



## André Mischke YAE Prize for Science and Policy 2025

### Call for nominations

The Young Academy of Europe's (YAE) Prize is awarded annually to an early to mid-career professional in recognition of their outstanding achievements and contributions to key areas of the YAE. In 2019, the YAE Prize was named “**André Mischke YAE Prize for Science and Policy**” in honour of the late YAE Founding Chair, André Mischke. The prize is given to support and promote: science, evidence-based policy making, science communication, and future generation scientists and scholars in Europe.

#### The 2025 prize

Currently, the search committee is looking for nominations for the 2025 award. Nominations should be sent to [yae-prize@yacadeuro.org](mailto:yae-prize@yacadeuro.org) by **30 April 2025 at the latest**, and should include **a short CV** (max. 2 pages) accompanied by **a short statement** (max. 1 page) describing key activities and evidence of relevant accomplishments.

#### The prize

- The awardee of the André Mischke YAE Prize for Science and Policy will be invited to give the **André Mischke YAE Prize for Science and Policy Lecture** at the Academia Europaea/YAE Annual meeting in October 2025, and to publish a paper based on that Lecture in the issue of **European Review** devoted to that conference.
- The awardee will receive a cash prize of EUR 1000 (dependent on funds being available)

#### Selection criteria and procedure

The **André Mischke YAE Prize for Science and Policy** honours outstanding contributions and achievements that align with the core mission of the YAE. It is awarded on recommendation of the YAE Board and the YAE Prize Search Committee (see below).

#### Eligibility

1. Candidates should be early-to mid career academics or professionals (e.g., max 15 years after obtained PhD) of any nationality, but who are working/have worked in Europe, or abroad at a European Institution.
2. The candidate is neither a YAE member nor a YAE alumna/alumnus.
3. Self-nominations are not accepted.



## General criteria for the André Mischke YAE Prize for Science and Policy

Candidates are excellent active scholars who will have demonstrated at least one of the following

- Important contributions to European science policy, by actively reaching out and engaging with policy makers in an attempt to influence science policy and contribute to the development of a European science agenda for the coming decades
- Important contributions to evidence-based policy at the European level
- Important contributions to science communication and citizen science, especially facilitating communication between scientists and scholars with the general public in Europe, with an emphasis on societal issues, quality of life and standards of living in Europe
- Important contributions to strengthening the solidarity and networking amongst exceptional young researchers and scholars in Europe in order to create a pool of information, pass on experience, give feedback, and provide active support to colleagues across Europe and future generations of leading scientists

## Procedure for identifying candidates to receive the award

- All members of the YAE, European National Young Academies, Academia Europaea and other European (scientific) organizations are invited to nominate an outstanding candidate for the YAE prize. Self-nominations are not accepted.
- Nominations must provide the following:
  - Summary of key achievements (1 Page)
  - Short CV (max 2 pages)
- The closing date for nomination for the 2025 edition is **30<sup>th</sup> April, 2025**.
- The YAE Prize Search Committee will evaluate nominations and obtain references if needed, and prepare a shortlist. The Awardee will be selected by a vote of the currently elected Board of the YAE from this shortlist.
- Second and third placed nominations will be kept for the next year's edition.
- If none of the nominated candidates meet the requirements, the André Mischke YAE Prize of that year will not be awarded.

## YAE Prize Search Committee

The search committee for the **André Mischke YAE Prize for Science and Policy** has two representatives for each of the three domains (Life Sciences; Physical Sciences and in Engineering; Social Sciences and Humanities) and includes the YAE Chair and the Chair of the YAE Advisory Council.



## Representatives Life Sciences

Arild Husby  
Leif Schroeder

## Representatives Physical Sciences and in Engineering

Sebastian Leidel  
Marcel Swart

## Representatives Social Sciences and Humanities

Alexander Fidora  
Jörg Peltzer

## Advisory members

Anna von der Heydt  
Sebastian Leidel (Chair Advisory Council YAE)  
Scott Bremer (YAE Chair)



## YAE Prize 2017: Rianne Letschert



Prof. Letschert has had an outstanding academic career, working in the field of international law, with a focus on minority rights and human rights, and is now the Rector Magnificus (equivalent to Provost) of Maastricht University – the youngest female rector ever appointed at a Dutch university. She is a vocal and active advocate of science communication for young people, and for promoting diversity. She had been given the award for the “Top Female Role Model in Science” from Tilburg University.

## YAE Prize 2018: Gabi Lombardo



Dr Lombardo is an expert in global research funding, research and education policies, and international higher education. She has experience in the interface of strategy, policy, research and business. She is a constant promoter of the value of Social Sciences and Humanities in her position as the Director of The European Alliance for SSH, which is the largest science policy organization for SSH in Europe, and has a specific approach to give voice in the science policy debate to an international scientific community.

## YAE Prize 2019: Janusz Bujnicki



Prof. Bujnicki is working in biology, focusing on bioinformatics, structural biology and synthetic biology. In 2016 he has been elected to the Polish Academy of Sciences as the youngest member of the Academy. Bujnicki has been involved in various scientific organizations and bodies active in the area of science and policy, both in Poland and abroad, among which a second term in the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors within the Scientific Advice Mechanism for the European Commission.



## YAE Prize 2020: Grant Hill-Cawthorne



Dr. Hill-Cawthorne is a medical microbiologist and Principal Science adviser to the UK Parliament. Since May 2018, he is Head of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST), the science advice unit within the UK Parliament that bridges research and policy. Devoted to engage younger scholars in science policy, he developed a Parliamentary Academic Fellowship Scheme to embed academics in parliamentary departments for discrete research projects designed by Parliament. For 2020, he is the President of the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment network, the international organisation for legislative science advice units.

## YAE Prize 2021: Marian Verhelst



Prof. Verhelst is working in microelectronics and chip design, pioneer in custom AI processors, and is head of a research group of the Electrical Engineering Department of KU Leuven. Verhelst has been involved in various organizations and activities, e.g. for the enhancement of science literacy and a larger uptake of STEM studies as founding member of the Flemish STEM platform, and to improve possibilities, work-life balance and the science landscape for early-career researchers as founding member of the Belgian Young Academy, where she served on the Board and as co-president for two years. Verhelst is also passionate about science communication, especially towards young people and girls.

## YAE Prize 2022: Gergely Toldi



Dr. Toldi is senior lecturer at the Liggins Institute, University of Auckland, working in neonatal medicine and innovative research in immunology and the field of flow cytometry. He is also co-chair of the 'Widening European participation' thematic mission of the Academia Europaea Budapest Knowledge Hub, for increasing the competitiveness of early career researchers (ECRs) from EU13 countries and improving their representation on the European level. He is also a founding delegate of the Young Academies Science Advice Structure (YASAS), a new initiative to create a formal platform of European young academies for their involvement in European science advice through SAPEA, and helped set up both the Hungarian Young Academy (2019) and the United Kingdom Young Academy (2022).





## YAE Prize 2023: Renaud Jolivet



Prof. Renaud Jolivet works at the Maastricht Centre for Systems Biology, as Chair of Neural Engineering & Computation at Maastricht University. He has acted in various working groups of the MCAA, and its board (2018-2020). He served as the MCAA representative on the board of the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE), and as External Policy Advisor (2019-2022). This work has led to a number of policy documents published by MCAA and ISE (e.g. on research precarity) and to a number of policy workshops and sessions. Since January 2022, he is the representative for individual researchers and innovators at the European Commission's ERA Forum, where he was nominated by ISE, MCAA, EuroDoc, EuroScience, and the Association of ERC Grantees.

## YAE Prize 2024: Jacek Kolanowski



Dr Jacek Kolanowski is a habilitated assistant professor at the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Poznan, Poland, and head of the Research Facilities and Innovation Centre, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute in Sydney, Australia. He obtained his BSc and MSc in Poland, his PhD in France, and spent postdoctoral years in Australia. He has been managing several national and European grants, and directed the Centre for Chemical Biology, Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences, where he was responsible for the management of an interdisciplinary research group and research facilities totaling over 35 people in 5 years. In this role, he focused on fostering diverse and flexible academic-industry collaborations and facilitating research translation through developing robust methods and bringing new technologies to a wide range of users. His interdisciplinary research is focused on the design, synthesis, validation and use of low-

molecular-weight chemical compounds to visualise and control biochemical parameters in biological models both for basic and applied research.

In addition, Dr Jacek Kolanowski has also been active in science outreach by delivering several popular science lectures, lessons, and workshops in schools. He was a member of the Polish Young Academy and later served it for 2 years as vice-chair and 2 years as chair. He played an important role in fostering solidarity and networking among young researchers in Europe, as the founder of the Young Science Beyond Borders conference, providing a platform for young researchers from low- and middle-income countries and scientists at risk to interact with and access science in the EU or by providing academic support for Ukrainian researchers following the Russian invasion. Besides his merits in building capacity and community among young scientists, he was proactively engaged with policymakers to positively influence science policy at both national and European level. Furthermore, Jacek Kolanowski was a founding member, Board member and first elected President of the Young Academies Science Advice Structure (YASAS), a pan-European network of Young Academies and he catalyzed the campaign for YASAS to join as an independent partner the prestigious Science Advice Mechanism for the European Commission through SAPEA.