



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

Press release

**ERC at AAAS 2015
Ground-breaking European research presented in the US**

12 February 2015

The European Research Council (ERC) crosses the Atlantic to take part in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting in San Jose, USA, from today until 16 February. ERC President Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon will participate, along with eight ERC-funded top researchers. The ERC will discuss the need to go beyond the frontiers of knowledge for Europe to stay competitive.

On the eve of the conference, President Bourguignon said: *"I am delighted to be back at the AAAS meeting with its inspiring mix of people interested in research in a broad range of fields. This year, the European Research Council is again represented by a number of great scientists who will showcase their research projects, exchange knowledge and testify to the importance of frontier research. The ERC's core mission is to support bright minds like them, by giving them the means and freedom to develop their creative research ideas in Europe."*

The AAAS, the world's largest and most influential general scientific society, annually gathers thousands of leading scientists, engineers, educators, policy-makers, and journalists from around the world to discuss recent developments in science and technology. The theme of this year's edition is "Innovations, Information, and Imaging".

The ERC is attending the AAAS Annual Meeting for the eighth consecutive year, and this time will hold three scientific sessions focusing on the future of cancer research, the use of new information technologies in analysing historical data, and the space inspirations in the built environment.

In addition to the ERC press conference (see below), the ERC will take part in the workshop "Top European grants for brilliant minds from across the world". (See full ERC [programme](#)).

Sunday 15 February at 11.00 - 11.30am
(San Jose Marriott Hotel; Salon III)

ERC Press Conference

with

Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, ERC President

Prof. Ann Heylighen, ERC Starting Grant winner (University of Leuven)

Prof. Steven Vertovec, American ERC Advanced Grant winner (Max Planck Institute)

The speakers will discuss the need to push the frontiers of knowledge. The ERC grant winners will briefly give insights into their research and the role of the ERC grant.



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Programme (at San Jose Convention Center)

ERC Sessions

> **"Visualizing the Experience and Use of Space in the Built Environment"** on Friday 13 February, 8.00– 9.30am, Room LL21E, with ERC grantees Prof. Ann Heylighen, Prof. Yehuda Kalay and Prof. Steven Vertovec.

> **"Imaging the Past: Using New Information Techniques to Nurture Historical Analysis"** on Friday 13 February, 10.00 – 11.30am, Room LL21E, with ERC grantees: Prof. David Mattingly, Dr Niclas Burenhult and Prof. José Iriarte.

> **"Imaging the Future of Cancer Research"** on Friday 13 February, 3.00 – 4.30pm, Room 230B, with ERC grantees Dr Cristina Lo Celso and Dr Danijela Vignjevic among the speakers

> **ERC Workshop "Top European Grants for Brilliant Minds from Across the World"** on Saturday 14 February, 9.15– 10.15am, Room 210H, with ERC grant winner Dr Cristina Lo Celso as one of the speakers

> **Press point with European Commission** speakers & ERC grantee Prof. Jose Iriarte on Saturday 14 February, 11.00am, Destination Europe stand no. 507

ERC grant winners at AAAS 2015:

Dr Niclas Burenhult, Lund University and Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics (Sweden)

Dr Cristina Lo Celso, Imperial College London (United Kingdom)

Prof. Ann Heylighen, University of Leuven (Belgium)

Prof. José Iriarte, University of Exeter (United Kingdom)

Prof. Yehuda Kalay, Israel Institute of Technology (Israel)

Prof. David Mattingly, University of Leicester (United Kingdom)

Prof. Steven Vertovec, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (Germany)

Dr Danijela Vignjevic, Curie Institute (France)

[More about the ERC grantees research](#)



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Background

Set up in 2007 by the European Union (EU), the European Research Council (ERC) is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. 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, the ERC has funded more than 4,500 top researchers at a variety of stages in their careers and in any field of research.

Under the new EU research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020 (2014-2020), the ERC has a budget of over €13 billion (around \$ 14.7 billion).

The ERC consists of an independent Scientific Council and an Executive Agency. The Scientific Council, the ERC's governing body, is composed of 22 distinguished scientists and scholars. Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon has been the ERC President since 1 January 2014.

Links

[ERC AAAS 2015 brochure](#)

[Full AAAS 2015 programme](#)

[ERC website](#)

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