Rémi Brague to be awarded 2016 All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values

To commemorate his extensive scholarly work on religions in Europe and his reflections on European society, the French philosopher Rémi Brague will be the third scholar to be awarded the All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values; a prize initiated by ALLEA, the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities with the friendly support by Stiftung Mercator.

The prize will be awarded to philosopher Professor Rémi Brague by EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn, in the premises of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna on 18 April 2016. His research is an important reference point for the comprehensive understanding of the relationship between Judaism, Christianity and Islam today. “Rémi Brague uses his extensive historical, philosophical and theological expertise to study the question what makes Europe a distinct cultural entity”, quotes Professor Günter Stock, ALLEA President and chairman of the prize jury. “He exposes the deep relationship between religion and culture, between the roots and the concepts of today. He is an eminent scholar of medieval theology, philosophy and culture of the three main religions bridging knowledge and beliefs of former times with contemporary problems.”


The All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values is co-sponsored by Stiftung Mercator and endowed with 25,000 EUR. ALLEA established the prize to pay tribute to the boundless intellectual and cultural diversity and richness of Europe, and to highlight how outstanding scholarly work, particularly in the fields of the humanities and social sciences, contributes to the understanding of Europe as a cultural and intellectual entity. The first laureate, Professor Luisa Passerini, received the prize from former European Commission President José Manuel Barroso in 2014 to honour her work on European cultural identity. In 2015, Professor Dame Helen Wallace was awarded the prize by EU Commissioner Carlos Moedas for her outstanding work on political studies and policy in Europe.
Dear colleagues,
dear friends,

After the Festive Plenary Session I thought that April would be less stressful, but we continued to work hard. At the beginning of April there was an excellent meeting in Lugano organized by our members Markus Krienke and Elmar Kuhn on the topic Two essential topoi of interreligious dialogue - The integrative “languages” of civil society and mystics, a topic that is matching our turbulent times.

The evening before was a public meeting about the relation between Muslims and Christians. Europeans know too little about Islam, Europe is increasingly becoming secular and there is only little knowledge on religious topics in the awareness of society.

The meeting has shown the importance of interreligious dialogues. This leads me to our Prize of Tolerance: On April 21st Prof. Dr. Roland Riz from Bolzano (South Tyrol) was awarded the Prize of Tolerance 2015. We welcomed around 100 guests, among them many politicians from South Tyrol, starting with the Governor Arno Kompatscher.

The Festive Speech was delivered by our member Werner Weidenfeld on the topic “South Tyrol as a European example of tolerance” and was very well received by the audience. Due to the endeavours of Prof. Riz, South Tyrol is a good example for peaceful coexistence and may serve as an example for Europe.

Felix Unger, Roland Riz, Alexander von Egen
We would like to thank everybody contributing to the success of this event, particularly Alexander von Egen - member of our advisory board - who organised this wonderful evening.

The Rings of Tolerance will be handed over on September 26th in Cologne. This year’s awardees are Cardinal Peter Erdö, Uri Lubrani and Ismail Serageldin. The Festive Speech will be given by Sali Berisha, Honorary Senator and former President of Albania, on the topic “Tolerance between bridges and walls”.

Ismail Serageldin, the director of the Library of Alexandria organized a meeting on “New Life Sciences: The Road ahead” and it was interesting to see how to make the best out of scientific research. The library is to be seen as continuation of the classical library and they have all facilities to do the best. I am sure we will hear much about the endeavours of Ismail Serageldin.

The Allea Meeting was in Vienna, hosted by the Austrian Academy. Such meetings always provide the opportunity to meet friends and speak about possible meetings in the future. Remi Brague was awarded the ALLEA Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values.

A board meeting of our foundation took place in Vienna, the budget of our foundation is increasing slowly and needs additional funding.

Our membership directory and annual report are in the process of being printed. You will receive them soon with the request for the membership fee, and of course we would be very grateful about any gifts.

Please check your personal data in the membership directory and inform us about any changes, so we can update your data in the membership directory next year.

Many meetings are to come. From 12th until 13th May, there is the Danube Academies Conference in Ljubljana, and on 16th May there is a meeting at the Galerie Ropac in Salzburg. The speakers will be Peter Sloterdijk, Peter Weibel, Friedhelm Mennekes and Christoph Binder. The discussion will be led by Bazon Brock.

Our project “Next Europe” is constantly making progress. We are now in the process of creating the final paper. The German version will be sent out soon, the English one will follow later, and I am looking forward for your comments. The first public meeting is in October 2016 in Salzburg, followed by Berlin in January 2017.

With best personal regards,
Felix Unger
President
ECREA and Charles University in Prague welcome the submission of abstracts for presentation at the 6th European Communication Conference to be held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 9 to 12 November 2016.

The European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA), in partnership with Charles University in Prague, will organise the 6th European Communication Conference (ECC). The Conference, due to take place in Prague from 9 to 12 November 2016, has chosen as its overarching theme Mediated (Dis)Continuities: Contesting Pasts, Presents and Futures.

The organisers call for proposals in all fields of communication and media studies, but particularly invite conceptual, empirical, and methodological proposals on mediated memory cultures and working through discursive dislocations and cultural traumas intrinsic to (late) modernity, that link the general conference theme to the fields pertinent to each ECREA section.

Conference theme: 'Mediated (Dis)Continuities: Contesting Pasts, Presents and Futures'

Discontinuity is the far side of change. Late modernity – as the unstoppable flow of permanent changes – is haunted by the disparity of its various histories, geographies, ontologies and technologies. How are media and communication practices engaged in communicating across these divides?

The theme heralding European Communication Conference 2016 derives from the political history of the post-socialist region of which Prague as the conference host is a symbolic memento. After the collapse of communist totalitarianism, the countries in post-socialist Europe have been undergoing a crisis of continuity in the realms of political values, historical consciousness, moral sense of the self and the memory of the past.

The conference theme, however, reaches far beyond the post-totalitarian context and encourages its participants to reflect upon the question of how media and communication practices are involved in communicating over many other dislocations in political, cultural, temporal or spatial realms in all European countries. Acceleration in all aspects of social life generates pasts we cannot return to, territories we cannot access and selves we do not recognize any more. Are media capable of navigating through the related feelings of nostalgia, cultural trauma, guilt, shame or (be)longing? Does communication help to make sense of them?

Can a sense of home be mediated for those who are expelled from their countries or displaced by war, the paramount discontinuity? How is communication entangled in commemoration and remembering? What are the communicative means of identity building in the age of digitised archives which are not static storehouses of memories? Should we consider the media as an actor in economic discontinuities such as crisis and recession?

We cordially invite media and communication scholars to submit papers addressing these questions – together with other ramifications of the conference theme – and to share their ideas with the wide community of colleagues from Europe and beyond.

Submission and deadline

Proposals for individual papers, panels, and posters can be submitted to one of the 21 ECREA sections through the ECC conference website from 1 December 2015 to 29 February 2016.

Abstracts should be written in English and contain a clear outline of the argument, the theoretical framework, and, where applicable, methodology and results. The maximum length of individual abstracts is 500 words. Panel proposals, which should consist of five individual contributions, combine a panel rationale with five panel paper abstracts, each of which shall be a maximum length of 500 words.

Participants may submit more than one proposal, but only one paper or poster by the same presenting author will be accepted. Participants can still present in one extra session as second (or third, etc.) author of other papers or posters and can still act as chair or respondent of a panel. All proposals should be submitted through the conference website from 1 December 2015 to 29 February 2016. Early submission is strongly encouraged. Please note that this submission deadline will not be extended.

Abstracts will be published in a PDF Abstract Book. Full papers (optional) will be published via the conference submission system and available to the registered attendants after logging into the system.