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Through Science in the UK

LAUNCH EVENT

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EVENT BOOKLET

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Wednesday, April 10h, 17:30 - 21:30 BST (UK time) *Imperial College London. Exhibition Road SW7 2AZ. Room 200 - City and Guilds Building*	
17:30 - 18:00	Doors open for registration Refreshments
18:00 - 18:20	Welcome remarks: Introduced by Anna Fumarola, CONNECTS-UK Hugh Brady, President of Imperial College London Nicole Mannion, Deputy Head of EU Delegation in UK
18:20 - 18:30	Presentation of CONNECTS-UK Javier Pardo Díaz, Lead Applicant Representative
18:30 – 18:50	Keynote talk **Yvonne McDermott Rees,** Professor of Law, Swansea University Introduced by Niek Buurma, Member of the Board o the Dutch Academic Network in UK
18:55 - 19:25	Discussion Panel 1 *CONNECTS-UK: Research shaping policy* Chaired by Virginia Alejandra Amigo Dotras, CONNECTS-UK Agata Nyga, Research and Policy Lead, Polonium Foundation Carla Molteni, President, Association of Italian Scientists in the UK (AISUK) Diogo Martins, President, Portuguese Association of Students and Researchers in the UK (PARSUK) Isabel Allgeyer, Deputy Director Research Talent & European Programmes Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) Sara Cerdas, Member of European Parliament (remotely)
19:25 – 19:45	Refreshments
19:45 – 20:15	Discussion Panel 2 *CONNECTS-UK building connections* Chaired by Min-Ha Pham, Counsellor for Science and Technology, Higher Education, Research & Innovation Department, Embassy of France in UK Anna Napolitano, Blog & News Chief-Editor, Native Scientists Dajana Dzanovic, Head of Global Research and Innovation Policy**,** Universities UK International Jean-Christophe Mauduit, Member of the Board of the French Education and Research Network in UK (FERN-UK) Jen Bardsley, Global Head of Science for the British Council Leire Leguina, Science Diplomacy Officer, Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)
20:15 – 20:20	**Conclusions and Call for Action** **Arttu Rajantie**, Finnish Science Society and in UK
20:20 – 21:30	Networking reception

Allgeyer, Isabel



Isabel Allgeyer, Deputy Director Research Talent and European Programmes at the UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology

Short Bio: Isabel Allgeyer is Deputy Director for Research Talent and European Programmes at the UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology. This includes responsibility for the UK's association to Horizon Europe, and research talent policies such as the R&D People & Culture Strategy, and researcher mobility & migration. Prior to this, Isabel has held multiple roles across government, largely focussing on science, research & higher education.

Amigo Dotras, Virginia Alejandra



Policy and Research Analyst at CONNECTS-UK

Social media:

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/virginiaamigodotras/.

Short bio: Virginia Alejandra Amigo Dotras's international academic journey spans sociology, political science, and psychology, culminating in an MSc in Social Psychology from The University of Edinburgh and postgraduate specialisations in applied social research and gender equality consultancy. This global perspective and multifaceted background inform her work as CONNECTS-UK Policy and Research Analyst. She leverages her analytical skills and interdisciplinary understanding to bridge research insights with policy development, fostering impactful scientific collaboration between the EU and UK."

Brady, Hugh



Professor Hugh Brady, President, Imperial College London

Social media:

Twitter/X: @PresHughBrady

Short bio: Professor Hugh Brady is President of Imperial College London. Prior to his appointment in August 2022, he served as Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Bristol from 2015 to 2022, and President of University College Dublin (UCD) from 2004 to 2013.

A graduate of UCD, Professor Brady trained in general medicine and nephrology, and was awarded PhD and MD degrees for research in renal physiology and molecular medicine, respectively. His academic career as a physician-scientist included positions at Harvard Medical School, the University of Toronto and UCD. He is an international authority on the pathogenesis of renal inflammation and diabetic kidney disease.

Professor Brady is a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Science from the Queen's University Belfast, an Honorary Fellowship from the Royal College of Anaesthetists in Ireland, and the Robert Menzies Medal from the University of Melbourne.

Professor Brady is a non-executive director of Kerry Group plc; a member of the Royal College of Art's Council, and the League of European Research Universities (LERU). He has also chaired Ireland's Public Health Reform Expert Advisory Group, served as a member of Ireland's Higher Education Authority, and was a non-executive director of ICON plc.

Buurma, Niek



Senior Lecturer in Physical Organic Chemistry at Cardiff University, and one of the Directors of the Dutch Academic Network in the UK (DANinUK)

Short bio: Niek grew up and studied in the Netherlands but then moved to the UK in 2002. He is father of two French-Dutch children.

Cerdas, Sara



Affiliation: Member of European Parliament

Social media:

Instagram / Threads: sara_cerdas

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Short bio: Sara Cerdas is a Portuguese medical doctor and a Member of the European Parliament. She is a member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and S&D coordinator of the Sub-Committee on Public Health (SANT). She was also vice-president of the Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA) and S&D coordinator of the Special Committee on COVID-19 (COVI) and currently MEP Cerdas is the shadow rapporteur of the proposal for Regulation on the European Health Data Space. She holds a master's degree in Medicine from the University of Lisbon, a postgraduate degree in traveler's

medicine from NOVA University Lisbon and a master's degree in Public Health from the Umeå University.

Dzanovic, Dajana



Head of Global Research and Innovation Policy at Universities UK International (UUKi)

Social media:

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LinkedIn: Dajana Dzanovic | LinkedIn

Short Bio: Dajana is Head of Global Research and Innovation Policy at Universities UK International (UUKi) leading on boosting participation in Horizon Europe, she is also UUKi's policy lead for the International Science Partnerships Fund. Before taking on this 12-month secondment role Dajana headed up the Strategic Partnerships (small but perfectly formed) team at UUKi and was responsible for

foresight activities related to international research funding as well as overseeing several international partnerships related contracts.

Dajana joined UUKi from Newcastle University where she led on the EU and International research funding activities, including advising senior managers on the implications of Brexit. Prior to this Dajana worked at Queen's University Belfast and Durham University significantly contributing to the internationalisation and diversification of research funding. Dajana had the privilege of acting as a UK Research Office (UKRO, Brussels) subscriber representative from 2018 to 2020 and was an elect member of the UKRO Board during this period.

Dajana holds a PhD in Astrophysics from Durham University and an MPhys from the University of Edinburgh. She enjoys working within and across UUKi teams and gathering top secret external intelligence.

Fumarola, Anna



Project Manager at CONNECTS-UK

Social media:

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Short bio: As Director of Communication of HISPASAT (Madrid) an aero-space operator, Anna Fumarola was in charge, among others, of the coordination of the different scientific cooperation programs of the R&I department with other national and international research centres within EU policy framework.

Later on, as External Relations Advisor and Program Officer for UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) and UN Women in Pakistan, she was specially involved with policy and advocacy for the UN women, peace, and security (WPS) agenda.

Once back in Spain, Anna Fumarola joined the Woman for Africa Foundation as Senior Project Manager, where she passed from policy to practice and implementation with several activities of capacity-building in conflict-resolution in Mali for local women.

She set-up and led two major post-doctoral programmes targeting African women researchers while implementing science diplomacy with a strong gender lens with the embassies of Spain in Senegal, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Mozambique, Nigeria and Morocco.

Anna Fumarola has consulted in gender policy for several projects and programs of both private, public and international organizations, such as Casa Asia and Council Foundation Spain-India, about design and implementation of gender programs consistent with the objectives of state actors (such as the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and the social corporate responsibility policies of the trustees.

Leguina, Leire



Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology. Science Diplomacy Coordinator

Social Media:

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Short Bio: Leire Leguina is a seasoned project manager with over fifteen years of experience coordinating scientific, technological, and cultural projects for Spanish public institutions. Currently, she serves as the Science Advice and Diplomacy Coordinator at FECYT, where she focuses on strengthening science diplomacy strategies to internationalize Spain's science, technology, and innovation system. She has also managed H2020 projects related to Citizen Science and the role of the Public Sector. Previously, she worked at the Consulate General of Spain in New York, overseeing scientific activities for the Spanish

research community in the USA, and at Instituto Cervantes, promoting cultural and scientific events for its global network.

Mannion, Nicole



Deputy Head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Union to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Short bio: Prior to her appointment, Ms Mannion served as Director for Brexit and EU Affairs at the Embassy of Ireland in London for over three years. From 2015-2017, she was the European Correspondent for Ireland, and from 2013-2015, she held the role of Deputy Director for Human Rights.

From 2008-2013, Ms Mannion served at the UN in New York where she led on elections and management reform. She has a Bachelor's degree in law from Trinity College Dublin subsequently qualified as a barrister-at-law.

Martins, Diogo



President at PARSUK, Research Lead at Wellcome Trust

Social media:

Twitter/X: @dcorreiamartins (X/Twitter)

Linkedin: LinkedIn

Short bio: Dr Diogo Martins, a Portuguese doctor based in London, boasts a rich background in global health and international development. His career focuses on public health, prioritising collective health and well-being across nations. Currently, he oversees a £100 million portfolio at the Wellcome Trust, a major UK philanthropic organisation. As Research Lead, he spearheads innovative scientific breakthroughs, particularly targeting tropical diseases affecting low-resource settings. Elected President of PARSUK in 2019, he champions scientific diplomacy between Portugal and the UK, supporting Portuguese scientists and academics abroad. Since 2016, he has conducted research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, examining global health system resilience to climate change. With positions at the World Health Organization and contributions to drafting the Paris Agreement on climate change, Diogo advocates for science and

international health communities, positioning himself as a key influencer in the field.

Mauduit, Jean-Christophe



University College London (STEaPP); Associate Professor

Social media:

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Short bio: Jean-Christophe (JC) Mauduit is an Associate Professor of Science Diplomacy at University College London, Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy since September 2019. He holds a PhD in Astrophysics from the Paris Observatory and a Master's in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston. He was

previously a Research Scholar at the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, D.C. and Associate Director at the Science Diplomacy Center at Tufts University. He has worked on ESA and NASA satellite missions at the CNRS and at the California Institute of Technology and was a Project Officer for the International Astronomical Union focusing on scientific development issues. Beyond UCL, he also serves as Senior Advisor for International Engagement to the Journal of Science Policy and Governance.

McDermott Rees, Yvonne



Professor of Law, Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law, Swansea University

Social media:

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Short bio: Yvonne McDermott Rees is Professor of Law at the Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law, Swansea University, UK. She is currently Principal Investigator on the TRUE project, a £1.2 million project selected for funding by the European Research Council and now funded through a UKRI Horizon Europe Guarantee grant, which examines the impact of the rise of deepfakes on trust in user-generated evidence of human rights violations. Yvonne is the author of, amongst others, *Fairness in International Criminal Trials* (Oxford University Press, 2016) and *Proving International Crimes* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2024). Yvonne is a Legal Advisor to the Global Legal Action Network (GLAN) and a Master of the Bench of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple.

Molteni, Carla



Professor of Physics. Affiliation: King’s College London, Physics Department

Social media:

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Short Bio: Carla Molteni is Professor of Physics at King's College London. She is an expert in atomistic simulations applied to materials and biological systems, and works at the interface of physics with chemistry, materials science and biology.

Before joining King's, Carla worked at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge and at the Max Planck Institut fuer Festkoerperforschung in Stuttgart (Germany). She obtained her Laurea and PhD in Physics at the University of Milan (Italy).

Carla is co-Director of the London Thomas Young Centre for the Theory and Simulation of Materials and Molecules, co-Director of the King's Centre for Doctoral Training BiPAS (Biological Physics Across Scales), Director of the JCMaxwell node of CECAM (Centre Européen de Calcul Atomique et Moléculaire), and leads the working group "Molecules, Macromolecules and Biomolecules" of the Psi-k European network. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics.

Carla is the President of AISUK, the Association of Italian Scientists in the UK, and is member of the research council of the Italian Embassy in London.

Napolitano, Anna



Native Scientists, Blog & News Chief-Editor.

Social media:

https://twitter.com/anna83nap

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Short Bio: Anna started her journey in science as a researcher, completing a PhD and a PostDoc in immunology. She has always been more interested in discussing science than doing her own experiments. After a PostGrad course in Practical Science Communication at the University of West England, she waved goodbye to the bench for good. She moved her career towards her passions: science, communication, and journalism. Anna works as a freelance science journalist writing about life science and everything on her radar of interest. Her words appear in outlets like Nature Italy, The Scientist, Physics Magazine, China Dialogue Ocean,

and the New York Times for Kids. Anna also works as Communications and 3Rs Programme Manager at Imperial College, organizing events and courses to help disseminate the 3Rs culture among scientists and promoting the College's excellence in 3Rs with the public.

Nyga, Agata



Head of R&D at StemBond Technologies. Research&Policy team at Polonium Foundation

Social media:

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Short bio: Dr Agata Nyga is the Head of Research and Development at StemBond Technologies in Cambridge, a local biotech start-up developing advanced materials for cell therapy and disease modelling. She has over 10 years of

experience in life science research, with particular expertise in cell mechanics, bioengineering and immunology. She has worked at top institutions in the United Kingdom, Spain and Canada. Agata is also a Research & Policy Team member at the Polonium Foundation, a non-for-profit organisation supporting Polish scientific diaspora. She has contributed to Polonium's key publications on the effect of Brexit on Polish researchers in the UK and the research and innovation collaborations between Poland and the UK.

Pardo-Diaz, Javier



CONNECTS-UK Lead Applicant Representative. SRUK/CERU vice-president

Social media:

Javier Pardo-Diaz holds a PhD in Statistics (University of Oxford). He is the Vice-President of the Society of Spanish Researchers in the UK (SRUK/CERU). He also chairs the CONNECTS-UK Action Coordination Board and co-leads the Science

Diplomacy and Policy of the Network of Spanish Associations of Researchers and Scientist Abroad (RAICEX).

Pham, Minh-Hà



Minh-Ha PHAM, Counsellor for Science and Technology, Embassy of France in the United Kingdom

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Short bio: Minh-Hà Pham has been Counsellor for Science and Technology at the French Embassy in the UK since September 2020. As a scientist, she headed the INRAe laboratory of comparative invertebrate neurobiology. For more than 20

years, her research focused on honeybee behaviour, chemical ecology of plant-bee interactions and risk assessment of transgenic plants and pesticides on beneficial insects. In this capacity she led an EU FP5 project, published more than 100 papers in peer-reviewed journals and supervised the research of 15 PhD students. At the beginning of 2000, she moved into global management as Deputy Director of the CNRS European and International Relations Department, in charge of cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. After being seconded by the CNRS to ParisTech, a network of Grandes Ecoles d'Ingénieurs, where she was delegate for international relations, she returned to the CNRS as director of the European and International Relations Department. In 2013, she was appointed Counsellor for Science and Technology at the French Embassy in Washington D.C., USA for 5 years. Returning to France in 2018, she was elected Vice-President for International Relations at the University of Paris Sciences et Lettres (PSL) and worked for its selection as a University of Excellence. During this period, she was part of a group of experts appointed by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation to lead the consultation on the "Welcome to France" plan. She is a member of the Board of Directors of AFDESRI (Association of Female Directors of Higher Education, Research and Innovation in France). She holds a PhD and a Thèse d'Etat in Neuroscience from the Sorbonne University and an engineering degree from AgroParisTech.

Rajantie, Arttu K



Professor of Theoretical Physics, Imperial College London

Social media:

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Short bio: Arttu Rajantie is Professor of Theoretical Physics at Imperial College London. His research lies on the interface of quantum field theory and theoretical cosmology, and his current work focuses on understanding the behaviour of the Higgs field in the early Universe and searching for magnetic monopoles as part of the MoEDAL collaboration at CERN. He is on the Council of The European Consortium for Astroparticle Theory and on the STFC Particle Physics Advisory Panel. Arttu is from Finland and got his PhD from the University of Helsinki. Before moving to Imperial College in 2005, he held postdoctoral positions at the universities of Sussex and Cambridge, where he was a fellow of Churchill College.

He was also a Visiting Professor at King’s College London in 2014-15. He has been the Chair of the Finnish Science Society in the UK since it was founded in 2017.

About CONNECTS-UK

CONNECTS-UK is a collaborative platform created in 2022 by the scientific diasporas of Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Netherlands, and Spain in the UK, together with Native Scientists.

With financial support from the European Commission, CONNECTS-UK aims to establish itself as a modern hub for science diplomacy. The network is building on strong traditions of its member associations, who have been supporting EU-UK scientific relations for over 15 years and have forged connections with major organisations, such as the Embassies of EU Member States in the UK, and EU research institutions.

By creating a robust framework for cross-border collaboration, CONNECTS-UK will enable scientists, researchers, and innovators to overcome the barriers created by Brexit and tap into the vast wealth of expertise and resources available in both the EU and the UK. Through the platform's comprehensive network, scientists will have unparalleled opportunities to connect, collaborate, and jointly tackle pressing global challenges.

Contact: **admin@connects-uk.org**

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