

IVth Forum Physics and Society

Science Journalism and Scientific Communication

EI Escorial, Madrid, Spain, October 21-23, 2010

Following on the successful forums in Graz (Austria, 2006), Zakopane (Poland, 2007) and Ratnieki (Latvia, 2009), the European Physical Society is organizing the fourth Forum on Physics and Society in Madrid, Spain. This Forum will focus on Science Journalism and Scientific Communication.

The purpose of this symposium is to bring together scientists (physicists) and experts in the field of science journalism, scientific communication and public media (TV, Radio, Internet). Define and analyze some of the issues and challenges related to the role of scientific communication, to the responsibility of the scientists and media in presenting relevant scientific results (environment, climate, energy, etc.) to the public. The Forum will concentrate on identifying 'good practices' and issues where EPS and other organizations might have influence. It will summarize and present its conclusions and recommendations.

Three topics have been selected:

- Journalism and the communication of Science
- The role of electronic media and scientific responsibility
- Science communication, a tool for recruiting new students

The format of the meeting will be the Forum's standard format of working groups preparing a set of recommendations, framed by key note speakers.

Keynote speakers are being invited for each of these topics. These will be announced when their participation has been confirmed. A round table discussion is also planned to address the various issues in a lively way with an invited panel of speakers.

Attendance is limited to 45 participants to enable proper discussion. These should be representatives of National Physical Societies or of EPS Divisions or Groups. In the event of oversubscription the Forum committee (see below) will select participants to ensure a balanced representation by country and by expertise.

The Forum will officially start on Thursday morning 21 October and end with a dinner on the evening of Saturday 23 October. The participants are expected to arrive on Wednesday 20 and leave on Sunday morning 24. Information on the transport from airport and/or railway station will be provided on the website. The cost for attending the Forum is € 500.- per person, including meeting fees, accommodation and meals in EI Escorial. A visit of Segovia is also planned in the afternoon of Friday 22.

More detailed information on the Madrid Forum may be found at the websites <http://fps.epscommittees.org/> and <http://www.iff.csic.es/fama/con/fps4/home.html>

The Forum Physics and Society (FPS), an outreach body of the European Physical Society (EPS), aims at establishing a more active EPS role in the relation of physics to society, taking seriously the challenge of maintaining a strong and critical dialogue between physicists and decision makers from policy and economics. FPS catalyzes such development through workshops and meetings, gathering decision makers and physicists to put the spotlight on topics of interest to both society and to the physics community.

Local organizer: Gerardo Delgado-Barrio (Spain)

Main convener: Christophe Rossel (Switzerland)

Committee Members:

Mirjana Bozić (Rep. Serbia)

Sonia Draxler (Austria)

Martial Ducloy (France) – chair

Gerardo Delgado-Barrio (Spain)

Nuria Ferrer-Anglada (Spain)

Martin Huber (Switzerland)

Maciej Kolwas (Poland)

Max Lippitsch (Austria)

Ruth Loewenstein (Italy)

Peter Melville (UK) – secretary

Ove Poulsen (Denmark)

Christophe Rossel (Switzerland)