbilisi Summer School: Heritage, Science, Archaeology, and Modern Technologies

From 28 July to 2 August, the International Summer School "Heritage, Science, Archaeology, and Modern Technologies" was held for the third consecutive year, organized by the Academia Europaea Tbilisi Knowledge Hub and the Georgian National Museum. Within the framework of the intensive program, participants attended lectures delivered by Georgian and international specialists whose work is connected with multidisciplinary international projects. [Read more here](#).

FEATURED

EASAC Celebrates 25 Years of science advice

Twenty-five years ago, Europe's national science academies joined forces to ensure a seat at the table for science-based evidence when EU politicians face crucial decisions. Since its founding in 2001, the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) has been a trusted voice, harnessing the expertise of Europe's national science academies. [Read more here](#).



AWARDS AND ELECTIONS

Mihály Pósfai elected President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Professor [Mihály Pósfai](#) MAE is elected President of the [Hungarian Academy of Sciences](#). Professor Pósfai is a Professor of Geology at the [University of Pannonia](#), Hungary. His research has focused

primarily on environmental mineralogy, including the study of the properties and formation of magnetic nanocrystals in living organisms. Throughout his distinguished career, he has received numerous honours and awards, such as the Academy Award of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (2010), and the Széchenyi Prize (2016). Prof. Pósfai was elected as member of the [Earth and Cosmic Sciences Section](#) of Academia Europaea in 2021. [Read more here](#).



ECPR Lifetime Achievement Award honours Stefano Bartolini

Prof. [Stefano Bartolini](#) MAE, Emeritus Professor of Comparative Politics at the European University Institute, Florence, was awarded the [ECPR 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award](#) for his exceptional scholarly career, marked by achievements that stand out for their originality and analytical power. Prof. Bartolini was elected as member of the [Governance, Institutions and Policies](#) Section of Academia Europaea in 2022. Prof. Bartolini is Emeritus Professor of Comparative Politics at the European University Institute, Florence. [Read more here](#).

Lise Øvreås is Board Member of the Polar Academy

At the recent Annual Meeting of [The Polar Academy](#), Professor [Lise Øvreås](#) (MAE and Academic Director

of the [Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub](#)) was elected as a new Board Member of The Polar Academy. "Polar regions are changing rapidly and play a key role in global climate and environmental processes. The complexity of these challenges requires close collaboration across disciplines and national borders. That is why both polar research and strong academic networks are more important than ever," Lise Øvreås says. [Read more here](#).



Jan Krajíček receives the Shoenfield Prize

Professor [Jan Krajíček](#) MAE, Professor of Mathematical Logic at the Charles University in Prague, received the Shoenfield Prize, one of the top awards in mathematical logic, for his publication "[Proof Complexity](#)", Encyclopedia of Mathematics and Its Applications, no. 170. The Shoenfield Prize is awarded for outstanding expository writing in the field of logic, and is awarded by [The Association for Symbolic Logic](#). [Read more here](#).

Ioannis Liritzis appointed Distinguished Professor at Chuzhou University

Professor [Ioannis Liritzis](#) MAE was appointed Distinguished Professor at Chuzhou University during the 2026 International Science and Technology Activity Week. The appointment was formalized during a signing ceremony with university President Prof. Xu Zhou, and held as part of the university's 2026 International Science and Technology Activity Week. [Read more here](#).



Matthias Tschöp receives the 2026 Broermann Medical Innovation Award

[Matthias Tschöp](#) MAE, physician, metabolism researcher and President of the [Ludwig Maximilians University](#) of Munich, has been named a recipient of the 2026 [Broermann Medical Innovation Award](#). He will share the distinction with Svetlana Mojsov and Richard DiMarchi. Prof. Tschöp was elected as member of the [Physiology and Neuroscience](#) Section of Academia Europaea in 2016.

Donald B. Dingwell elected member of RACAB Barcelona

Professor [Donald B. Dingwell](#), President of Academia Europaea and former Director of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the [Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München](#) (LMU), has been elected as Foreign Member of the [Reial Acadèmia de Ciències i Arts de Barcelona](#) (RACAB). The Catalan academy, founded in 1764, consists of seven sections, including the section of Earth Sciences. It plays a vital role in the scientific landscape of the city and the region and counts ca. 40 foreign members to its membership. [Read the website article](#).

MAEs elected to the Polish Academy of Sciences

During the 156th Session of the General Assembly of the [Polish Academy of Sciences](#) (PAN), new [foreign members of the Polish Academy of Sciences](#) were elected. This distinction is awarded to outstanding scholars from outside Poland. Among the new foreign members of the Polish Academy of Sciences are

13 Members of Academia Europaea. [Read more here.](#)



NAE elects eight Members of Academia Europaea

Eight members of Academia Europaea are among the 130 members and 28 international members elected by the [National Academy of Engineering](#) (NAE) this year. Academia Europaea congratulates its members to this distinction. [Read more here.](#)

Antonio Feltrinelli Prizes awarded to four MAEs

Established in 1942 through a bequest by entrepreneur and artist Antonio Feltrinelli, the Feltrinelli Prize is one of Italy's most prestigious awards in science and culture. It recognizes outstanding Italian and international figures for exceptional contributions to science and the arts. Four MAEs were awarded among the the 2026 prizes. [Read more here.](#)



PUBLICATIONS

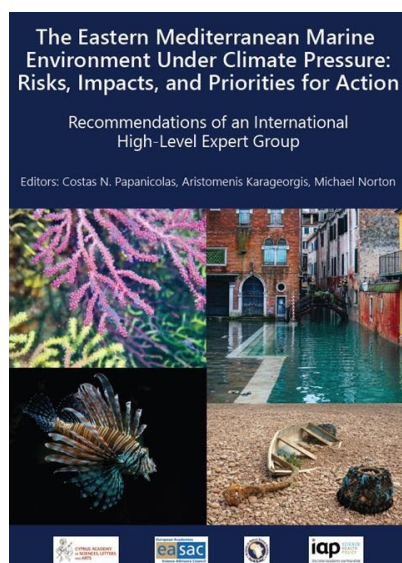


Articles from the next special issue online

Academia Europaea's flagship journal, [European Review](#), is a unique interdisciplinary international journal covering a wide range of subjects. Articles from the upcoming special issue "[Institutional Perspectives on Universities](#)" are now available online. Among the articles: "[Gold and God: American Universities Targeted](#)" and "[Reflections on Risks and Regulation in Higher Education](#)". Articles in the special issue, covering current challenges for Universities, Higher Education and Academic publishing, are based on a conference held at the Wenner-Gren Centre in Stockholm on 21 to 23 May 2025. [Find the European Review here](#).

Report: The Eastern Mediterranean Marine Environment Under Climate Pressure

The Eastern Mediterranean is warming significantly faster than the global average. Its marine environment is increasingly exposed to interacting pressures from rising temperatures, marine heatwaves, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, altered circulation patterns, declining oxygen concentrations, invasive species, and growing anthropogenic pressures. In response to these escalating challenges, the [Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts](#) has released a new report titled "The Eastern Mediterranean Marine Environment Under Climate Pressure: Risks, Impacts and Priorities for Action". The project, carried out in cooperation with [EASAC](#) and the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC), was supported by a [competitive grant](#) from the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP). [Read more here](#).



MEMBER NEWS

The Social and Related Sciences Class of AE is now the Social Sciences Class

At the last meeting of the Board of Trustees of Academia Europaea, the members of the Board voted in favour of the change of the name of the Class of "Social and Related Sciences" to "Social Sciences". Professor [Björn Wittrock](#) MAE, Chair of the present Social Sciences Class, explains the reasons for the change in the denomination [here](#).

Newly-elected Members 2026

Following an extensive peer review of nominations, the Board of Trustees invited 275 eminent scholars to accept membership to the Academia Europaea across the four Classes of Humanities and Arts; Social Sciences; Exact Sciences and Life Sciences. [Find out who has joined Academia Europaea](#).

Your 2026 membership contribution

We would like to remind Members about the 2026 membership contribution. You will have received an e-invoice for 2026 in January. If you have already paid, thank you. If you have not already paid, our Treasurer, [Steve Evans](#) MAE, kindly reminds you to do so at your earliest convenience. 'How to pay' options can be found [on our website](#).

CALLS

Open call for nominations

The [Academia Europaea Barcelona Knowledge Hub](#) (AE-BKH) is pleased to announce the Call for Nominations for the seventh edition of the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize, awarded by the Barcelona City Council in collaboration with the Barcelona AE Hub. The call for nominations is open until 17 August. [Read more here](#).



Call for Abstracts and Posters: 1st Dialogues4Peace Conference

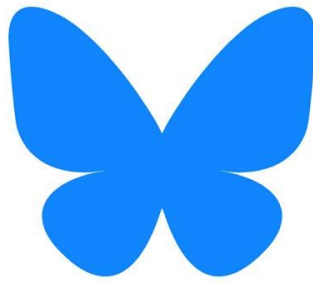
Members of Academia Europaea are invited to participate in the 1st Dialogues4Peace Conference, to be held in Athens, Greece, on October 25 to 27, 2026. Abstracts for 5-minute oral presentations and poster submissions on topics including ancient ethical systems and peacebuilding, cultural heritage and intercultural understanding, archaeology and heritage as reconciliation tools, education for peace, and environmental stewardship are invited. Deadline for submissions is 10 October. [Read more and find submission link here.](#)

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Subscribe to our YouTube channel

We invite you to browse the [Academia Europaea YouTube channel](#), where you'll find recordings of panel discussions on topics from recent SAPEA reports, lectures from past Building Bridges conferences, and a variety of AE webinars.



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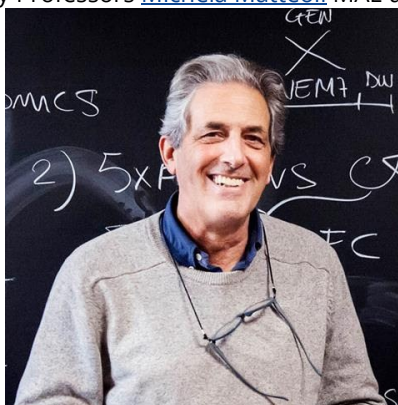
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- [@aebudapest.bsky.social](https://bsky.social/profile/aebudapest)

OBITUARIES

Antonino Cattaneo (1954 - 2026)

It is with profound sadness that the Academy has learned about the passing of Professor [Antonino Cattaneo](#) MAE, a visionary Italian neuroscientist and biophysicist whose pioneering discoveries in neurotrophins, intracellular antibodies, and neurodegenerative diseases reshaped modern neuroscience. [Read an obituary](#) by Professors [Michela Matteoli](#) MAE and [Maria Concetta Morrone](#) MAE.





Frank Grosveld (1948 - 2026)

Academia Europaea are saddened to announce the death of Professor [Frank Grosveld](#) MAE, elected as member of the Cell and Developmental Biology Section in 1989. [Read an obituary](#) by Professor [Crisanto Gutierrez](#) MAE.

IN MEMORIAM

Academia Europaea mourns the loss of:

Humanities and Arts

[Rosamond D. McKitterick](#) (1949-2026) History and Archaeology

[Carlo Ginzburg](#) (1939-2026) History and Archaeology

[Hendrik van Gorp](#) (1935-2026) Literary and Theatrical Studies

[Oskár Elschek](#) (1931-2026) Musicology and Art History

Social Sciences

[Roland Fuchs](#) (1933-2026) Human Mobility, Environment, Space and Sustainability

Exact Sciences

[Erwin Engeler](#) (1930-2026) Mathematics

[Peter Schuster](#) (1941-2026) Chemical Sciences

[Rolf Emmermann](#) (1940-2026) Earth and Cosmic Science

[Cesar Ranero](#) (1963-2026) Earth and Cosmic Science

[Ralph Wijers](#) (1964-2026) Earth and Cosmic Science

Life Sciences

[Frank Grosveld](#) (1948-2026) Cell and Developmental Biology

[Antonino Cattaneo](#) (1954-2026) Physiology and Neuroscience

[Malcolm Burrows](#) (1943-2026) Physiology and Neuroscience

[Eberhard Frömter](#) (1935-2026) Physiology and Neuroscience

If you are aware of any Members of Academia Europaea who have passed away, kindly inform us

at office@ae-info.org.

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