

INTEGRATING SSH WITH STEM IN RESEARCH: LESSONS FROM INSTITUTES FOR ADVANCED STUDIES OPPORTUNITIES FOR EUROPEAN INITIATIVES

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1. IAS insights for fostering interdisciplinary thinking

- As scientific innovation often occurs at the margins, **offer experimental spaces** and **promote an open approach to research** where researchers can conduct **curiosity-driven research with the greatest possible freedom**.
- Place interdisciplinary dimension at the core of invitation policies to **build international and multidisciplinary learning communities** based on of individual scientific excellence (early career or more senior).
- Support diverse **formal/informal formats** and provide fellows with **scientific accompaniment** (*managed serendipity*) to enhance dialogue across intellectual/scientific traditions and to help scholars embrace methodological pluralism.
- **Favour the invigoration and diversification of research** with fresh view on familiar objects **to incubate new ideas and interdisciplinary projects**.

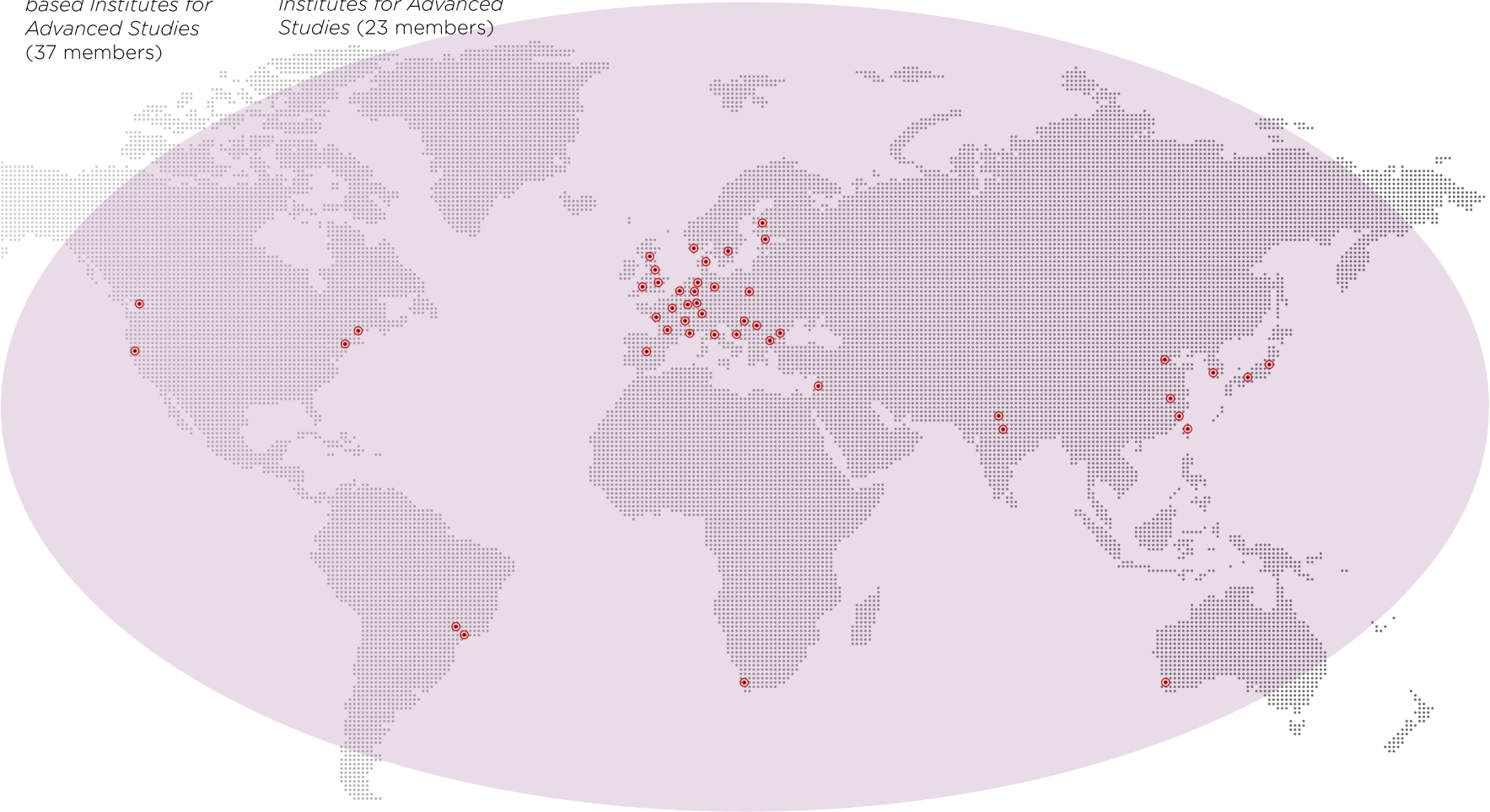
Institutes for Advanced Studies in the world

INTERNATIONAL

UBIAS – University-based Institutes for Advanced Studies (37 members)

EUROPE

NETIAS – Network of Institutes for Advanced Studies (23 members)



Some Interesting IAS Initiatives (1)

➤ **Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Forschung - Bielefeld**

- ✓ 6-month to 2-year projects, medium-sized team (8/15)
- ✓ Started 1968
- ✓ Topics: Cognitive Behaviour of Humans, Animals and Machines (2019-2020), Multimodal Rhetoric in Online Media Communication (2020), Breaking Confines (2018-2020)

➤ **Collegium Helveticum, Zürich**

- ✓ 5-year projects, small team (7+)
- ✓ Started 2004
- ✓ Topics: Emotions (2004-2009), Reproductibility (2010-2015), Digital Societies (2016-2020)

➤ **Institut d'études avancées - Paris**

- ✓ Multi-year priority, no fixed team (4/6 individual scholars)
- ✓ Started 2008
- ✓ Topics: Brain, Culture and Society (2016-)

Some Interesting IAS Networking Initiatives (2)

➤ Intercontinental Academia - UBIAS

- ✓ 1-year project, large team (20+)
- ✓ 2 host institutes, 10/15 partnering
- ✓ Started 2010
- ✓ Topics: Time (2016/2017), Laws, Rigidity and Dynamics (2018/2019), Intelligence and Artificial Intelligence (2020)

➤ Constructive Advanced Thinking - NETIAS

- ✓ 2/3 years, team of early career scholars (3/5)
- ✓ 2/5 host institutes, 12 participating
- ✓ No topics, blue-sky research on pressing societal issues
- ✓ Start 2020

2. Furthering European Support to Interdisciplinary Research (1)

➤ The unsuccessful story with “societal” challenges in Horizon 2020

- ✓ Embedding SSH / SSH Integration
- ✓ Lot of flagging, poor results
- ✓ Three levels of problems: framing, calling, assessing

➤ The bumpy road to success for ERC Synergy

- ✓ Unsuccessful first round in 2012/2013
- ✓ 2% success rate, 24 granted: 11 (PE), 9 (LS), 4 (SSH)
- ✓ very limited *real* interdisciplinary research
- ✓ Restarted in 2018
- ✓ 9% success rate, 27 granted, €400m
- ✓ improvement but still limited *real* interdisciplinary research

2. Furthering European Support to Interdisciplinary Research (1)

➤ Preparing for Horizon Europe (2021-2027)

- ✓ Re-embedding SSH
- ✓ 6 clusters with strong interdisciplinary potential “Health, Digital, Energy-Climate-Mobility, Food-Alimentation-Bio-economy-Environment”
- ✓ 5 missions “Adaptation to Climate Change, Cancer, Healthy Waters, Smart Cities, Healthy Soil”
- ✓ 50 joint European partnerships
- ✓ EIT-KIC/EIC
- ✓ Lobbying for interdisciplinary support
- ✓ Again: framing, calling, assessing

➤ Opportunities beyond Horizon Europe

- ✓ Multilateral state funding on key research priorities (AI, climate, aging, etc.)
- ✓ Groupings of higher education/research organisations in Europe
- ✓ New instruments for collaboration with industry
- ✓ Partnering with large European/international foundations

Thank you for your attention!

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