



European Research Council

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

Biographies

The ERC President & 9 ERC Grantees (1 Nobel laureate) in 16 Davos sessions



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Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon

President of the European Research Council

Davos Sessions:

Governors Policy Meeting for Chemistry & Advanced Materials

Tuesday, 17 Jan: 14.00 – 15.00, Ameron Swiss Mountain Hotel, Cervolino

Pathways to a 1.5 Degree World

Tuesday, 17 Jan: 16.15 – 17.30, Congress Centre, Atelier

The Science of Social Cohesion with the European Research Council

Wednesday, 18 Jan: 16.30 – 17.45, Congress Centre, IdeasLab

Breaking through the Unknown

Friday 20 Jan: 12.30 – 13.45, Morosani Posthotel, Poststube

Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon was the Director of the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques (IHÉS) from 1994 till 2013. He was also the first ERC Panel Chair in Mathematics for Starting Grants.

A mathematician by training, he spent his whole career as a fellow of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). He held a Professor position at École polytechnique from 1986 to 2012. From 1990 to 1992, he was President of the Société Mathématique de France and President of the European Mathematical Society from 1995 to 1998. He is a former member of the Board of the EuroScience organisation (2002-2006) and served on EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) committees since 2004.

Professor Bourguignon received the Prix Paul Langevin in 1987 and the Prix du Rayonnement Français in Mathematical Sciences and Physics from the Académie des Sciences de Paris in 1997. He is a foreign member of the Royal Spanish Academy of Sciences. In 2005, he was elected honorary member of the London Mathematical Society and has been the secretary of the mathematics section of the Academia Europaea. In 2008, he was made Doctor Honoris Causa of Keio University, Japan, and, in 2011, Doctor Honoris Causa of Nankai University, China.



Dr Bahador Bahrami

Crowd Cognition research group leader, University College London, ERC Starting Grant holder

Dr Bahador Bahrami's research group investigates the cognitive and neurobiological bases of interactive decision making with the support of an ERC grant. His team is trying to understand human interactive behaviour, using behavioural psychological testing, functional and structural brain imaging, and psychopharmacology techniques.

The work discussed in Davos IdeasLab focuses on neurobiological and cognitive underpinnings of advising and consultancy, seeking to explain how exactly financial advisers, pundits, spin doctors etc. function from the perspective of neuroscience. The broad aim of the project is to understand the cognitive, computational and psychological foundations of success and failure of collective decision making.

Davos Sessions:

The Science of Social Cohesion with the European Research Council

Wednesday, 18 Jan: 16.30 – 17.45, Congress Centre, IdeasLab

Ask About: The Science of Influencing

Thursday, 19 Jan: 16.45 – 17.15, Congress Centre, Science Hub

Dr Bahrami grew up in Tehran, Iran, and received his M.D. from Tehran University of Medical Sciences. After obtaining a PhD from University College London (UCL), he continued as a research fellow at the Interacting Mind Centre in Aarhus University, Denmark. He returned to UCL as a postdoctoral fellow of the British Academy resident. Since 2013, he has been the group leader at the Crowd Cognition Laboratory at the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience in UCL, conducting a research project funded by an ERC Starting Grant.



Prof. Evelyn Ruppert

Professor and Director of Research, Department of Sociology, Goldsmiths, University of London, ERC Consolidator Grant holder

Professor Evelyn Ruppert's research concerns the sociology of data specifically in relation to how populations are known and governed. She received an ERC grant in 2014 to conduct a project on the political and practical challenges of harmonising and standardising enumeration methods and data across EU member states to make one European population. Peopling Europe: How data make a people (ARITHMUS) aims to shed light on how the making of a European population - intentionally or otherwise - contributes to the making of a European people.

Davos Sessions:

The Science of Social Cohesion with the European Research Council

Wednesday, 18 Jan: 16.30 – 17.45, Congress Centre, IdeasLab

What If: Privacy Becomes a Luxury Good?

Thursday, 19 Jan: 11.00 – 12.00, Congress Centre, Aspen 1

Ask About: Digitally Inclusive Societies

Friday, 20 Jan: 15.00 – 15.30, Congress Centre, Science Hub

Professor Ruppert was previously a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Research on Socio-cultural Change (CRESC) at the Open University, UK where she co-convened a research theme called The Social Life of Methods. She is Founding and Editor-in-chief of a SAGE open access journal, Big Data & Society: Critical Interdisciplinary Inquiries, launched in June 2014. Recent books are Being Digital Citizens (2015; co-authored with Engin Isin) and Modes of Knowing (2016; co-edited with John Law).



Prof. Harvey Whitehouse

Chair of Social Anthropology, Director of the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology, University of Oxford, ERC Advanced Grant holder

Professor Harvey Whitehouse comes from the field of experimental anthropology, and is one of the founders of cognitive science of religion. In 2015 he received an ERC grant of about €2.5 million to pursue a radically interdisciplinary project, spanning anthropology, psychology, history, archaeology and evolutionary sciences. Prof. Whitehouse's project examines the effects of rituals on group cohesion and intergroup competition in such hard-to-access groups as war veterans, revolutionary combatants and football hooligans. He will investigate the rituals that establish bonds between group members and motivate extreme self-sacrifice, with possible applications for social reintegration and the prevention and resolution of intergroup violence.

Davos Sessions:

Why Facts Don't Unify Us

Tuesday, 17 Jan: 8.15 – 9.00, Congress Centre, BetaZone

The Science of Social Cohesion with the European Research Council

Wednesday, 18 Jan: 16.30 – 17.45, Congress Centre, IdeasLab

Ask About: The Science of Identity

Thursday, 19 Jan: 9.00 – 9.30, Congress Centre, Science Hub

Professor Whitehouse received his BA from London School of Economics and his PhD from Cambridge University before taking up a Research Fellowship at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. From there he went to Queen's University Belfast where he became founding director of the Institute of Cognition and Culture. He came to Oxford in 2006 to take up a newly created Chair in the School of Anthropology. From 2006 to 2009, he served as head of Oxford's School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, establishing the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology in 2007.



Prof. Sir Christopher Pissarides

Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences (2010), Regius Professor of Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Cyprus, ERC Advanced Grant holder

Professor Sir Christopher Pissarides specialises in the macroeconomy of labour markets, economic growth and structural change. In 2012, he received an ERC Grant to support his research on European employment to better understand not only how Europe can return to productive levels of employment, but also why it is currently failing to do so.

Davos Sessions:

Driving Growth through Care

Thursday, 19 Jan: 10.45 – 12.00, Congress Centre, Jakobshorn

The State of the World with Nobel Laureates in Economics

Thursday, 19 Jan: 20.00 – 22.00, Kongress Hotel, Restaurant

Sir Christopher Pissarides is the Regius Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics, a Professor of European Studies at the University of Cyprus and the Helmut & Anna Pao Sohmen Professor-at-Large of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He was educated at the University of Essex and the London School of Economics (LSE), and he spent the bulk of his career at the LSE. He had long visits in the US Universities of Harvard, Princeton and California at Berkeley.

Sir Christopher specialises in the economics of labour markets, macroeconomic policy, economic growth and structural change. He was awarded the 2010 Nobel Prize in Economics, jointly with Dale Mortensen of Northwestern University and Peter Diamond of MIT, for his work in the economics of markets with frictions. Prior to that, in 2005, he became the first European economist to win the IZA Prize in Labor Economics, sharing it again with his collaborator Dale Mortensen. He has written extensively in professional journals, magazines and the press and his book *Equilibrium Unemployment Theory* is an influential reference in the economics of unemployment that has been translated in many languages. He is frequently quoted in the press on issues concerning the Eurozone and the future of European integration.

He is an elected Fellow of the British Academy, the Academy of Athens, the Academia Europaea and several other learned societies, and he is a Lifetime Honorary Member of the American Economic Association. In 2011 he served as the President of the European Economic Association. In 2011 he received the Grand Cross of the Republic of Cyprus, the highest honour of the Republic. He was knighted in 2013.



Prof. H  l  ne Rey

**Lord Raj Bagri Professor of Economics, O.B.E., London Business School,
ERC Starting and Advanced Grant holder**

Professor H  l  ne Rey has received two ERC Grants. Her research focuses on the functioning of the International Monetary System, capital flows and the behaviour of the financial sector. In particular, she has analysed the international transmission of US monetary policy via asset markets around the world and the degree of monetary independence enjoyed by emerging markets as well as advanced economies. The research, which has potential implications for the conduct of monetary and macroprudential policies, has raised interest from academics, central banks and policy-makers.

Davos Session:

The European Markets Outlook

Thursday, 19 Jan: 12.30 – 13.45, Ameron Swiss Mountain Hotel, Cervolino

Named “The economist to watch in 2016” by the Economist, Professor Rey has also received numerous prestigious awards in her field. H  l  ne Rey holds an undergraduate degree from ENSAE, a Master from Stanford University and PhDs from the London School of Economics and the   cole des Hautes   tudes en Sciences Sociales. She received an ERC Advanced Grant in 2016. Prior to that, she was awarded an ERC Starting Grant in 2007, which encouraged her to return to Europe from Princeton University, where she was a Professor.

She is on the board of the Review of Economic Studies and associate editor of the AEJ: Macroeconomics Journal. She is a Fellow of the British Academy, of the Econometric Society and of the European Economic Association. Prof. Rey is a member of the Board of the French Macroprudential Authority. She writes a regular column for the French newspaper Les   chos.

Professor Rey’s research focuses on the determinants and consequences of external trade and financial imbalances, the theory of financial crises and the organisation of the international monetary system. In particular, she demonstrated that countries’ gross external asset positions help predict current account adjustments and the exchange rate.



Prof. Stéphanie P. Lacour

Professor, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), ERC Starting and Proof of Concept Grant holder

Professor Stéphanie P. Lacour leads the Laboratory for Soft Bioelectronics Interfaces, advancing our fundamental concepts in man-made electronic systems interfacing with the human body and the nervous system. Prof. Lacour's ERC Starting Grant project (ESKIN) sought to design, fabricate and implement electronic circuits that can bend, stretch and twist, similarly to human skin. While wafer-based microelectronics constrains circuits to rigid, flat and fragile surfaces, the human body is a mobile, three-dimensional and active structure. ESKIN aimed at overcoming this "hard to soft" mechanical mismatch. With her current Proof of Concept Grant, the results of ESKIN will be brought closer to the market, promising new horizons in electronics, biomedicine and neural engineering.

Davos Sessions:

Beyond the possible

Tuesday, 17 Jan: 20.00 – 22.00, Derby Hotel, Fluela 1,2,3

Tipping Point: Applied Neuroscience

Friday, 20 Jan: 09.45 – 10.45, The Loft, Hub B

Governing Disruption: Bio and Neurotechnologies

Friday, 20 Jan: 10.45 – 11.15, The Loft, Agora

Professor Stéphanie P. Lacour holds the Bertarelli Foundation Chair in Neuroprosthetic Technology at the School of Engineering at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL). She received her PhD in Electrical Engineering from INSA de Lyon, France, and completed postdoctoral research at Princeton University (USA) and the University of Cambridge (UK). Since January 2017, she is full professor in Microengineering and Bioengineering at EPFL.

She is the recipient of the 2006 MIT TR35, European Research Council ERC Starting and Proof-of-Concept Grants, a Swiss SNF Consolidator Grant, the 2011 Zonta award and is one of the 2015 World Economic Forum Young Global Leaders.



Prof. Flemming Besenbacher

**Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Carlsberg A/S, Aarhus University (DK),
ERC Advanced Grant holder**

Professor Flemming Besenbacher is the founding director of the Interdisciplinary Nanoscience Center at Aarhus University, Denmark. His research focuses on the development of microscopy techniques to observe material surfaces at the nano-level, chemical reactions and biomolecular processes. With his ERC Grant (2008-2013), he has developed a high-speed and miniaturised “scanning tunnelling microscope”, which is currently commercialised. Prof. Besenbacher is Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Carlsberg A/S since 2012.

Davos Session:

Breaking through the Unknown

Friday 20 Jan: 12.30 – 13.45, Morosani Posthotel, Poststube

Professor, Interdisciplinary Nanoscience Center, Aarhus University, Denmark. Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Carlsberg; Chairman of the Board of Directors, Carlsberg Foundation. Elected Member, Royal Danish Academy. Has published over 570 articles in international journals, including Nature and Science. Holder of several patents. Honorary Professor at 11 Chinese universities. Recipient of several distinguished international awards; received title of Knight 1st Class of the Order of Dannebrog from the Queen of Denmark.



Prof. Jeremy O'Brien

Director of the Centre for Quantum Photonics (CQP), University of Bristol, ERC Starting and Consolidator Grant holder

Professor Jeremy O'Brien is focused on bringing quantum computing into reality and the market to transform artificial intelligence, healthcare, energy, finance, cyber security and the internet. He heads the University of Bristol's Centre for Quantum Photonics that his ERC Starting Grant helped establish. With an ERC Consolidator Grant starting in 2014, he is pursuing a photonic approach to manufacture a universal quantum computer in a silicon fabrication facility, exploiting silicon photonics developed for optical interconnects in the semiconductor industry.

Davos Session:

Tipping Point: Quantum Computing

Thursday, 19 Jan: 09.45 – 10.15, The Loft, Hub A

Jeremy O'Brien received his Ph.D. in physics from the University of New South Wales in 2002 for experimental work on correlated and confined electrons in organic conductors, superconductors and semiconductor nanostructures, as well as progress towards the fabrication of a phosphorus in silicon quantum computer. As a research fellow at the University of Queensland (2001-2006), he worked on quantum optics and quantum information science with single photons. CQP's efforts are focused on the fundamental and applied quantum mechanics at the heart of quantum information science and technology, ranging from prototypes for scalable quantum computing and communication to generalised quantum measurements, quantum control, and quantum metrology. Currently he is the CEO of PsiCorp Quantum Computing and Professor of Physics and Electrical Engineering, Stanford and Bristol, where he is the Director of the Centre for Quantum Photonics. Prof. O'Brien was awarded an ERC Starting Grant (2009) that established the field of integrated quantum photonics. He was awarded an ERC Proof of Concept (2011) project that developed quantum secure mobile communication systems. He received an ERC Consolidator Grant (2014).



Prof. Martin Vetterli

**President of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL),
Switzerland, ERC Advanced Grant holder**

Professor Martin Vetterli works in the areas of electrical engineering, computer sciences and applied mathematics. Supported by the ERC, he developed a theory and framework for signal processing and communications with wide ranging applications. He showed we can “hear” the shape of a room, using a microphone and algorithms that make sense of echoes. This could have applications for indoor location devices or assistive devices for both the visually and hearing impaired people.

Martin Vetterli received a Dipl. El.-Ing. degree from Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETHZ) in 1981, a Master of Science degree from Stanford University in 1982, and a Doctorat ès Sciences degree from Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in 1986.

After his dissertation, he was an Assistant and Associate Professor in Electrical Engineering at Columbia University in New York, and in 1993, he became an Associate and then Full Professor at the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences at the University of California at Berkeley. In 1995, he joined the EPFL as a Full Professor. He held several positions at EPFL, including Chair of Communication Systems and founding director of the National Competence Center in Research on Mobile Information and Communication systems (NCCR-MICS). From 2004 to 2011 he was Vice President of EPFL for international affairs, and from 2011 to 2012, he was the Dean of the School of Computer and Communications Sciences. Prof. Vetterli was President of the National Research Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation from 2013 till 2017. Since January 2017, he is President of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL)

His work won him numerous prizes, like best paper awards from EURASIP in 1984 and of the IEEE Signal Processing Society in 1991, 1996 and 2006, the Swiss National Latsis Prize in 1996, the SPIE Presidential award in 1999, the IEEE Signal Processing Technical Achievement Award in 2001 and the IEEE Signal Processing Society Award in 2010. He is a Fellow of IEEE, of ACM and EURASIP, was a member of the Swiss Council on Science and Technology (2000-2004), and is a ISI highly cited researcher in engineering.



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The 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 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 almost 7,000 top researchers at a variety of stages in their careers. The ERC is led by an independent governing body, the Scientific Council, chaired by the ERC President Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon. The ERC has a budget of over €13 billion for the years 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.

More information on the [ERC website](#)