



European Research Council

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## **Highlight**

### **"Summer Davos": European Research Council brings science into debate on growth**

9 September 2015

**From 9 to 11 September, the European Research Council (ERC) takes part in the Annual Meeting of the New Champions (AMNC) in Dalian, China, to highlight the role of science in charting a new course for economic growth. Alongside ERC President Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon and Vice-President Prof. Núria Sebastià Gallés, 18 pioneering ERC grantees will share their cutting-edge research. Twelve of them are invited as *Young Scientists* - this is one third of all selected scientists in this prestigious World Economic Forum (WEF) programme that gathers outstanding young talent.**

The AMNC, dubbed "Summer Davos", provides a platform for emerging leaders, young researchers and entrepreneurs from around the world to engage with leading figures from industry, politics and science, and to discuss global challenges.

European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas, one of the co-chairs of this year's conference, commented: *"I am pleased to attend the meeting together with the European Research Council to highlight the role of science in creating sustainable growth. I am also proud that ERC grantees are so well represented among the excellent young scientists attending. This shows that the ERC funds the right people and by giving them freedom to take risks and follow their passion, helps to unleash innovation"*.

ERC President Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, a speaker at the event, said: *"The European Research Council, with its mission to fund innovative research potentially generating breakthroughs, is pleased to contribute to the meeting's debate about new paths for economic growth. ERC grantees invited this year will outline the latest developments in a variety of scientific areas. The event is a wonderful opportunity for leading researchers to meet and discuss science much beyond their traditional communities"*.

He added: *"Breakthroughs should not be prevented to happen because of borders. Scientists with talent know it and look for ways to cooperate. China and the EU recently agreed to make it easier for Chinese scientists to join ERC research teams in Europe in an effort to stimulate scientific exchange"*.

**ERC press briefing in Dalian on Wednesday 9 Sept at 14.15 - 14.45 (UTC+8) - [follow live](#)**

**"Ambitious research, a key ingredient for Europe's growth" - will be held on with:**

- Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation
- Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, ERC President
- Prof. Panayiota Poirazi, ERC grant winner

In addition, ERC speakers will participate in eight sessions. Prof. Bourguignon will be a panellist in a session on the factors enabling long-term innovation, and Prof. Sebastià Gallés will explain how the notion of being human is redefined by new research findings. Four ERC grant winners, Professors Ellen Backus, Santiago Badia, Frédérique Battin-Leclerc and Anna



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Fontcuberta i Morral, will address the question of the energy sources of tomorrow in the ERC *Ideas Lab* session.

More than 1500 participants from over 90 countries will attend the event this year.

Read more about two of the ERC grantees speaking at AMNC:

- [Prof. Anna Fontcuberta i Morral](#)
- [Prof. Sriram Subramanian](#)

### **ERC at the AMNC 2015:**

#### **Wednesday 9 September**

11:00-12:30 **Socially disruptive technology** (DICC, Work studio)

Speakers include: **ERC grantee Prof. Sriram Subramanian**

13:15-14:30 **Unexpected Discoveries with Nature** (DICC, Ideas Lab)

Speakers include: **ERC grantee Dr Sohini Kar-Narayan**

14:15-14:45 **ERC Press Briefing** (DICC, Press conference room)

The speakers will reflect on the importance of frontier research in stimulating economic growth, and in particular discuss one of Europe's ingredients for innovation and growth – investing in top researchers through the ERC.

15:45-16:15 **Clouds over Sidra** (DICC, Virtual Reality Dome)

Speaker: **ERC grantee Prof. Sriram Subramanian**

#### **Thursday, 10 September**

12:15-12:45 **Countering Brain Drain** (DICC, Innovator Hub 1)

Speaker: **ERC grantee Prof. Panayiota Poirazi**

#### **Friday, 11 September**

09:15-10:15 **Ingenuity is not enough** (DICC, Arena)

Speakers include: **ERC President Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon**

11:00-12:15 **Ideas lab - New Energy Sources with the ERC** (DICC, IdeasLab)

Speakers: **ERC grantees Prof. Ellen Backus, Prof. Santiago Badia, Prof. Frédérique Battin-Leclerc, Prof. Anna Fontcuberta i Morral**

12:00-13:00 **How to build an intelligent machine** (DICC, Betazone)

Speakers include: **ERC grantees Prof. Michael Bronstein and Dr Bjorn Schuller**

13:30-14:30 **Being Human** (DICC, Betazone)

Speakers include: **ERC Vice-President Prof. Núria Sebastià Gallés**

ERC at "Summer Davos" 2015 [event page](#)

Detailed [ERC programme](#)

ERC speakers' [biographies](#)



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### **Note to the editors**

Set up in 2007 by the EU, the **European Research Council (ERC)** is the first pan-European funding organisation for frontier research. It aims to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe by encouraging competition for funding between the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age. The ERC strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe. Since its launch, the ERC has supported some 5,000 top researchers and has radically changed Europe's research landscape.

The ERC is led by an independent governing body, the Scientific Council, and, since January 2014, the ERC President is Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon. The ERC has a budget of over €13 billion from 2014 to 2020 and is part of the EU research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, for which European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Carlos Moedas is responsible.

ERC representatives took part in the WEF Annual Meeting of the New Champions for the first time in September 2012, in Tianjin, China. The ERC then participated in the WEF summit in Davos, Switzerland, in January 2013, and since then it is present at both events every year.

The **World Economic Forum** is an independent international organisation committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agenda.

### **Links**

[ERC website](#)

[AMNC official programme](#)

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