

Across Boundaries in Sciences

Online Public Symposium
5 May 2021 • Programme Booklet

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Academies



THE COUNCIL OF FINNISH ACADEMIES



ACROSS BOUNDARIES IN SCIENCES

The boundaries of sciences are under constant scrutiny and subject to change. They limit and at the same time enable and define their subject, displaying multiple dimensions. They can be psychological boundaries or boundaries of the mind for scientists and scientific communities, limiting them to certain ways of thinking about a problem. Boundaries can also be geographical or technological, hampering the implementation of scientific ideas. They can be disciplinary boundaries established over centuries, at times successfully contributing to solving a clearly defined problem, but oftentimes confining scientific evidence to limited disciplinary views.

What are the boundaries that define and circumscribe science? What can we do to work across them? How do we overcome certain boundaries? How do we maintain and solidify others? How do we identify 'good' and 'bad' boundaries in the first place? Especially during a global pandemic, when the world feels the need for reliable scientific research and trustworthy scientific advice more than ever, science needs to find answers to these questions.

We therefore need to explore innovative ways towards meaningful and feasible interdisciplinarity and rethink the role of boundaries between science and politics/policy. However, the pandemic and its accompanying 'infodemic' also showed us that we need to debate measures for strengthening certain boundaries against increasing attacks. Mis- and disinformation in a rapidly changing media environment are increasingly challenging fundamental pillars of science. They threaten to erode trust in science and expertise, test our democracies, and challenge the ability of individuals and governments to make evidence-based decisions based on sound reasoning. It has become exceptionally difficult to distinguish between what is fact and what is fake, even for the well-trained eye, especially when the false information is guised in scientific vocabulary.

Against this background, ALLEA and the Council of Finnish Academies invite you to a full-day scientific symposium *Across the Boundaries of Sciences*. Featuring a wide range of international perspectives from research, politics, and civil society, speakers will share and discuss their latest insights on this complex topic. Join us online for thought-provoking talks, workshops, roundtable discussions, and inspiring conversations.

Academies of Sciences and Humanities

For more than three centuries, academies of sciences, humanities and arts have been contributing to borderless and universal research by fostering collaboration across borders and disciplines. The academies seek to improve the conditions for research, to provide the best independent and interdisciplinary science advice available, and to strengthen the role of science in society, always encouraging scientific reasoning and values through public engagement.



A WELCOME FROM THE HOSTS

We would like to warmly welcome you to the public part of this year's ALLEA General Assembly, hosted by the Council of Finnish Academies: our symposium on 5 May 2021 on the topic *Across Boundaries in Sciences*. We are looking forward to hearing from many thought-provoking speakers throughout the day and hope to also get a chance to meet some of you in our virtual get-together in the evening.

The past months have reminded us of the vital importance of scientific exchange between colleagues from all countries and all backgrounds. All pieces of a puzzle need to be included to make a picture whole and, in this symposium, we want to talk about the values and obstacles of interaction across disciplines and sectors, but also about the importance of clear boundaries and distinctions in some cases. We will hear contributions highlighting the importance of learning how to address concerns and fears – resulting in misunderstandings or deliberate misinformation – and discuss how we can improve the communication of our findings and the academic discourse to the world.

Our public symposium begins with a session on interdisciplinary research as the key to the future of science. After a keynote by Academician of Science, Professor Riitta Hari, we will hear different perspectives on interdisciplinarity by Professor Kimmo Nuotio, Strategic Research Council at the Academy of Finland, Dr Mona Mannevu, Young Academy Finland, Professor Marcel Jaspars and Professor Joyce Tait., both Royal Society of Edinburgh.

We will conclude the morning sessions with group discussions on the theme in smaller breakout groups, focussing on the practical implementation of meaningful interdisciplinarity and the challenges this entails.

In the afternoon, we are honoured to receive a speech from Ms Adrienn Király, Head of Cabinet of European Commissioner Mariya Gabriel, and by the Finnish Minister of Science and Culture Permanent Secretary Anita Lehtikoinen, who will address the audience with reflections on crossing boundaries between science and politics. To round the day off, we will hear Professor Dan Larhammar, President of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, who will introduce the findings of the latest ALLEA discussion paper on tackling science disinformation, before discussing them with a panel of outstanding experts from politics, civil society, and academia: Erja Heikkinen (Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland), Professor Jane Suiter (Royal Irish Academy), Roman Adamczyk (EUDisinfoLab).

Looking forward to seeing you “in Helsinki”... from all around Europe!

- **Professor Jukka Meurman**, Chair, The Council of Finnish Academies
- **Professor Antonio Loprieno**, ALLEA President

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PROGRAMME

Moderation: Dr Jaakko Kuosmanen

9:00 – 10:30 CEST (10:00 – 11:30 EEST)

Interdisciplinary Research: The Key to the Future?

- Opening: Prof. Anna Mauranen, The Council of Finnish Academies
- Welcome Address: Prof. Antonio Loprieno, ALLEA President
- Keynote: Fostering convergence across disciplines, Academician of Science, Prof. Riitta Hari (Aalto University)
- Talks:
 - Impact through increased interdisciplinarity, Prof. Kimmo Nuotio (Strategic Research Council at the Academy of Finland)
 - Interdisciplinarity as a strategy, Dr. Mona Mannevuola (Young Academy Finland)
 - The international dimension in interdisciplinary research, Prof. Marcel Jaspars (Royal Society of Edinburgh)
 - Action-focused interdisciplinary research – its role in academia, Prof. Joyce Tait (Royal Society of Edinburgh)

10:30 – 11:00 CEST (11:30 – 12:00 EEST)

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00 CEST (12:00 – 13:00 EEST)

Achieving Meaningful Cooperation Across Boundaries

- Breakout sessions:
 - How can we achieve genuine interdisciplinarity?
 - What is the connection between interdisciplinarity and impact?
 - What does interdisciplinarity mean for younger researchers?
 - Do interdisciplinary groups give better answers to tricky problems?
 - Who can assess interdisciplinary research?
- Presentation of results in Plenary



12:00 – 13.15 CEST (13:00 – 14:15 EEST)

Lunch break

13:15 – 14:30 CEST (14:15 – 15:30 EEST)

Rethinking Boundaries Between Politics & Science

- Speech by Ms Adrienn Király, Head of Cabinet of European Commissioner Mariya Gabriel
- *Across Academic Boundaries in Science, Politics and Society*, Prof. Antonio Loprieno, ALLEA President
- *Reflections on Strengthening Ties Between Science and Politics*, Permanent Secretary Anita Lehikoinen, The Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland

14:30 – 14:45 CEST (15:30 – 15:45 EEST)

Coffee Break

14:45 – 16.00 CEST (15:45 – 17:00 EEST)

Strengthening the Boundaries of Science? - Tackling Science Disinformation

- Panel discussion:
 - Prof. Dan Larhammar (Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences)
 - Dr Erja Heikkinen (Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland)
 - Prof. Jane Suiter (Institute for Future Media, Democracy and Society, Royal Irish Academy)
 - Roman Adamczyk (EU DisinfoLab)

16:00 CEST (17:00 EEST)

Digital Reception

Register now on:

www.allea.videosync.fi/across-boundaries-in-sciences/register

Find more information on the speakers and the updated programme on:

www.alleageneralassembly.org

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ABOUT THE ORGANISERS



THE COUNCIL OF FINNISH ACADEMIES

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The Council of Finnish Academies is a cooperative body for the four science academies in Finland. The Council works to promote high quality scientific research and the impact of research in society.

[Website](#)

ALLEA



ALLEA is the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities, representing more than 50 academies from over 40 EU and non-EU countries. Since its foundation in 1994, ALLEA speaks out on behalf of its members on the European and international stages, promotes science as a global public good, and facilitates scientific collaboration across borders and disciplines.

[Website](#)

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