

ANNOUNCEMENT

International Symposium “The roots for motivation in science and knowledge”

An International Symposium organized in connection with
the XXXV edition of Meeting for Friendship Amongst Peoples

University of San Marino
Ancient Monastery of Santa Chiara
Republic of San Marino
27th -29th August, 2014

organized by
EURESIS
Association for the promotion of the scientific endeavour
www.euresis.org

In collaboration with
Rimini Meeting for Friendship amongst People
CEUR Foundation
Republic of San Marino
University of San Marino

The San Marino Symposia, now at the IX edition, are a unique occasion to engage a limited number of high-level scholars in a friendly, multi-disciplinary, open-minded dialogue on fundamental issues raised by contemporary science. About 10 speakers give their lectures with ample time for informal discussion involving a limited number of Guest Participants. The Symposia are organized in the broad context of the "Meeting for Friendship among the Peoples", a week-long gathering taking place each year at the end of August in the nearby city of Rimini.

The 2014 San Marino Symposium will be a two-days debate involving nine speakers discussing about “The roots for motivation in science and knowledge”.

Following the successful scheme adopted in the previous editions of the San Marino Symposium, the questions below will be addressed in three sessions, each involving three outstanding thinkers from both science and humanities. An additional session will be devoted to a general discussion.

Focal Issues:

- 1) Part of the motivation in tackling a specific research subject rests in the anticipation of how “relevant” a result in that particular field could be. What are the “big questions” in different fields? Why are these questions “big”? What lies at the heart of the interest for a specific topic of research? Can it be expressed?
 - 2) What is the cultural impact of the “big questions” addressed by science on our perception of life, of nature, of humanity? The popularization of science often portrays nature as a gigantic mechanism that leaves little room for real novelty, to the point that it is often perceived as suffocating. Is it true? Is this trend as an intrinsic and unavoidable consequence of the advance of research?
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3) There has been a change over time as to what is most relevant in a given field of research? Is the trend toward increasing specialization (an almost inevitable consequence of the increasing amount of knowledge) leading to the loss of a “unitary vision” of nature? Has there been some effect of the scientific enterprise on the personal journey of the scientists?

Opening: *Wednesday, August 27st 7.00 pm*
General discussion and conclusions: *Friday August 28rd, late afternoon*
Symposium language: *English*

Confirmed speakers

Piero Benvenuti, Astronomy Dept, University of Padova
Mauro Ceroni, University of Pavia and Mondino Hospital
Yves Coppens, Paleoantropoly Dept, College de France, Paris
Christopher Impey, Astronomy Dept, University of Arizona
Laurent Lafforgue, Institute des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques, Paris
Ignacio Latorre, Physics Dept, University of Barcelona
Lorenzo Magrassi, University of Pavia – IRCCS San Matteo Hospital, Pavia
Dan Maoz, Physics and Astronomy Dept, Tel Aviv University
Amos Maritain, Physics Dept, University of Padova

Guest participants

The Symposium will be open to a limited number of “guest participants” (PhD students, Post-docs, and Scholars) who will be invited to attend the seminar sessions and to participate in the discussion sessions. Some financial support covering lodging expenses is available to guest participants.

To apply for participation the candidates should prepare

- ^ a CV including a list of selected publications and/or other activities in the field
- ^ a motivation letter pointing out the reason for the interest in the symposium, and the expected usefulness for his/her scientific background

Applicants are requested to mail the CV and the motivation letter to

secretariat.sm@euresis.org

The deadline for application is June 20th. The applicants selected by a board of experts will be informed by June 30th.
