

International Symposium:

THE HUMANITIES IN SPAIN AND EUROPE. Challenges and Opportunities of the European Convergence in Higher Education and Research.

Madrid, 23-25 March 2010

Salón de Actos del CSIC, c/ Serrano 117.

Aims:

To reflect and debate on the academic and social status of the disciplines included in the division of the Humanities. To assess to what extent the processes of European convergence in higher education and research raise new challenges and open new opportunities of advancement for the Spanish scientific community. To analyze the instances of contention and resistance to the reforms and changes which the European convergence processes entail. Well founded and spurious arguments in such disputations.

The new frontiers of higher education and research in the humanities: in Spain, Europe and worldwide. Involvement of Spanish researchers from the Humanities in European programmes: European Science Foundation, Framework Programme, European Research Council. The changing scenarios of higher education and research: continuities and discontinuities. Pertinence and relevance of humanistic and sociological knowledge and scholarship in today's world.

Thematic issues:

a) The status of the Arts and the Humanities in the general concert of science and knowledge. Old and new debates on the scientific character of the different disciplines: arts, scholarship, science. The particular status of disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences. What defines the scientific endeavour?

- b) Beyond the old disciplinary and territorial boundaries: The challenges of a global science and scholarship. Multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, trans-disciplinary approaches. Collaborative and team-oriented research. Research integration.
- c) Tools and methods for the evaluation of scientific and scholarly research and output. Specific requirements and needs for disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The ERIH project (*A European Reference Index for the Humanities*).
- d) Opportunities generated by convergence and collaboration in the European arena. The role of the ERA-nets in the European Research Area: the networks HERA and NORFACE.
- e) Publication and dissemination of research results in the Humanities (and the Social Sciences). Need for the formulation and implementation of a scientific policy which provides support for the Spanish scientific and scholarly journals, and for the other means of academic publication.
- f) The future of education and research in the Humanities. Impact of new technologies in humanities teaching and research: the Digital Humanities. The movement and policies towards 'open access' to sources and publication of research results, implications for the Humanities. The ECHO project: *European Culture Heritage Online*.

Profile of Speakers and Participants:

Professors and researchers in any of the disciplines within the Humanities who are in the equator of their careers (mid-career scholars); and who are active and fully involved in important research projects.

Young scholars with an outstanding research and teaching profile, and who are contributing in original and innovative work.

Academicians and intellectuals of public renown associated to any of the disciplines within the Humanities, who have culminated a widely reputed teaching and research career.

Prelude:

This Symposium is conceived as a sort of (Spanish) prelude to a pan-European congress, much larger in scale and scope, which is being planned for the near future. Such congress would give continuity to an initiative taken within the ERA-net *Humanities in the European Research Area* (HERA), an academic event labelled *European Conference for Collaborative Humanities Research* (ECCHR). The institutions and people who promote this symposium have the intention to take part, and eventually collaborate as co-organisers, in the second of these pan-European conferences. The next ECCHR, for which talks and negotiations are already taking place, might be articulated around the theme: “The Humanities in a World without Borders: Challenges and Opportunities of a Global Science and Scholarship”.

Academic institutions which give support for this symposium:

Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

Universidad de Alcalá.

Universidad de Barcelona.

Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, CSIC.

Fundación e Instituto Universitario José Ortega y Gasset.

Instituto de España.

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