

Societal Challenges

Virtual Lecture Series & Early Career Networking Hour Academic Year 2023

The Societal Challenges Lecture Series is aimed at early career researchers with a twofold objective: delivering cutting-edge academic analysis on the diverse problems of our times, and providing international networking opportunities for doctoral researchers and postdocs.

The lecture series aims at providing an antidote to impulsive disaster talk through perceptive academic analysis. Outstanding researchers within the Aurora University Alliance will give engaging online lectures during the academic year 2023 within two of the Aurora priority domains:

- Digital Society & Global Citizenship
- Health & Wellbeing

Delivered online via Zoom, each event begins with a 30–45 minute lecture by an outstanding researcher. Following the talk, you will have the opportunity to discuss the lecture, formulate questions for the speaker, and network in breakout rooms for 20 minutes. Finally, audience and speaker reconvene for a well-prepared, stimulating Q&A.

Participation will be certified upon request.



Program for the Academic Year 2023

January 2023



24 January 2023, 14:00-15:30 CET

Science Fundamentalism

Catherine Dormandy, Dept. of Christian Philosophy, University of Innsbruck



25 January 2023, 14:00-15:30 CET

Immuno-psychiatry: towards precision medicine Marion Leboyer, Dept. of Psychiatry, Université Paris-Est Créteil

February 2023



01 February 2023, 14:00-15:30 CET

Diet in the primary prevention of cardiovascular diseases: PREDIMED STUDIES

Jordi Salas-Salvadó, Dept. of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, Universitat Rovira i Virgili



09 February 2023, 14:00-15:30 CET

To feed or not to feed – How tumor cells adapt to their nutrient environment Kathrin Thedieck, Dept. of Biochemistry, University of Innsbruck

March 2023



07 March 2023 14:00-15:30 CET

Complex systems approaches to social sciences illustrated with an analysis of judicial decisions Marta Sales-Pardo & Lluc Font Pomarol, Dept. Of Chemical Engineering, Univ. Rovira i Virgili



09 March 2023, 14:00-15:30 CET

Mendelian disorders of the Epigenetic Machinery: discovery to possible treatments Hans Tómas Björnsson, Biomedical Center; University of Iceland



23 March 2023, 14:00-15:30 CET

Preparing the Next Generation to Fulfil SDGs: Teaching for Social Innovation

Maxim Tomoszek, Centre for International Humanitarian and Operational Law, Palacký University



30 March 2023, 14:00-15:30 CET

Illegal content on digital platforms – a legal perspective Clara Rauchegger, Dept. of Legal Theory and Future of Law, University of Innsbruck

April 2023



13 April 2023, 14:00-15:30 CET

Ecosystem Health: From single cells to solar system scale Alexander Probst, Research Center One Health Ruhr, University of Duisburg-Essen



27 April 2023, 14:00-15:30 CET

Cloud Culture: Cinema, Digital Modernity and the Archive Björn Þór Vilhjálmsson, Icelandic and Comparative Cultural Studies, University of Iceland