



European Research Council
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Highlight:

TEDx Brussels to feature ERC speakers' ground-breaking ideas

1 December 2014

From producing graphene in a blender, to simulating tsunami waves and creating invisibility cloak. Five European Research Council (ERC) grantees, including a Nobel Prize winner, have been invited to speak at TEDx Brussels on 1 December. Appearing in a session of their own, the ERC speakers will present their high-risk, high-gain, EU-funded research to around 2,000 influential audience members. This is the first time the ERC is present at the event, which will gather world-class speakers from a variety of fields at BOZAR Brussels, Belgium.

The theme of TEDx Brussels this year is 'The Territory and the Map', and each ERC speaker will represent a different scientific field and nationality. From oceanography to nanotechnology to invisibility, the ERC TEDx talks will cover new ground at the frontiers of human knowledge. The speakers will give an insight into their research and explain how their pioneering ideas, supported by ERC funding, are being realised.

Referring to the ERC's participation, TEDx Brussels Director Sam Lounis de Brouwer said: *"TEDx Brussels is glad to count on the partnership of the prestigious European Research Council in this year's edition. The central place it has gained in Europe by sharing and spreading ideas in science makes it a natural partner"*.

ERC President Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon also commented: *"The participation of five ERC laureates in this TEDx Brussels event is testament to the ERC's ability to inspire minds with passionate and innovative research leaders on stage. TEDx talks are a most welcome exercise of popularising science and we really look forward to listening to a new strain of thought-provoking presentations"*.

A series of ERC talks will then begin at 2.15 pm with:

- **Prof. Jonathan Coleman**, physicist specialising in graphene and two-dimensional nanostructures. He will show the audience how **graphene can be made in a kitchen blender**. (Find out more [here](#))
- **Dr Tiziana Rossetto**, expert in earthquake engineering. She will discuss how by **simulating tsunamis** she can help better inform engineers and architects in areas under threat from natural disasters. (Find out more [here](#))
- **Prof. Ulf Leonhardt**, theoretical physicist and author of the first paper on **invisibility cloaking** with metamaterials. He will demonstrate the possibility of invisibility with optics. (Find out more [here](#))
- **Dr Laura Robinson**, is an ocean scientist whose research has taken her to the most remote places on earth. She will talk about how **the ocean's environment** is changing and give clues as to what might happen in the future. (Find out more [here](#))



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In addition, **Prof. Christopher Pissarides**, winner of the 2010 **Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences** talk at 9.00 am and take a fresh look at **unemployment in Europe** (Find out more [here](#)).

Members of the ERC Scientific Council will also be in attendance at the event. The [ERC Scientific Council](#) is composed of 22 leading scientists who define the ERC science strategy in Europe and act on behalf of the scientific community to promote creativity and innovative research in Europe.

TEDx Brussels is an independently organised TED event. TEDx conferences take place around the world and have their origins in the Silicon Valley technology community in the USA. The events bring excellent speakers and ideas to local communities, and the talks have had hundreds of millions of views on YouTube.

TEDx attendees can join us at the ERC booth in the 'fumoir' area of BOZAR and find more research stories. TEDx speakers Jonathan Coleman and Ulf Leonhardt will carry out demonstrations at the booth during coffee breaks.

Note to the editors

Set up in 2007 by the 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 5-year projects based in Europe. The ERC also 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.

Under the new EU research and innovation programme *Horizon 2020*, the ERC has a substantially increased 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 22 distinguished scientists and scholars. Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon has been the ERC President since 1 January 2014. The ERC Executive Agency implements the ERC component of *Horizon 2020* and is led by Director Pablo Amor.

Links

ERC website

<http://erc.europa.eu>

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TEDx Brussels website or to follow the live stream

<http://www.tedxbrussels.eu/>

Pictures of TEDx Brussels event

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/TEDxBrussels>

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