



# Newsletter 2018

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hey everyone!

This is our annual newsletter. Here, you will get to know more about our members. You will find a summary of our activities from the previous year and our plan of activities for the coming year. We have also added a brief explanation of what you can get from the chapter and what the chapter could get from you if you decide to become an active member. We have planned many activities. So, we would greatly appreciate if you join us and help us make them happen.

Yves Verherbruggen

Chair of the France chapter

## WHAT CAN YOU GET FROM MCAA AND THE CHAPTER?

Why joining the France Chapter and be an active member?

### It can offer you:

- ♦ A **network** of MSCA fellows within France (researchers, policy makers, entrepreneurs,...)
- ♦ **Advices and support:** on MSCA grant management, taxes on your salary, career, life in France, on how to get funding (e.g.: from MCAA (Travel and Media **Micro grants** to attend conferences, Chapter meetings, communicate your science to broad audience, create audio-visual materials,...)
- ♦ The opportunity to carry out great **outreach activities** (that are mandatory if you are currently a MSCA fellow – doing them with us is one option)
- ♦ To enhance your **transferable skills (strengthen your CV)**. You can contribute to the organization of events, you can communicate about your work, about MCAA and France Chapter ! Being an active member of an association is a serious business in France. It helps you get a job.
- ♦ Updates on **courses and webinars** offered by the MCAA Chapters and the Working Groups (e.g.: on grant writing, SciCom, pension,...)
- ♦ **Some fun**, e.g.: through social events (within the limit of our budget that comes from endowment from MCAA, micro grants and potentially from external funding)

### What can you offer to the France Chapter?

- ♦ You can help us make all of above possible. It is that simple.
- ♦ In the long term, you can help the association make a better future for science and scientists.  
**#makeoursciencegreatagain**

**Interested? Welcome on board!**

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## MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE FRANCE CHAPTER—THE CHAIRMAN

### YVES VERHERTBRUGGEN



I'm from Belgium. I got my PhD in Biological Sciences at the University of Leeds (UK), did a 4 year postdoc in UC Berkeley, USA.

I'm currently finishing my third MSCA fellowship at INRA Nantes, in France.

In terms of science, I kind of like complex sugars, their chemistry and immunomicroscopy.

Outside science, I like photography, traveling, producing noise behind a drum kit and considering doing sport.

Among the many tasks I have, my main one as a chair is to bring people together to build and carry out projects that are beneficial to as many members as possible. I also connect the chapter with other chapters, working groups and institutes and organize or coordinate our activities.

*« My main task as a chair is to bring people together to build and carry out projects that are beneficial to as many members as possible. »*

*Yves Verherthbruggen*

### PRIZE TO MCAA FRANCE CHAPTER MEMBER FOR FLASH PRESENTATION DURING ESOF TOULOUSE

Dr. Chandrashekhra Patil (CP) from the Centre de Recherches Insulaires et Observatoire de l'Environnement (CRIOBE) University of Perpignan via Domitia, France has received an award for flash presentation talk (FP).

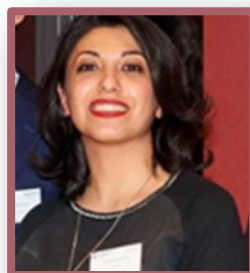
The idea of FP during ESOF was to give a broad audience platform to selected research topics so were scheduled following the plenary session discussions. CP presented an overview of ongoing research project entitled 'Study of the environmental impact of insecticides by metabolomic footprinting approach'.

The project will allow answering to one main question: the use of biological insecticides vs a synthetic one is it the good choice to preserve the environment?

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 746656.

## VICE-CHAIRS

### SUSANNA SAROYAN



I was born in Yerevan, Armenia and have lived in France for a while. I obtained my PhD in Economics at the University of Toulouse. By the end of my PhD, I successfully applied for a MSCA individual Fellowship which brought me to the University of Zurich for my postdoctoral research activities. My expertise lies in empirical analysis of banks' exposures and assessment of related risks. Currently, I'm working for a large consulting group providing analytical services to various economic sectors.

As a Vice-Chair at MCAA France Chapter, my tasks are as diverse as organizing and coordinating MCAA events, co-designing chapter's objectives and activities, and establishing internal and external collaborations.

Above all, my principal goals in this extraordinary journey, in line with Chapter's priorities, are supporting our young and brilliant members in their career accomplishments and contributing to their overall welfare.

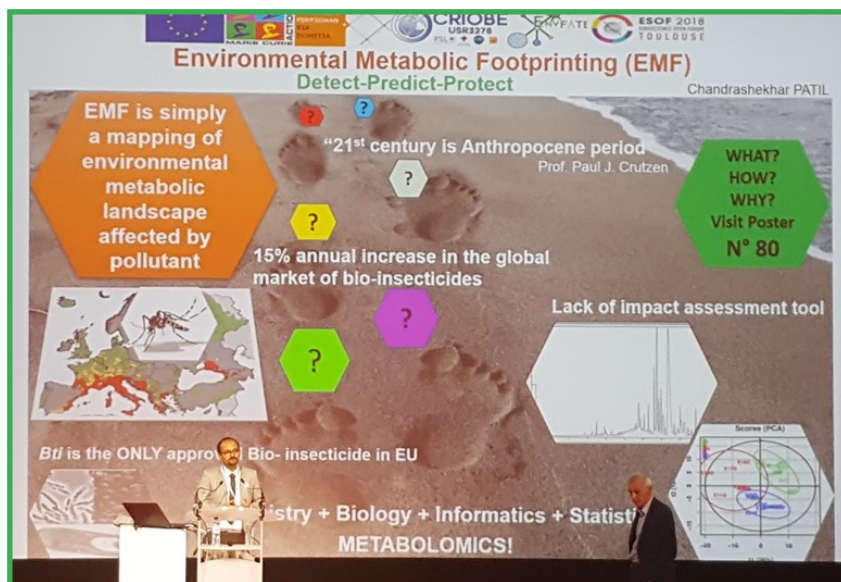
### FRANÇOIS SOUBIRAN

I am from France and received my PhD at the ENS Lyon (France) in 2012 in Physics-Astrophysics.



After a postdoc in the US at the University of California, Berkeley, I am now a MSCA fellow at the geology laboratory of Lyon working on the properties of Super-Earths, these big rocky exoplanets that have been discovered in the recent years.

As a vice-chair I support the chair and all the members of the Chapter in running the Chapter and organizing events in and out of France. I also help finding new partners and maintaining existing partnerships.



Chandrashekar Patil during his oral presentation at ESOF.

## OUR ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR 2017-2018

### EUROSCIENCE OPEN FORUM 2018



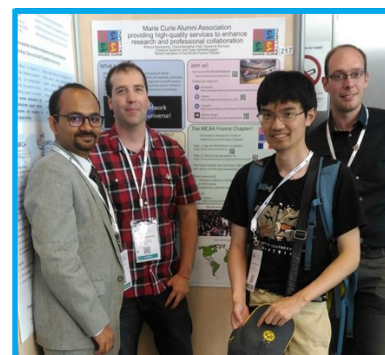
ESOF (EuroScience Open Forum) is the largest interdisciplinary science meeting in Europe. It is dedicated to scientific research and innovation and offers a unique framework for

interaction and debate for scientists, innovators, policy makers, business people and the general public.

Created in 2004 by EuroScience, this biennial European forum brings together over 4 000 researchers, educators, business actors, policy makers and journalists from all over the world to discuss breakthroughs in science. More than 40% of the participants are students and young researchers. The 8th edition of ESOF took place in Toulouse, France, from 9 till 14 July 2018 (<https://www.esof.eu/en/>). The theme of ESOF 2018 was 'Sharing Science: Towards New Horizons'. It was an opportunity to discuss the socio-cultural and economic implications and impacts of scientific advances from regional, national, European and global perspectives. The sessions were categorized as scientific, career and science to business. The scientific program has focused on the past, present and future path-breaking sciences.

During the ESOF event, France chapter members were highly involved through oral and poster presentations and networking. Ritsuya Niwayama, with the help of Susanna Saroyan, Chandrashekar Patil, François Soubiran and Yves Verhertbruggen, designed a poster about the MCAA and its actions for the members. The poster attracted a very diverse crowd and helped us advertise for the Chapter and the MCAA in general.

Some of our members had also oral presentations of their work. Namely Chandrashekar Patil presented his work on environmental metabolic footprinting. He received an award for his presentation.



From left to right, Chandrashekar Patil, Yves Verhertbruggen, Ritsuya Niwayama and François Soubiran in front of the France Chapter's poster.

### « ESOF WAS AN OCCASION FOR INTENSE NETWORKING »

ESOF was also the occasion to have an intense networking activity. The members were able to connect with potential new partners, sponsors and contact points. We were even lucky enough to engage briefly with Carlos Moedas, EU Research commissioner.



From left to right: Yves Verhertbruggen, Mattias Björnmalm, Carlos Moedas and François Soubiran





## MEET OUR 100TH MEMBER

In May 2018, we reached 100 members. Please, meet our 100th member:

### Guillermo López Quesada!

I am an engineer coming from Spain where I obtained my Industrial Engineer Degree at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. After graduating I worked in a nuclear safety company for some years where I participated in various international research projects of Euratom 7th Framework Program. Being involved in such big scale research projects encouraged me to seek a further development in the science career and therefore I started to search for an opportunity to pursue a PhD within my field. Fortunately, through the Marie Curie Actions I have been able to enter the MIGRATE International Training Network (ITN) focused on the current challenges to innovation that face European industry with regard to heat and mass transfer in gas-based micro-scale processes. Particularly, my PhD thesis is *cotutelle* between INSA Toulouse and the University of Thessaly in Volos (Greece) and it is focused on the development of thermally driven vacuum pump.

Of course not everything is work! Obviously I like to travel, otherwise this mobility program would be a nightmare (=P), but I also like a bunch of other things: sports, martial arts, reading, videogames, dancing... Maybe too many. I am starting now the last year of my thesis and so far I have met a lot of good researchers, excellent professionals and wonderful persons that have made this way much better than I could imagine... But I still got one year to go and I don't plan on stopping with the good experiences.

## MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE FRANCE CHAPTER –PART II



### GREETER

#### NISRINE ARAB

I come from Lebanon. I was an Early Stage Researcher in an ITN project called “FIWIN5G”. Within that project I was the ESRs representative. On November 9th I will get my PhD in Optics and Radiofrequency from Grenoble-INP (Grenoble). Now I am working as an R&D engineer in a small company called

“kapteos”. Else than my passion to photons, I like to travel.

As a greeter, my main task is to accept the membership of the fellows within the chapter, introduce the chapter to them and keep the data of all the members up to date.



### TREASURER

#### CHANDRASHEKHAR PATIL

In 2014 I received a PhD from North Maharashtra University, India. Since then I'm enjoying international mobility as part of postdoctoral assignments in EU and associated countries, particularly France and Israel. Currently, as an MSCA-IF holder at the University of Perpignan,

France my research aims at developing innovative strategies, such as metabolic foot-printing, for the characterization of environmental pollution biomarkers by high resolution mass spectrometry methods.

Thanks to MCAA France chapter for allowing me to maintain the chapter 'treasury' so to have budget figures ready to discuss and plan the chapter activities.

## COMMUNICATION REPRESENTATIVES



#### LARA ANTONIA BLAZEVIC

I'm an Early Stage Researcher (PhD student) in hydrogeophysics at Sorbonne University (Paris). I've been studying geophysics for the past seven years, and I'm passionate about rock physics and seismics. Although my PhD research is on the use of seismic methods to monitor the critical zone, I have a strong background in oil and gas exploration from both my Bachelor's and Master's.

As a communication representative, my main task is to keep the France Chapter forum on MCAA's webpage active and share information about useful events on our Twitter account.



#### MARIA EVTIMOVA-GARDAIR

I'm working now as assistant professor in Technical University-Sofia in the faculty of Computer systems. I have a PhD degree with title “Semantic agents for personalized searching”. In it I use medical data to create semantic system for searching a health information.

## MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE FRANCE CHAPTER –PART III

Even so, I have a bachelor degree of electronics and master degree in informatics and telecommunication in French language. Also in 2016 I participate in a seminar in Montreal, Canada for young economists about digital economy. But my professional interest are in the field of informatics-semantic web,

programming languages, fuzzy logic, Big data, multi-agent systems and looking for new challenges.

I'm communication representative of the France Chapter team. I contribute to the France Chapter logo and twitter account. Also I contribute to BSB Workshop in Paris.



*« I am starting now the last year of my thesis and so far I have met a lot of good researchers, excellent professionals and wonderful persons »*

Guillermo López Quesada

### ACTIVITY COORDINATORS

#### LAKSHMI BALASUBRAMANIAM



I am from India and I am a 2nd year PhD student at Institute Jacques Monod in Paris. I am funded by an INSPIRE fellowship which comes under the Horizon 2020 project and I work in the field of biophysics trying to understand the mechanotransductive pathways involved during the process of cell death and collective behaviour of tissue monolayers in an *in vitro* system.

As a part of MCAA, I help in organizing various satellite events that happen in France with the aim of improving the skills of our members.

#### ALEXANDRA KATHARINA NOTHNAGEL



Trained as a biochemist at the Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany, I graduated with a work on the "Characterization of putative apoptosis modulating proteins in *Leishmania major* parasites" in the Immunology department of Paul Ehrlich Institute. My first European funding came from the BMBS COST Action BMO802 «Life or Death of protozoan parasites » to go to the University of Alcalá de Henares, Spain. Passionate about neuroimmunology and microscopy, I became a MSCA FP7 Early Stage Researcher at IBENS, Paris in the ITN ExtraBrain where I worked on "Extracellular Matrix and synapse dynamics" in a cell culture model to investigate molecular mechanisms of critical periods for synaptic plasticity. The image processing and data analysis of fluorescence and super-

resolution microscopy data motivated me to improve my skills in statistics and programming. Interested in the private sector, I started working in software development and conception for Atos, Bezons, in 2018. After 12 years in associative life, I'm currently president of the Young European Biotech Network (YEBN).

As a part of MCAA, I network with associations & institutions to organize cooperate events in France & elsewhere with active participation of the France Chapter where we can disseminate information on the MSCA actions and support science students' & scientists' careers on a European level. I represented the France chapter at the [High Level Conference on EU Research and Innovation](#). My special activity is the creation of the "**ResearchAbility**" project which aims to facilitate the career in research for students/ researchers with disabilities. The France Chapter supports events of ResearchAbility in cooperation with the French Association for handidynamic students, FEDEEH : the next event will be the **16-17th Feb 2019 in Paris**, just before the first session for researchers with different abilities, the **24th February**, during the MCAA Annual Conference in Vienna.





This last year, our forum has been active and we would first like to thank those of you who contributed to this. The forum is place where you can share your questions regarding MSCA issues, where you can advertise events, job opportunities and more. Do not hesitate to use the forum as it is there for the benefits of everyone!

Here, we will remind two "old" posts as we believe the information they contain can be useful for new members :

**"Management of MSCA grants in France including the family and mobility allowance" from 14/03/2018**

We have clarified how MSCA grants are managed and how the salary of the fellows are calculated. Documentation provided by members and the National Contact Points (NCP) is available in this post. If you have questions about how your grants and salary are managed or how to manage them, please, have a look at this conversation on the forum.

**"National Contact Points in France" 17/04/2018**

On April 2018, following complaints from members about issues with the NCPs, we created a survey and contacted Sandrine Schott-Carriere, coordinator of NCP in France for the EC. A summary of the results from the survey as well as from our discussion with Mrs Schott can be found in our forum. The positive outcomes are that the NCPs are aware of these issues and said they will do their best to avoid reproducing them in the future. Moreover, the chapter has now direct contact with the NCPs.

## OUR ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR 2017-2018 (PART II)

### OUR SATELLITE EVENT AT THE EUROSCIENCE OPEN FORUM 2018

In the scope of the EuroScience Open Forum in Toulouse, the France chapter with the support of Fernanda Bajanca, head of the Policy WG, has organized a Satellite event (<https://www.esof.eu/en/around-esof/satellite-events.html>) on July 9. The event took place at the [Eurêkafé](#). We were lucky to have five speakers discussing with us.

Julia Offe, Freelance science journalist communication from Germany, explored the topic of science communication and ways to engage with the public. She presented the [science slam](#) program that allows scientists to communicate science in a fun way.

The second speaker was Jonas Krebs, Scientific project manager at CRG in Spain. He explained us what is the job of a scientific project manager and discussed his career path. Mattias Björnmalm, Postdoctoral researcher at the Imperial College London in the UK, and vice-chair of the [Policy Working Group](#), discussed two main topics: policy and how to engage with policy makers, and Open Science. For the latter it was followed by a lively discussion on how realistic it is right now to publish in Open Access journals for young researchers both for a matter of career perspectives and because of the cost. Bérénice Kimpe, International Cooperation Manager at [ABG](#) in France, presented the association to the audience and how to build a career out of the academics and what are the key elements to consider for a fulfilling career.

Brian Cahill, Head of Research Group in Germany and newly elected Euroscience board member, also discussed the topic of alternative career paths and how to connect with the private sector.

We ended the event with a discussion on the different topics covered which showed that we are not always aware of the job opportunities are available for PhD holders.

And the topic of Open Science was also highly debated as the audience felt that the recruitment in the academic world was too biased towards high impact journals usually not Open Access. On the other hand, young researchers are also highly



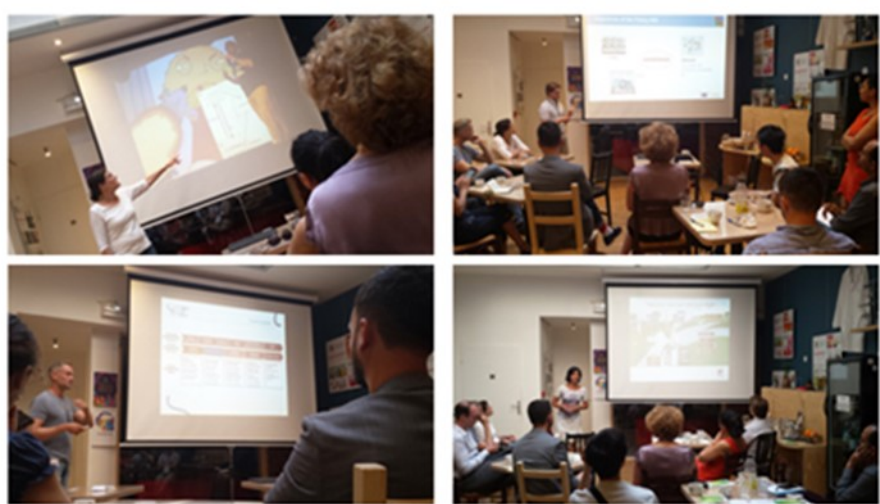
motivated by this topic, and one way to be more open is to engage with the public which is an activity that young researchers often appreciate.

The event was then followed by a lunch with some of the audience and with the speakers which was a great moment for informal discussions.

We then hold our second “face-to-face” board meeting prior attending ESOF where we promoted the association through a poster. At ESOF, we have extended our network and might have found possible new collaborators and sponsors. More information coming in the future. ;-)



*« At ESOF, we have extended our network and might have found possible new collaborators and sponsors. More information coming in the future. ;- ) » MCAA France Chapter Board*



Our speakers from left to right, **top**: Julia Offe, Mattias Björnmalm, **bottom**: Jonas Krebs, Bérénice Kimpe





## PROMOTION OF MCAA AND MSCA

In November 2018, we presented the association and promoted MSCA at two events :

- a career event during the 32nd EFFoST International Conference in Nantes.
- the workshop “La recherche handicapée” at the national event of FEDEEH for master and doctoral students with handicap

MCAA has materials available for its promotion (ppt, leaflets,...) and we encourage all our members to promote the association.

If you wish to promote the association at an event, please, contact us @

[france.chapter@mariecurie-alumni.eu](mailto:france.chapter@mariecurie-alumni.eu)

## CONGRESS “THE MAKING OF POLITICAL THOUGHT. RUPTURES, TRENDS, AND PATTERNS BETWEEN HENRY VII AND LOUIS THE BAVARIAN (1310-1328)”



THE MAKING OF POLITICAL THOUGHT  
Ruptures, Trends, and Patterns  
between Henry VII and Louis IV the Bavarian

Colloque international / International Congress

27-28.09.2018

Université de Strasbourg

MISHA  
Maison Interuniversitaire  
de Sciences de l'Homme  
Alsace  
5, allée du Général Rouvillois  
Strasbourg  
Salle de Conférences

Conférenciers /

Speakers:

Janet Coleman

Raphaël Eckert

Gian Carlo Garfagnini

Nadine Holzmeier

Jürgen Mietheke

Giuliano Milani

Rino Modonutti

Andrea Tabaroni

Lorenzo Tanzini

Claudia Villa



<https://philos.unistra.fr/actualites/actualites/>

The congress took place at the University of Strasbourg, France from 27-28 Sept 2018 and was organized by Lorenza Tromboni (Strasbourg) and Gianluca Briguglia (Strasbourg). 60 attendees had the opportunity to listen to 12 speakers (10 invited).

The congress aimed at shedding light on the relationship between political events and the composition of texts related to them, focusing on the period between the descent

into Italy of Henry VII and the Italian campaign of Louis the Bavarian, that is between 1310 and 1328. These crucial moments of the fourteenth century are two cores, which give life to real networks of texts - treatises, chronicles, poetic works and texts of other genres -, which are often linked to each other. The invited speakers represented different disciplines such as history, philosophy, philology, legal history, and they all focused on the same time span from various angles. The organization has been supported by the France chapter with a Micro Grant for outreach and dissemination. The MCA association was promoted during the event.

## BSB WORKSHOP « DRIVING SOLUTIONS FOR SCIENCE IN BUSINESS » IN PARIS

In July, we had a 2-day workshop at the growing business and technology center of Ile de France (Saclay). The event had speakers from varying backgrounds of academia, industry and governmental organizations (within and outside of Europe) through which we could learn various aspects of driving business solutions from science. In addition, on the second day there was a hands-on training to develop soft skills such as android programming and blockchain training which were conducted by MCAA members. This was also a good opportunity to educate scientists about intellectual property while exposing them to prospects outside of academia within and outside Europe.



Through the focused discussion sessions we were engaged in various specific topics ranging from venture capitalists, importance of innovation, challenges of starting up and investment opportunities in Turkey, Israel, and Europe. This event was co-organized by the MCAA Bridging Science and Business working group, the MCAA France chapter, Science Accueil, Paris Sud University and University of Paris Saclay.



*“...a good opportunity to educate scientists about intellectual property while exposing them to prospects outside of academia within and outside Europe .”*

## OUR PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2018-2019

### CHAPTER MEETING

For the coming year, we aim to hold two “face-to-face” meetings.

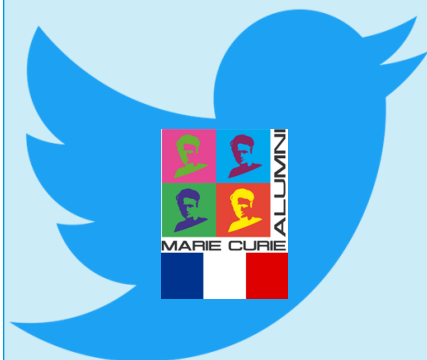


For information about the MCAA meeting, click [here](#), registration already opened.

The first one will occur in Vienna along with the MCAA GA and Annual Conference. We encourage members to join the meeting and hope to see many of you there.



## OUR COMMUNICATION CHANNELS



### Follow us on twitter !

We are also on Twitter since March 2018, and you can follow us [@MCAAFrance](#) to keep yourself updated with information about MSCA and research in France, relevant projects, and job opportunities.

### Looking for a job ?

Then we recommend you to follow our partner [ABG\\_INTL](#)

### The forum is yours !

We use the [France Chapter forum](#) on the MCAA webpage to discuss the Chapter's activities, promote events, and help each other when someone has an issue regarding research in France.

With over 100 contributors, this is your go-to webpage if you have questions about being a Marie Curie Fellow in France and want feedback from people that are in a similar situation as you.



We encourage all MSCA beneficiaries in France to register on the MCAA webpage (sign up here: <https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/user/register>) and join the France Chapter Group to have access to the forum discussions.

If you have personal questions, please use the forum as we will not reply to personal issues sent to the Chapter's email address anymore.

## MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE FRANCE CHAPTER –PART III

### TWO MORE LADIES ARE ACTIVITY COORDINATORS

#### LORENZA TROMBONI



I'm from Florence, Italy. I am a historian and hold a PhD in Medieval Philology and Literature. I'm currently finishing my MSCA fellowship on Medieval and Renaissance political thought at the Faculty of Philosophy in Strasbourg. I am interested in the relationship between historical facts and written culture, especially non-Latin texts and philosophical awareness outside the academia. I have a strong background in medieval studies and philosophical texts.

I recently organised the congress "The Making of Political Thought. Ruptures, Trends, and patterns between Henry VII and Louis the Bavarian (1310-1328)" as part of the dissemination activities of my MSC project, with the participation of the MSCAA.

#### LIUBOV TUPIKINA



I am a researcher working in France and Russia. I did my PhD in theoretical physics in Humboldt University (Germany), post-doc at Ecole Polytechnique. Now I am working at CRI, Paris, and in MIPT, Russia. I am interested in dynamical processes on networks and methods to describe the dynamics through structure and vice versa.

Together with other colleagues from the Marie Curie network, we are developing the [SciEd project](#), which works in a distributed way and where everyone from academia or from educational system is welcome to join.

## France Chapter



The France Chapter is part of the MCAA and encourages local networking, recruits and attracts new members to the Association, and generally enhances the image of the MCAA within France as a whole.

The relationship between the world famous scientist Marie Curie and France (in particular in the city of Paris) is permanent, and her heritage is still visible in several scientific institutes of the French capital. The Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) Chapter for France aims to **build** connections amongst Marie Curie Alumni (MCA) resident in France, to **promote** the image of the MCAA and thus to **strengthen** further the historical link of Marie Curie with the country.

Membership of a Chapter is free! Note that request to join the Chapter are processed at the beginning of each month.

If you have any question, please, contact us!

[france.chapter@mariecuriealumni.eu](mailto:france.chapter@mariecuriealumni.eu)

ALL POSTS EVENTS Q & A DOCS POLLS

Create a post

search by title

## OUR PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2018-2019

### Career development Workshop: “Postdoctorate 2019”



Along with the German and the Italian chapters, we plan to collaborate with ABG in the organization of their next “Cross-Border Post-Doctoriales” event, a career development workshop dedicated to young researchers. Such events are beneficial for young researchers (PhD students and post-docs) who are looking to gain transferable skills.

Information about past “Post-doctoriales” event : <https://www.abg.asso.fr/en/vue/news>.

We will apply for a grant to carry out this event and will need your vote to obtain it. Please, stay tuned and support this project.

**You are also very welcome to join our task force today! We need you!**

### COMMUNICATING SCIENCE WORKSHOP March 2019



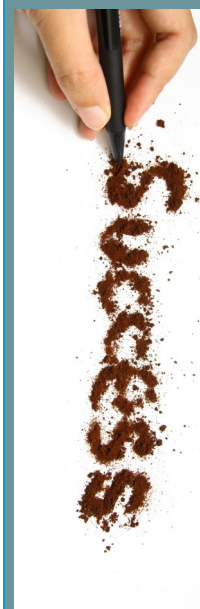
We would like to co-organize with **MT180**, **Euraxess** and the **University of Nantes**, a **SciCom** event in **March 2019**.

The participants - MSCA beneficiaries - will learn how to communicate about their research and will deliver a 3 min speech to a broad audience at the end of the training.

We need to build a task force to organize this event. Interested?



**WE, THE MCAA FRANCE CHAPTER, NEED YOU!**  
If you're interested in contributing in the organization of one of our events, please contact us  
[@france.chapter@mariecuriealumni.eu](mailto:@france.chapter@mariecuriealumni.eu)



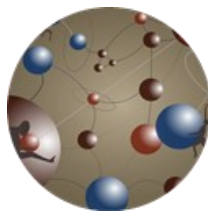
180 seconds to present your work, are you ready ???





## OUR PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2018-2019

### SciEd network

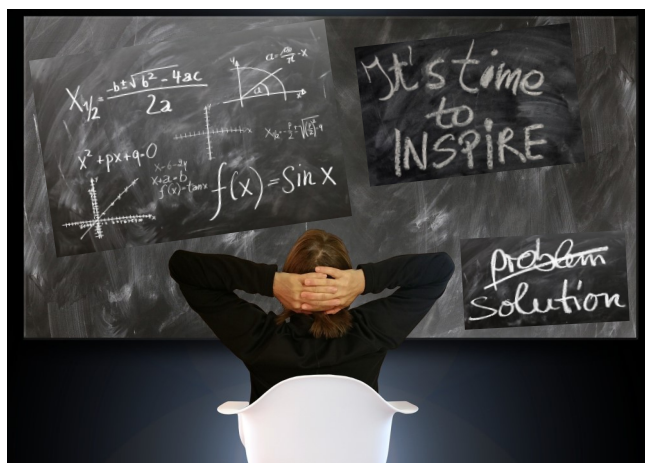


The SciEd project has been launched through the Marie-Curie project (LINC) in 2017. It is a non-profit international organisation which brings scientists, travelling around the world (for conferences and personal visits) to school students and teachers.

As some other organisations doing scientific activities, SciEd first of all tries to understand "how to include additional teaching in a right context".

**Importantly, the goal of SciEd network is to open up the curiosity & to enhance the connections between scientists and high-schools (universities) around the world.**

SciEd is a highly distributed organisation, which exists in different countries locally. From 2017, we have now schools and scientists from 9 countries and more lectures and workshops to come.



For the coming year, the France Chapter would like to contribute in the expansion of the SciEd community and help the project to gain visibility.

**If you are interested to do outreach, when you travel with a Marie Curie project, please, join the SciEd project: <https://networkscied.wordpress.com>.**

Everyone from academia or from educational system is welcome to join. So, don't hesitate to share the info.

If you are interested in contributing to our activities linked to SciEd or if you would like more information, you can contact our activity coordinator, [Liubov Tupikina](#).

### Young European Biotech Network (YEbn e.V.)



The Young European Biotech Network (YEbn) is a non-profit organization for students and young scientists of the life science sector. It is an umbrella organization for local and national associations located at schools, universities and research institutes. It provides a Europe-wide platform promoting the exchange between young scientists and their organizations. Don't miss to register for the triannual YEbn newsletter by sending "SUBSCRIBE" to [newsletter@yebn-ev.eu](mailto:newsletter@yebn-ev.eu).

The objectives are to provide a European platform for international events and career opportunities, promoting a lively exchange of ideas and experience in science-oriented networks, bring academia and industry closer together, promote European cooperation by connecting regional and national organizations in Europe.

Thus YEbn organizes round tables for representatives of life science associations; **MCAA members will be very welcome to join the YEbn Round Table 2019.** In 2018, MCAA members were offered at the annual conference to become individual members paying a reduced membership fee. YEbn is continuously looking for new institutional members; you are active in a PhD/PostDoc Network? **Get inspired, get involved !** You can get more information [here](#) or ask: [contact@yebn-ev.eu](mailto:contact@yebn-ev.eu).

## OUR PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2018-2019



### ResearchAbility Project for researchers with different abilities, 16-17/2/2019 (Paris), 24/2/2019 (Vienna)

Everyone in the research community today might know Stephen Hawking as example for a famous researcher working as theoretical physicist, cosmologist and university professor although suffering from an invalidating disease. How about Albert Einstein, Leonardo Da Vinci, Isaac Newton and our Marie S. Curie? Did you know they were very probably all persons with a different ability? Are you surprised? More than 80% percent of impairments/chronical diseases are invisible. In most countries, at least 1 person out of 10 is handicapped by physical, mental or sensory impairment (source : [UN](#)). Statistics even suggest 1 person out of 2 is temporarily or permanently handicapped during professional life; you might not even be aware of being concerned.



#### « Nothing About Us Without Us! (Nihil de nobis, sine nobis) »

*Slogan of activists fighting for disability rights like James Charlton, Michael Masutha and William Rowland*

Different abilities, impairments and chronical diseases should not be a handicap to advance research, but a chance. Due to their special situation, persons concerned develop new and different strategies to adapt to their situation and can accelerate inventions. Laws, initiatives, public health must help to provide accommodations and accessibility, as well as the means for inclusion during higher education and professional life. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is the 1st international legally binding instrument setting min standards for rights for people with disabilities. Proposed by the European Commission in 2015, after >10 years of campaigning by the disability movement, a 1st agreement on the European Accessibility Act was reached by the EU Institutions, the 8th Nov 2018, adding new EU-wide minimum requirements on accessibility on a limited range of products and services., mostly digital.

A lot of work still needs to be done, especially regarding accessible buildings, transport, infrastructure and of course education : innovations and enterprises providing (community-based) services are needed. Associative work, mediatization & dialogue promote awareness, sensitization and inclusion.



ResearchAbility Workshop Team at FEDEEH : Khalil Hamzaoui, Jeremy, Alexandra and Abdelkhalek (ltr)

The ResearchAbility project aims to support students & scientists with different abilities during their career, aiming to provide advice & visibility. In the context of the policy working group, ResearchAbility wants to give a voice to those at risk being disabled during their career, aiming to reach out together for equal chances & a better accessibility. Our MCAA France chapter activity coordinator Alexandra initiated the project. She attended the European Day of Persons with Disabilities at the European Commission in Brussels asking for an international disability status facilitating mobility for researchers/employees in public institutions & companies.

During the MCAA annual meeting, there will be the first session of the project with diverse speakers and guests: Elmar Fürst from WU Vienna, Associate professor at Institute for Transport and Logistics Management, Khalil I. Hamzaoui, computer scientist from Lille, lawyers, representatives from associations for persons with different abilities.

The MCAA France Chapter already started acting : a first workshop dedicated to inform master students & PhD candidates about research careers was successfully held the 10th Nov 2018 during the national meeting of the French federation for handidynamic students, FÉDÉEH, in Paris. The MCAA France Chapter and FÉDÉEH members will offer together the next workshops to advise on careers in research, the 16-17th February 2019 in Paris. Interested in becoming a mentor and/or adviser? Come and register via [email](#) to our event.



Alexandra Nothnagel with assoc; professor Elmar Fürst and Gudrun Eigelsreiter from Austrian Disability Council

Are you a researcher with a different ability or working on a topic regarding accessibility & inclusion? Are you interested in participating to the session in Vienna or the activities of the working group "ResearchAbility"? Please come and join MCAA supporting individuals with a different ability and their professional environment to start an open dialogue and proactive work on accessibility. Let's join forces and show the richness of being diverse and make a step together to a more inclusive society. Please contact our activity coordinator, [Alexandra Nothnagel](#).



## OUR NATIONAL SOCIAL EVENT

We would like to organize a national social event similar to what the Austrian chapter has done previously. We will give the opportunity to MCAA members located in France to organize their own MCAA member meeting in the favorite bar of their favorite city. The first drink will be on us. *However, this will depend on our budget. Let's hang out together soon !*

**To make this happen, we need you! If you're interested and would like to contribute to one or more of these activities, please, contact us:**

**[france.chapter@mariecuriealumni.eu](mailto:france.chapter@mariecuriealumni.eu)**







Greetings from Manel LAPORTA GRAU, Protocol officer at the European Parliament Directorate-General of PResidency (former Assistant Policy Officer, MSCA Unit, European Commission) and Athina ZAMPARA, Research Executive Agency Unit REA-A1 /MSCA ITN, and our activity Alexandra NOTHNAGEL, from the High Level Conference EU research and innovation in our daily life at the 27th November in the EU Parliament. Very nice conference with MSCA project members like Mycosynvac.

Official newsletter of the MCAA France Chapter, published in december 2018.

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