

The x-change at ESOF in Barcelona, 18-22 July 2008

The Science in Society team at the BA flew out to Barcelona in July 2008 for the European Science Open Forum (www.esof2008.org). We were there to run the x-change event with broadcaster and journalist Sue Nelson as the host. The event is a lively round-up of the day's events, held in a chat-show style with questions coming from the host and the audience.

We ran 3 x-change events during ESOF 2008. Speakers were selected from the numerous sessions that were running throughout the day and each night's line-up brought a new set of great subjects:

Saturday 19 July

Simon Wessely, King's College London, UK, and Sir Richard Mottram, former Permanent Secretary in UK government – Science and the terrorist challenge
Marcus du Sautoy, University of Oxford, UK – symmetry
Ludmilla Jordanova, King's College London, UK – Portraiture and scientific identity
Roberta Trotta, University of Oxford, UK – Crisis in cosmology

Sunday 20 July

Ben Goldacre, the Guardian, UK – Foods, fads and fantasies
Carl Johan Sundberg, Karolinska Institute, Sweden - ESOF committee member
Sheila Jasanoff, Harvard University, USA – Cultural boundaries of responsible research
Wolfgang Goede, P.M. Magazin, Germany – The philosophy of ethics
Alan Leshner, AAAS, USA – Mars and Venus: how Europeans and Americans view science
Josep Call, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany – Thinking about thinking
Mats Palerius, Zenicor Medical Systems, Sweden – hand-held portable heart monitor

Monday 21 July

Rhonda Smith, CommNet, UK – Tapas: making the right choice for you
Richard Roberts, New England Biolabs, USA – A rebel with a cause
Steven Rose, The Open University, UK – Why the mind is wider than the brain
Dorothea Bartels, University of Bonn – Drought tolerant plants
Jose Xavier, University of Algarve, Portugal – International Polar Year