



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

**The European Research Council (ERC)  
at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum  
17 - 20 January 2017, Davos, Switzerland**

# Programme



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Horizon 2020  
European Union funding  
for Research & Innovation





**Tuesday 17 January**

08:15 - 09:00

## **Why Facts Don't Unify Us**

(Congress Centre, BetaZone)

How does the brain process information to form beliefs, and what does science tell us about why evidence about climate change, migration and privacy produces such divergent views? Moderated by Philip Campbell, Editor-in-Chief, Nature.

ERC speaker:

> **Harvey Whitehouse**, Oxford University, ERC Advanced Grant holder

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14:00 - 15:00

## **Governors Policy Meeting for Chemistry & Advanced Materials**

(Ameron Swiss Mountain Hotel, Cervolino)

Adopting and informing policy are two roles the industry assumes. The Governors will share key insights and discuss the guidelines derived from recent global processes with leading policy-makers. They will also explore the policy environment needed to foster collaborative innovation in response to the SDGs.

ERC speaker:

> **Jean-Pierre Bourguignon**, ERC President

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16:15-17:30

## **Pathways to a 1.5 Degree World**

(Congress Centre, Atelier)

Achieving the Paris Agreement will require ongoing research to guide the actions of governments, businesses, cities and communities. How can funders, universities and publishing houses collaborate to produce policy-relevant science?

ERC speaker:

> **Jean-Pierre Bourguignon**, ERC President

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20:00 - 22:00

## **Beyond the Possible**

(Derby Hotel, Fluela 1,2,3)

As emerging technologies turn science fiction into fact, leading scientists, technologists and artists gather to write the science fiction of tomorrow.

ERC speaker:

> **Stéphanie P. Lacour**, EPFL, ERC Starting and Proof of Concept Grant holder

## Wednesday 18 January

16:30-17:45

### **The Science of Social Cohesion with the European Research Council**

**ERC IdeasLab session**

(Congress Centre, IdeasLab)

Discover new ideas and insights with leading researchers in the IdeasLab.

- Deducing the cognitive basis of attempting to influence others
- Fostering digitally inclusive societies
- Quelling radicalization through new understanding of ritual, fusion and identity

ERC speakers:

- > **Jean-Pierre Bourguignon**, ERC President
- > **Bahador Bahrami**, UCL, ERC Starting Grant holder
- > **Harvey Whitehouse**, Oxford University, ERC Advanced Grant holder
- > **Evelyn Ruppert Goldsmiths**, University of London, ERC Consolidator Grant holder

## Thursday 19 January

09:00-09:30

### **Ask About: The Science of Identity**

(Congress Centre, Science Hub)

Explore how science is revealing a new understanding of how identity shapes radicalization.

ERC speaker:

- > **Harvey Whitehouse**, Oxford University, ERC Advanced Grant holder

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09:45 - 10:15

### **Tipping Point: Quantum Computing**

(The Loft, Hub A)

Imagine in 2025 that quantum computers, while relatively expensive, are reliable, hugely powerful and able to circumvent strong encryption up to 256 bits. How should business, government and civil society prepare for such a future?

Delve into “known unknowns” of the Fourth Industrial Revolution with the Global Future Councils.

ERC speaker:

- > **Jeremy O’Brien**, University of Bristol, ERC Starting and Consolidator Grant holder



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10:45 - 12:00

## Driving Growth through Care

(Congress Centre, Jakobshorn)

Small investments in the care economy would provide a major boost to growth and employment in many developed and emerging markets. What business and policy innovations hold the greatest potential for driving growth and gender equality through care?

Dimensions to be addressed:

- Building care as a sector for growth
- Addressing unpaid work responsibilities
- Integrating technology across care services

ERC speaker:

> **Sir Christopher Pissarides**, London School of Economics, University of Cyprus;  
ERC Advanced Grant holder

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11:00-12:00

## What If: Privacy Becomes a Luxury good?

(Congress Centre, Aspen 1)

Our devices are monitoring us around the clock, the digital services we rely on require our personal data and anonymity is becoming impossible. What if data privacy becomes a luxury that only the wealthy can afford?

Explore the possible, plausible and probable impacts of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

This session will be televised

ERC speaker:

> **Evelyn Ruppert**, University of London, ERC Consolidator Grant holder

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12:30 - 13:45

## The European Markets Outlook

(Ameron Swiss Mountain Hotel, Cervolino)

Amid low interest rates, low potential growth and headwinds from anti-globalization movements, what lies ahead for European markets in 2017?

Dimensions to be addressed:

- Implications of Brexit
- Monetary and fiscal stimuli
- Low enterprise productivity

ERC speaker:

> **Hélène Rey**, London Business School, ERC Starting and Advanced Grant holder

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16:45 - 17:15

## **Ask About: The Science of Influencing**

(Congress Centre, Science Hub)

Explore the cognitive basis of attempting to influence others.

ERC speaker:

> **Bahador Bahrami**, UCL, ERC Starting Grant holder

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20:00 - 22:00

## **The State of the World with Nobel Laureates in Economics**

(Kongress Hotel, Restaurant)

An informal conversation with Nobel Laureates on the economic imperatives for 2017.  
Moderated by Zanny Minton Beddoes, The Economist Editor-in-Chief.

ERC speaker:

> **Sir Christopher Pissarides**, London School of Economics, University of Cyprus;  
ERC Advanced Grant holder

## **Friday 20 January**

09:45-10:45

## **Tipping Point: Applied Neuroscience**

(The Loft, Hub B)

Imagine in 2025 that workers can be monitored for their mood and level of concentration via a combination of behavioural and electromagnetic analysis. How should business, government and civil society prepare for such a future?

Delve into “known unknowns” of the Fourth Industrial Revolution with the Global Future Councils.

ERC speaker:

> **Stéphanie P. Lacour** EPFL, ERC Starting and Proof of Concept Grant holder

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10:45 - 11:15

## **Governing Disruption: Bio and Neurotechnologies**

(The Loft, Agora)

Which societal values are being challenged by biotechnologies and neurotechnologies, and how might we design new technologies or institutions to address these ethical dilemmas?

Join experts for a Socratic dialogue on the future of governance in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

ERC speaker:

> **Stéphanie P. Lacour**, EPFL, ERC Starting and Proof of Concept Grant holder

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12:30 - 13:45

## Breaking through the Unknown

(Morosani Posthotel, Poststube)

Addressing the next generation of big questions, from dark matter to curing cancer, will require financial and human resources that exceed any one nation's capacity. How can the global community collaborate to advance the frontiers of knowledge?

Dimensions to be addressed:

- Attracting and retaining top talent
- Amassing and sharing data
- Setting up research infrastructure

Speakers:

- > **Carlos Moedas**, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation
- > **Jean-Pierre Bourguignon**, ERC President
- > **Flemming Besenbacher**, Aarhus University, ERC Advanced Grant holder
- > **Industry leaders**

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15:00-15:30

## Ask About: Digitally Inclusive Societies

(Congress Centre, Science Hub)

Explore how the internet is refashioning societies and what future digital societies could look like.

ERC speaker:

- > **Evelyn Ruppert**, University of London, ERC Consolidator Grant holder

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## European Research Council (ERC)

The European Research Council (ERC), celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2017, is the first funding organisation for excellent frontier research set up by the EU. Every year, it selects and funds the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age to run five-year projects based in Europe. The ERC strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe. To date, it has funded almost 7,000 top researchers at a variety of stages in their careers. Under the EU research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, of which European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas is responsible, the ERC has a budget of over €13 billion. The ERC consists of an independent Scientific Council and an Executive Agency. The Scientific Council, the ERC's governing body, is composed of distinguished scientists and scholars led by ERC President Prof Jean-Pierre Bourguignon. This is the fifth time that the ERC attends the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

More information on the [ERC website](#)