




ACADEMIA ENGELBERG

Dialogue on Science



SUMMER SCHOOL

2016

SUMMER SCHOOL
ACADEMIA ENGELBERG
AT THE LIMITS

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, TO SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2016
BASEL, SWITZERLAND



2016

SUMMER SCHOOL ACADEMIA ENGELBERG

Academia Engelberg Annual Conference (October 12-14, 2016)

Limits and boundaries in science, engineering, medicine, business, information technology, as well as in an aging society, will be discussed

If no boundaries can be seen for miles around and even horizons seem to fade away, orientation gets lost. The human condition is defined by contact with boundaries, by interfaces with environments. He who does not respect his own limits ultimately gives himself up. Boundaries dissolve in drug abuse, in lacking emotional bonds, in megalomania, and in financial erosion.

Limitless growth and endless fun are connected to the loss of identity – they are self-destructive. But just as we need boundaries, we also need exchange across and beyond them. Defense and offense are the two polarities that meet at the boundary. Frontiers must be permeable – for the flow of information and for the interaction among living beings. At the same time, they represent the location where opposites meet. If imagination is trapped within limits, no visions can be developed and no new territory can be penetrated.

Summer School for Young Scientists at Basel (June 26-July 2, 2016)

The Summer School that precedes the annual Academia Engelberg conference joins students from different countries to discuss this year's conference topic "At the Limits". During the Summer School, participants will be prepared to actively and creatively participate in the annual conference. They will shape part of that conference by adding fresh perspectives deriving from topics that are investigated and prepared in the Summer School.

The Summer School will introduce participants to the theme of limits, boundaries, and interfaces in a variety of areas that are important for the knowledge-based societies of today. Parti-

cipants will be offered the opportunity to study and critically evaluate pertinent topics related to this general theme. These topics include boundaries of our cognitive faculties, the rise of machine intelligence and its impact, the nature of peak experiences, a better understanding of the present as the boundary between past and future, theories of interfaces between social agents, and the limits of economic growth. At the Summer School, each participant will present one topical issue which will then be discussed in view of its transdisciplinary relevance for current developments in society today.

Academia Engelberg

The Academia Engelberg Foundation recognizes the growing need of science and society for a better understanding of new and highly complex issues, how they relate to society (including politics, culture, ethics, religion, education) and industry, and their impact on increasing global inequity. The Foundation was created on 2001 and organizes annual conferences addressing specific themes in the Abbey of Engelberg.

Intergeneration Platform: A high proportion of young participants attends the conferences. We involve young scientists by providing them the opportunity to present projects and offer a platform for encounters between generations. In recent years, about 140 participants from all over the globe attended the conference. The dialog across different backgrounds and areas of expertise proved highly profitable for Summer School students and turned out useful for establishing new contacts and networking.

Partners & Contributors



CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL 2016

Eligibility

Highly motivated and committed students who completed their masters degree with excellent performance and are currently enrolled at an academic (university) program are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be interested in transdisciplinary topics and their discussion. Application material should include a description of the applicant's motivation and expertise. Participation at the Engelberg Conference (October, 12 – 14, 2016) is a prerequisite for admission to the Summer School.

Duration

The one-week course will take place at Basel, Switzerland, from June 26 – July 2, 2016. The detailed venue and program will be made available to successful applicants.

Recognition

ETH Zurich recognizes successful completion of the course with three ECTS points for PhD students. Assignment of credit points in non-ETH study programs are subject to the regulations of the participant's home institution.

Fee

The course fee of 500 Swiss Francs (CHF) per participant covers accomodation, meals, local travel and activities during the program, all of which are arranged by the course organizers. In addition, this fee includes all expenses (accomodation, meals, etc.) for attending the Engelberg conference.

Application

Application can be submitted online including curriculum vitae and letter of motivation as portable document format (pdf) (maximum size per file: 1 MB) at:

admin@academia-engelberg.ch

Deadline

March, 15th 2016

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