



**GLOBAL  
YOUNG  
ACADEMY**

**7th International Conference  
of Young Scientists &  
GYA Annual General Meeting**

**Social Justice in a  
Rapidly Changing World**

**Aviemore, Scotland, UK  
15 - 19 May 2017**

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# A Word from the GYA Co-Chairs



Participants of the GYA 7th International Conference for Young Scientists at the conference venue in Aviemore, Scotland. Photo: Stewart Grant

This GYA 7th International Conference for Young Scientists and Annual General Meeting, held in Aviemore, UK, was timely in its focus on 'Social Justice in a Rapidly Changing World', considering the global changes we are witnessing, from election results to a changing environment. At the conference, we saw that young researchers, scholars and scientists are not only poised but also actively engaging to address the myriad of cross-sectoral challenges that come with current societal and environmental changes. In this context, social justice was em-

braced as an underlying moral way of thinking, to be reflected upon as one framing aspect – sometimes the core aspect – of social, spatial, economic, political and environmental problems and their solutions. GYA members explored the relevance of social justice with respect to, e.g.: clean water access, biodiversity as a public health issue, behavioral economics approaches to poverty alleviation, language rights, big data and open science, and private sector innovation to push the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, we found it truly inspi-

ring to hear from local researchers and activists, who enriched our conference by sharing their experience working to improve societal conditions in Scotland, with social justice as a guiding principle. The rural location of the meeting in the Scottish Highlands stood in stark contrast to increasing urbanization and the accompanying transformations of lifestyles, economies and infrastructure. The far-reaching consequences of the rural-urban divide can be seen both in Scotland and far and wide across members' home countries, highlighting the importance of local and regional adaptation strategies.

GYA members meet annually not only to exchange and discuss interdiscipli-

nary perspectives on a pressing global topic, but also to strengthen our network, support and learn from each other and work together on concrete projects. Working Groups gain new energy, new members bring fresh expertise to existing groups, and Incubator Groups (early-stage initiatives) are formed, offering a creative and supportive environment for ideas to thrive. The atmosphere at this year's meeting did not disappoint! The desire to expand our horizons and achieve tangible results with our international colleagues was palpable. For example, three dynamic new Incubator Groups emerged from this year's AGM: 'Do-it-yourself Synthetic Biology', 'Science Advice', and 'Global Health', which we are looking forward to growing.



GYA Co-Chairs Tolu Oni (South Africa) and Moritz Riede (UK). Photo: Stewart Grant



At this AGM, 39 new members were warmly welcomed to the GYA. We look forward to your energy and enthusiasm in the years to come! We also had to say goodbye to 38 graduating members who had been part of the GYA since 2012. The GYA would not be what it is today without the dedication of its members; we are greatly appreciative of your hard work and inspiration over the last five years. We wish you all the best for your future endeavours, careers and lives, and we hope you will stay in touch as newly inaugurated alumni.

A huge 'Thank you!' goes to Martin Dominik, Stefan Hild, S. Karly Kehoe and Karen Lorimer, of the local organising committee, for their tireless efforts fund-raising, securing the great location and engaging local and regional

governmental and non-governmental representatives to participate in the conference. We would also like to thank all of our national and international funders, our programme committee members, the previous GYA Executive Committee, and the GYA Office for their hard work and support, without which the meeting would not have been a success!



Tolu Oni (South Africa)

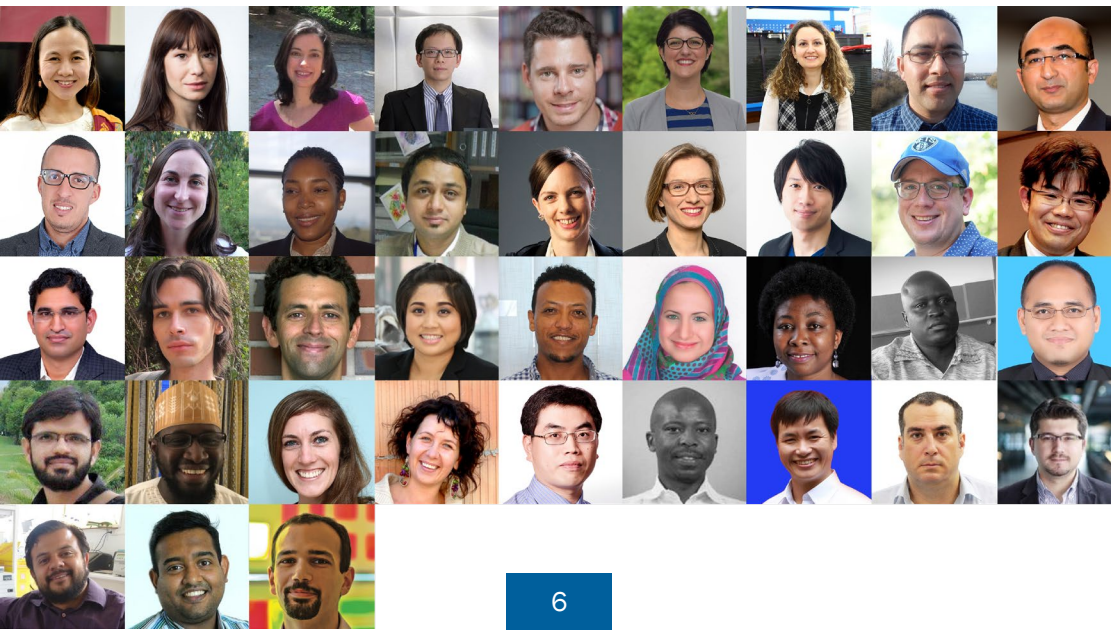


Moritz Riede (UK)

GYA Co-Chairs

## New Members 2017

The Global Young Academy warmly welcomes all its new members!



**GYA members connect**

Photos: top & middle left: Kit Chan / GYA; bottom: GYA Office middle right: Shoji Komai / GYA



# Social Justice in a Rapidly Changing World

(Jan-Christoph Heilingner, Germany; S. Karly Kehoe, Canada; and Karen Lorimer, Scotland, UK)

The United Nations' 2015 summit on sustainable development flagged inequalities as the single greatest challenge facing our world. In its simplest form, social justice means breaking down inequalities to build fairer societies for all of us. The UN Sustainable Development Goals depend on advancements of social justice or considerations embedded throughout dialogues and strategies. Therefore, as young scientists and scholars, we have a responsibility to contribute to tackling inequalities. However, as a diverse group, with many disciplinary backgrounds, how do we envision our role? The local organising and

programme committees shaped the meeting around *Social Justice in a Rapidly-Changing World* and challenged their fellow members to step outside of their comfort zones and think about the roles that all of us can and should be playing.

We held our 2017 meeting in Aviemore, Scotland, to ensure that even our location would inspire members: moving out of the dominant city landscapes where many conference-type events are held, to the beautiful Highlands and Islands of Scotland. We wanted to give our members the opportunity to think about rural inequalities through the lens of social justice. The Highlands and Islands is a region

of Scotland that has been grappling with issues related to social justice for the better part of three centuries. As one of Europe's most rural and sparsely populated regions, the vulnerability of the Highlands, with its struggles with persistent out-migration, chronic underemployment, and low youth confidence, is widely recognized. Yet, like many rural places, its people, past and present, continue to demonstrate significant agency and resilience in the face of acute socio-economic turmoil, demographic shift and cultural transition. In this region, social justice has always been entangled with self-identity and the struggle to assign value to a culture and a landscape that were constantly being labeled valueless by those who wanted to transform the region's subsistence-based economy into one that was cash-generating.

 *“Today, our world faces many challenges that absolutely require international and interdisciplinary solutions. By attending the 2017 AGM as a new member, I realized that the GYA is an ideal path for tackling those challenges through interactions with colleagues from diverse backgrounds.”*

— Wataru Iwasaki (Japan, Bioinformatics)

Of course, social justice entails many issues, including poverty, gender inequalities and resilient infrastructure, which feature prominently in the UN

Sustainable Development Goals as key challenges. Whether considering social justice at a global or a local level, we are driven to consider questions of responsibility, morality and equity. To set the stage, GYA members, S. Karly Kehoe, Jan-Christoph Heilingner and Karen Lorimer, gave opening talks on historical, philosophical and sociological perspectives on social justice. Kehoe provided an historical overview of the Scottish Highlands and Islands and spoke about the ways in which social justice concerns have shaped regional development over the past three centuries. Heilingner then introduced the debates about social justice in political and moral philosophy by discussing different ways to measure and promote justice. He pointed to the implications of these debates for building just and sustainable societies, on the domestic and the global level, for current and for future generations. Lorimer offered a sociological lens on justice, drawing attention to social determinants and wider structural level influences on inequalities, including understanding poverty and gender as structures, not just something that individuals have or do.



GYA member Karen Lorimer introduces the conference topic. Photo: MJD Esser / GYA



The conference was held in Aviemore in the Scottish Highlands to expose members to one of Europe's most rural landscapes; a region which has undergone dramatic socio-economic changes over the last decades, resonating with many members from rural areas around the globe. Photo: Jennifer Plaul / GYA

# Programme Highlights I

Macdonald Resort, Aviemore, 16 - 17 May 2017



School students from remote parts of the Scottish Highlands participate in GYA member-led outreach activity "Synthetic Biology and the Future". Photo: Shoji Komai / GYA

## Young Scientist Ambassador Programme - Outreach Activity on "Synthetic Biology and the Future"

(John Malone, USA)

GYA members Bing Chen (Canada), Ghada Bassioni (Egypt), Alexander Kagsky (UK, Russia) and Wilfred van der Wiel (The Netherlands) provided an outreach activity titled *Synthetic Biology and the Future* during the 2017 AGM. The activity focused on educating students in hopes of inspiring future scientists. Twenty school pupils from Kingussie High School and Grantown Grammar School participated in the event. GYA members challenged

them to identify problems in the world or in their own lives, and come up with solutions using concepts from synthetic biology. The core idea is that creativity in rearranging functions from different organisms can be brought together into new organisms, in order to solve important problems. Student teams invented a money tree to end poverty, multi-vitamin cookies to end hunger, bionic arms to gain new functions, oil-cleaning penguins to remove oil spills, and pet dinosaur lizards as new companions. The participation of the schools was enabled by the Science Skills Academy, an initiative of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, under the direction of Andrew Johnson. This outreach activity provided students from remote parts of the Scottish Highlands an opportunity to interact with scien-

tists from around the world, something rarely possible in a conventional school setting, but achievable during GYA annual meetings.

## Young Academy of Scotland Panel

(S. Karly Kehoe, Canada)

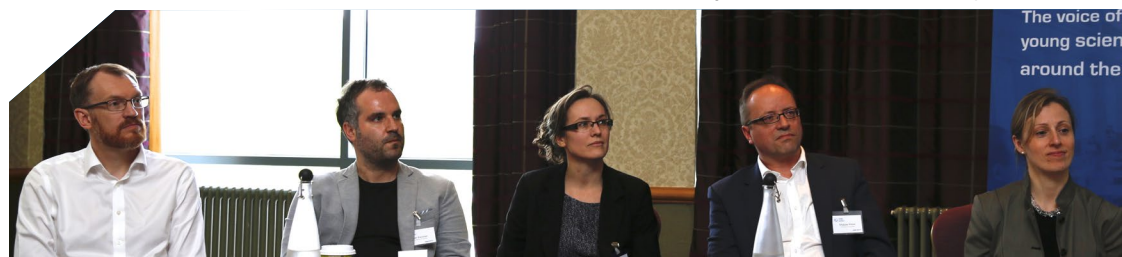
A panel organised by the Royal Society of Edinburgh's (RSE) Young Academy of Scotland (YAS), entitled *Community Empowerment made Global: Shaping Shared Futures*, showcased a dynamic exchange which explored the state of rural worlds by considering the role of technology in community empowerment and community-led enterprise. RSE Fellow and Pro-Vice Principal, Special Projects, of the University of Glasgow, Prof Murray Pittock, welcomed GYA members to Scotland on behalf of the RSE and gave a brief overview of the Society's international activities. Panel moderator, Dr S. Karly Kehoe, GYA EC member and former co-chair of the YAS, was joined by Dr Katie Hampson, of the Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine, University of Glasgow, Dr Mattias

Klaes, Professor of Commerce, University of Dundee, Dr Kenneth Hogg, Director for Local Government and Communities for the Scottish Government, and Dr Oliver Escobar, Co-director, What Works Scotland, University of Edinburgh. The panel explored two central questions: how do different kinds of community-led enterprises fit into current economic models (and what needs to change) and how do we or should we measure the performance of new economic and community-led models of enterprise?

 *“Curious and fascinating scientists are not hard to come by, but those truly curious and fascinated by other disciplines, countries and approaches are. The GYA meeting, my first, not only brought together an incredible group of scholars open to listening to others, but a group that seems dedicated to working together for something greater than their own individual pursuits.”*

— Anna Harris (The Netherlands, Anthropology and STS)

Panel participants l. to r.: Kenneth Hogg, Oliver Escobar, Katie Hampson, Mattias Klaes, and moderator S. Karly Kehoe. Photo: Kit Chan / GYA



The voice of young scientists around the world





Prof Murray Pittock, Royal Society of Edinburgh, and GYA member Stefan Hild introduce the panel. Photo: Kit Chan / GYA

Speaking from their own research and political experience from around the world, the panellists highlighted the links between enterprise and empowerment and emphasized the necessity of engaging communities in the right ways from the outset and being responsive to their needs and ambitions. Youth enterprise and the ability to harness and mentor that was also flagged as an essential component of growth and development. This point was made all the more salient given the attendance of pupils from Grantown Academy.

## Working Groups and Incubator Groups

(Huanyu Cheng, USA)

Before Working Groups and Incubator Groups met in person to continue their work or ignite new ideas, each group briefly presented its purpose and current state of progress in a pitching session. Many diverse fields of work were represented, including ongoing projects, new topics (e.g., Global health), and groups wrapping up (e.g. Invisible World, which focused on invisible data). The Global State of Young Scientists (GloSYS) successfully acquired

funding to continue its investigation of the state of young scientists around the world, with a current concentration on Africa. Different regional studies are being looked at for the future. Significant progress was also presented in a catchy video by the Biodiversity working group, on survival via biomedicine. The WG Global Migration and Human Rights explored collaboration with German organisations in a buddy programme with refugee scientists. Other ongoing projects include Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, Science Diplomacy, Importance of Fundamental Research, Global Access to Research Software, Open Science, Optimizing Assessment-Promoting Excellence, Women in Science, and many others. Throughout the AGM week, working groups met and new groups formed (e.g. Science Advice) during designated working time as well as during informal breaks. An intense motivation to collaborate across nations and disciplines on common ideas is fueled at the AGM, giving members the energy to continue their work together using virtual communication channels throughout the rest of the year.



Photos: top & middle: MJD Esser / GYA; bottom: Shoji Komai / GYA



# Programme Highlights II

Macdonald Resort, Aviemore, 18 May 2017



Mridul Wadwha gives a powerful talk as part of the Social Justice Panel. Photo: MJD Esser / GYA

## Social Justice Panel and World Café

(Laura Fierce, USA)

The panel and World Café discussion on Social Justice addressed a variety of issues related to social injustice and inequality. The session began with short talks by panellists. The first panellist, Kara Brown of the YWCA Scotland and the Young Women's Movement, discussed the efforts of her organisation to promote gender equality, to which apply the YWCA Safe Spaces Model. Although her research deals with some "big picture" problems, she provided concrete examples as to how we can make change that included creating safe spaces and sharing our table. Next, Mridul Wadwha of Shakti Women's Aid and Rape Crisis Scotland gave an amazing talk on gender violence in migrant communities;

she underscored an important point using the example of forced marriage: culture should never be used as an excuse for social injustice, but culture should be taken into account when formulating solutions. Professor Sayantan Ghosol of the University of Glasgow proposed a Global Basic Income as a method to promote inclusive change; he first illustrated inequality in economic growth using the Elephant graph, and then proposed that a basic income should be an entitlement and a human right. Finally, Professor Cam Donaldson of Glasgow Caledonian University described the importance of academic-practitioner partnerships for evaluating social programmes. The panel discussion was followed by a lively World Café, which facilitated discussion among GYA members and speakers.

## Social Justice from Different Disciplinary and Regional Perspectives

GYA members from around the world explored social justice as a cross-disciplinary topic within their own work. Presentations touched upon global and regional environmental issues (preserving biodiversity and marine landscapes, the health impacts of climate change), marginalisation and poverty in developed countries (homelessness, cultures of violence, poverty and cultures of misogyny), and other topics tangent to human rights issues (language diversity, social progress, migration populations), as well as how the private sector can foster innovation to work towards the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs).

## A Look into Members' Research

Beyond the conference topic, this session gave GYA members and guests the chance to gain closer insight into the innovative and exciting projects their fellow young scientists and scholars around the globe are currently involved in. These short presentations sparked interdisciplinary dialogue and future collaboration among members and other international partners. Highlights from this year's presentations included projects on dissolvable electronics for biomedicine, solar technology for the tropics and the Internet of Things in Africa.

During interdisciplinary sessions, members present their research. Huanyu Cheng speaks here about dissolvable electronics. Photo: Shoji Komai / GYA





# The Global Young Academy: Working Together for the Future



The newly elected Executive Committee outside the Macdonald Resort in Aviemore, Scotland (Almas Taj Awan not pictured). Photo: Stewart Grant

## Newly elected Executive Committee

(Anina Rich, Australia)

The election of our Co-Chairs and Executive Committee (EC) is an important part of each AGM. This year, the Nominations & Election Committee (NEC), comprised of Anina Rich (chair, current member, Australia), Martin Dominik (graduating member, UK) and Wibool

Piyawattanametha (alumnus, Thailand), developed initiatives to streamline the election process and enhance the opportunities for candidates to inform the voting members of their vision. The NEC also ensured members who were unable to attend the AGM in person could still pitch for a leadership position.

The NEC trialed changes in three areas:

(a) Informing the voting members about the candidates. In addition to the traditional 60 second (EC) and 90 second (Co-Chair) verbal pitches by each candidate the day before the election, nominees submitted photos and 200-word motivation statements which were shared in advance of the elections.

(b) Streamlining the election. We used an electronic voting system. Each voting member received a unique access code and then used their devices to access the ballots. A tie for EC positions meant a run-off ballot, and although this required setting up a new ballot and new access codes during the election, this whole process took only a short time because there was no manual counting.

(c) Enhancing opportunities for candidates. Although members must be present at the AGM to vote, there is no such restriction on standing for election. The NEC therefore made an explicit provision for candidates who could not be present to submit videos, which were played at the 'pitch' session. These videos were capped at the same time limit, but additional footage could be viewed later (akin to speaking to a candidate who was present).

Traditionally, GYA Co-Chairs serve for two years, but are elected in alternating years, which aids the passing down of institutional knowledge from one Executive Committee to the next. This year, not only did Orakanoke Phanraksa (Thailand) complete two years of

service as GYA Co-Chair, but Mari-Vaughn Johnson (USA) decided not to serve an additional year, for family reasons, leaving both Co-Chair positions open to re-election. To fill both vacancies, GYA members elected Tolu Oni (South Africa) and Moritz Riede (UK) as their Co-Chairs for the coming year.

In addition to the Co-Chairs, the following GYA Members were elected to serve on the 2017-18 Executive Committee (EC): Patricio Antici (Canada), Almas Taj Awan (Brazil), Anna K. Cousens (South Africa), Laura Fierce (USA), Alexander (Sasha) Kagansky (UK), S. Karly Kehoe (Canada), Karen Lorimer (UK), Connie Nshemereirwe (Uganda) and Samuel Sojinu (Nigeria).

## GYA: The Past Year

GYA Managing Director Beate Wagner and Co-Chair (May 2015 - May 2017) Orakanoke Phanraksa reported on the past year's activities and milestones. The GYA secured core funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research for the four-year period from 2017 to 2020 and moved its administrative office to Halle (Saale), Germany, from Berlin, where it is hosted by the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. Fundraising for AGMs and other events is a continuous effort.

Highlights in the past year included an invitation for a GYA member to speak at the G7 Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting in Japan, GYA member cooperation with the Smart Villages

Initiative and GYA participation in a Science Policy Workshop organised by the EU Joint Research Council (JRC) and the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) and the subsequent GYA report “Engaging Knowledge-Creators beyond the Academy”. Several GYA Working Groups (WG) and projects produced notable outputs over the past year. Position Statements were released on Open Access and Open Data. The first International Conference of Women in Science without Borders was held in Cairo, Egypt in March 2017, co-organised by the Women in Science WG. The Science Leadership Programme in Africa held its third round early 2017, and the first Science Leadership Programme in ASEAN took place 2016 in Thailand. The Global State of Young Researchers (GloSYS) ASEAN report was launched in January 2017, identifying issues such as the challenges young researchers face with respect to mentoring and support structures, training, transparency and fairness and working conditions. The next GloSYS research project, focusing on 14 African countries, is well underway.

Cooperation amongst Young Academies worldwide also prospered throughout the last year. The GYA contributed to the 2nd African young academies regional conference in October 2016, in Mauritius and the 1st Asian national young academies meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, in December 2016.

## Future of the GYA - Global Action

What is the GYA and what do we want to achieve? Ali Douraghy (USA), Connie Nshemereirwe (Uganda) and Binyam Mendisu (Ethiopia) chaired an interactive session on the future of the Global Young Academy, taking the GYA’s aim to be the global voice of young scientists as a starting point. Members reflected on the typical tasks of a science academy (e.g. recognition and advocacy) and discussed the direction they envision for the GYA. Among other ideas, there was widespread agreement that the GYA needs to become even more global in its activities.

In 2015, the GYA worked out a five-year Strategic Plan, which was updated with the application for the new funding period mid-2016. During this session, many constructive ideas for implementing the goals set out in the Strategic Plan emerged from discussions.

To address **Goal 1 – Contribute to efforts to address societal challenges** – members emphasised that the voice of young scientists needs to be clear and distinctive in order to be heard globally. It was suggested to consolidate Working Groups and facilitate their cooperation on similar themes, while at the same time aligning relevant Working Group activities with the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2020. It was also agreed that GYA activities which can be aligned with existing and planned activities of strategic partners

should be identified and supported. To facilitate increased global communication in these efforts, the GYA needs to expand its use of modern technology (e.g. webinars), social media, and enable virtual AGM attendance for members.

Ideas to implement **Goal 2 – Identify, develop and nurture global science leaders** – centred around three main points: Capacity building for members; Increasing diversity within the GYA; and Ensuring that the GYA reaches a widespread audience. The existing Africa Science Leadership Programme (SLP) and ASEAN SLP are seen to be using a successful model to develop and nurture global science leaders, and should be strongly supported by the GYA. Additionally, training in cultural dexterity, communication skills and OpEd writing could support members’ leadership capacity in and beyond their fields of work. To maintain and increase diversity within the GYA, the need to translate the annual member call and key GYA statements into more key languages was expressed. To reach under-represented areas, the GYA also

needs to engage with senior academies, with the support of key partners such as the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP). To reach a widespread audience, it is key that the GYA promote a clear message: to this end, a short pitch for use by all members in external meetings should be made available. The planned ‘Mega-Reunion’ and AGM in 2019 should be used to focus on outreach, connecting to multiple and diverse stakeholders, the media and the public, in addition to young scientists.

**Goal 3 – Maximise the potential of National Young Academies (NYAs)** – is seen not only internally, but also by many other Young Academies worldwide, as a significant function of the GYA. This network and advising function can be upheld and even developed further, due to expanded Office capacity since 2017. The GYA should continue to support the development of new Young Academies and NYAs by working with and offering support to members in countries which have not yet established an NYA. The GYA should also work proactively with the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) and The World Academy

Photo: MJD Esser / GYA





of Sciences (TWAS), both of which work with senior academies to ease the path of Young Academies. GYA members already active in NYAs should be encouraged to act as ambassadors to help neighbouring countries without NYAs.



**“The GYA-AGM 2017 in Aviemore was a great opportunity for me to work more closely with my working group members from different regions and across disciplines. We were able to strengthen our collaboration and merged our ideas in to a few projects in my group. The in-person meeting at the GYA-AGM is very significant for us to concentrate on making a precise strategy in order to implement our science diplomacy actions and outreach programmes in our respective countries.”**

— Rothsophal Nguon (Cambodia, Gender Studies)

Furthermore, the GYA will continue its role in facilitating regional NYA meetings – such as those regularly taking place in Africa and beginning to take shape on a regional basis in Asia – and working with host countries on biannual worldwide meetings of NYAs.

The implementation of **Goal 4 – Provide benchmark reports on science policy topics relevant for Young Scientists** – can be realised through the work of GYA Working Groups and Flag-

ship Projects, and by utilising events such as the Annual General Meeting to issue consolidated statements by young scientists. Working Groups, for example, should be encouraged to engage with global policy documents and should be made aware of relevant opportunities. Support of the Flagship Project, ‘Global State of Young Scientists’ (GloSYS), is key to this goal, as is the dissemination of GloSYS findings and efforts to increase their regional and global utility in advocating for young scientists.

**Goal 5 – Serve as an outstanding example for interdisciplinary, intergenerational, collaborative, and cross-cultural dialogue in science** – reflects the GYA’s aim to lead by example and comprises elements which are already a strong part of the GYA, but which need to be upheld as an active part of its identity. This goal is attained, for example, by ensuring that the conference theme of Annual General Meetings stimulates interdisciplinary, intergenerational, collaborative, and cross-cultural dialogue in science. In addition, the GYA should showcase examples where this target has been achieved, e.g. compiling a documentary on science diplomacy, existing platforms of interdisciplinary collaboration and encourage the dissemination of these examples, e.g. at national and international conferences. Impact evaluations of GYA activities can help us determine how our activities are perceived and who they reach. Finally, diversity – of all sorts which find mention in this goal – was a heavily discussed topic at this

AGM, and earned extra attention by the EC and a Member Diversity Committee, described in the next section.

All of these suggestions and discussion results have been integrated in to the EC’s 12-month plan for 2017/18, which has been made available to members.

## Diversity Drive

(Connie Nshemereirwe, Uganda)

The GYA boasts members and alumni from more than 70 countries, as well as men and women from the arts, and the social, natural and applied sciences. This diversity is one of our greatest strengths, but we realize that we could be doing a lot more to harness this diversity and to actively promote it in all our processes. We discussed how to do this at the AGM and one idea was to make the annual call for applications more accessible. Following this discussion, our members worked together to translate the call into 8 major languages and to target under-represented groups directly. These groups include

women, colleagues in the Latin American region, in the humanities (especially from Europe and North America), and scientists working outside academia. Mechanisms are also in place to monitor our member selection process carefully (and to adjust it if necessary), to ensure a diversity of backgrounds and expertise. Finally, the Executive Committee has convened a Member Diversity Committee that is tasked with finding ways of increasing our appreciation of diversity, of creating an inclusive environment for all members, and of harnessing and celebrating our diversity in service to the GYA goals. We hope that these and other efforts will drive us towards becoming a truly global organisation, where the voices of all young scientists are represented.

## Gala Dinner and Ceilidh

(Anina Rich, Australia)

What a finale! The Local Organising Committee gave us a wonderful evening highlighted by a ceilidh band after our dinner. This traditional dance style involves partnering up in twos, threes

Conference participants make lasting connections between working sessions. Photo: Shoji Komai / GYA



or more and learning a series of steps. The band of a piano accordion, violin (fiddle!) and drums provided catchy music and called the steps so we could all have a go. Perhaps the most wonderful thing about this night of dancing was the combination of our Scottish experience with interludes where GYA members showed us dances from their cultures. We learned the contemporary African shuffle, danced to the anthem of the African Science Leadership Programme, learned the style of dances from Morocco, Egypt, Israel-Palestine, and more. Unlike the usual sight of a few scientists awkwardly dancing on an empty dance-floor, this was a beautiful example of everyone joining into an uncritical learning experience...and it was great exercise!

Music and dance is such a powerful way of learning about each other, and this particular evening was an energetic, invigorating, and truly inspirational example of how the GYA brings people together.

## Fundraising

(S. Karly Kehoe, Canada)

Fundraising is a reality of life for the GYA's AGMs and for this, our 7th annual meeting, we are extremely grateful for the support we received from a number of organizations and institutions. In the midst of the funding crisis that struck many institutions in the aftermath of the June 2016 Brexit vote, we were gratified with the support we were able to obtain from Scottish sources.

The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland's national academy, provided significant in-kind and financial support for the event.



**“I found the GYA to be an excellent forum where young scientists from around the world representing different disciplines exchange ideas. I was highly motivated by the diversity of people, conference presentations on social justice from transdisciplinary approaches, and by the ongoing collaboration of GYA members.”**

— Meghnath Dhimal (Nepal, Environmental Health Sciences)

In addition to managing the funds that were raised in the United Kingdom, the RSE also provided travel to support for GYA members coming from developing-world countries. The Young Academy of Scotland provided the funding and person-power needed to pull together one of the AGM's central panels, 'Community Empowerment Made Global: Shaping Shared Futures'. The Scottish university sector was also very supportive and funding was gratefully received from Glasgow Caledonian University, the University of Glasgow, the University of the Highlands and Islands, St Andrews University, and the Scottish Universities Physics Alliance. Given our commitment of working with young scientists, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Scottish Government's economic and community development agency for the northern region of

Scotland, provided us with a grant that would enable our Young Scientist Ambassador Programme (YSAP) working group members to deliver a workshop for local school pupils interested in learning more about the sciences. Beyond Scotland, we were generously supported by The Royal Society and the Inter-Academy Partnership (IAP), which offered travel and accommodation support to our members from African and other developing-world regions. The German

national Academy of Sciences Leopoldina was another major funder for our event. To all of these supporters, we extend a sincere thank you. You are helping to secure and protect the voice of young scientists around the world.

Rob Jenkins (UK), outgoing editor of the GYA annual magazine Connections, with new editor Marian Nkansah (Ghana). Photo: Kit Chan / GYA







GYA members on a visit to the Highland Folk Museum in Kingussie. Photo: Kit Chan / GYA

## On the unique environment of GYA Annual General Meetings:



**“** *I became a GYA member in 2015 but only had a chance to attend the 2017 AGM. It was an entirely new experience for me, from meeting the energetic and enthusiastic members in the GYA family, to learning with members from diverse cultural and academic background, yet open-minded ones who accept the differences between us. This is definitely the ground to nurture the science leaders and to promote interdisciplinary research for sustainability.* **”**

— Hong Ching Goh (Malaysia, Urban Studies and Natural Resource Government)



**“** *The GYA serves a global community of researchers and brings a distinct and vital voice to broader discussions around our shared future, whatever our field. Our best work has always come when we work across perceived differences to find unity of purpose and vision. I am proud of our accomplishments in this respect.* **”**

— Jeremy Kerr (Canada, Ecology)



**“** *The AGM was my inaugural meeting. I liked the connection shared between members as if we had known each other for ever. The theme on social justice is something that resonates with a lot of people and was evident in the talks and group discussions that ensued thereafter.* **”**

— Marian Nkansah (Ghana, Environmental Chemistry)



**“** *The GYA is unlike any other organization I have been a part of. This is most felt at the AGM where I'm continually inspired by such a diverse group of talented, emerging leaders who each bring an endless supply of enthusiasm and dedication to working together as a global community.* **”**

— Ali Douraghy (USA, Nuclear Medicine and Medical Imaging)



# Programme



Photos: top: Kit Chan / GYA; middle left: Shoji Komai / GYA; middle right & bottom: MJD Esser / GYA

## Day 0

**Monday, 15 May 2017**

**Internal GYA Day**

Afernoon	Arrival
19:00 - 22:00	Dinner and Working Group and Networking time

## Day 1

**Tuesday, 16 May 2017**

**Internal GYA Day**

07:30 - 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 - 10:30	Welcome, Inauguration of New Members and mingling exercises
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:00	Social Justice in a Rapidly Changing World - Introduction
12:00 - 12:30	Introduction to Global Young Academy
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 14:30	Internal Reports <i>GYA Co-Chairs and Managing Director</i>
14:30 - 15:00	Coffee Break
15:00 - 16:00	Discussion about GYA future (I)
16:00 - 16:30	Working Group and Incubator Pitches
16:30 - 17:30	Working Group Time / Creative Time
17:30 - 18:30	Presentation Pitches for election of EC
18:30 - 19:00	Free Time



Day 1	Tuesday, 16 May 2017	Internal GYA Day
19:00 - 22:00	Dinner and Networking	
21:00 - 22:00	Working Group Leaders round table discussion	
Day 2	Wednesday, 17 May 2017	Public Day
07:30 - 09:00	Breakfast	
09:00 - 10:30	Working Group time / creative time	
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 - 11:15	Opening words <b>Prof. Murray Pittock</b> , Royal Society of Edinburgh and Pro-Vice Principal, Special Projects, University of Glasgow Welcome <b>Fergus Ewing</b> , MSP for Inverness and Nairn and Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity	
11:15 - 12:30	Panel Discussion: Community Empowerment made Global: Shaping Shared Futures (Organised by the Young Academy of Scotland) Panel: <b>Dr Katie Hampson</b> , Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine, University of Glasgow <b>Dr Mattias Klaes</b> , Prof. Commerce, University of Dundee <b>Dr Kenneth Hogg</b> , Director for Local Government and Communities (Scotland) <b>Dr Oliver Escobar</b> , Co-director, What Works Scotland, University of Edinburgh Moderation: <b>Dr S. Karly Kehoe</b> , GYA, Canada Research Chair in Atlantic Canada Communities	
12:30 - 13:30	Breakouts from YAS Panel Discussion or Working Group time	
13:30 - 14:30	Packed Lunch	
14:30 - 18:00	Tour of Highland Folk Museum and Dalwhinnie Distillery	
18:00 - 18:30	Buses to Aviemore	
18:30 - 20:00	Dinner and Working Group / Networking / Chill & Chat time	
20:00 - 20:30	EC Elections	

Day 3	Thursday, 18 May 2017	Public Day
07:30 - 09:00	Breakfast	
09:00 - 10:00	Member Session I - Social Justice in a Rapidly Changing World	
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee break	
10:30 - 13:00	Social Justice Panel and World Café Panel: <b>Kara Brown</b> , Director of YWCA Scotland <b>Prof. Cam Donaldson</b> , Glasgow Caledonian University (Social Business & Health) <b>Prof. Sayantan Ghosal</b> , University of Glasgow (Global Minimum Income) <b>Mridul Wadwa</b> , Shakti Women's Aid/Rape Crisis Scotland Moderation: <b>Dr. Karen Lorimer</b> , GYA, Glasgow Caledonian University (Applied Health Research)	
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 14:45	Group photo	
14:45 - 15:00	Introduction to international research programme: Future Earth – Research for Global Sustainability. <b>ICSU President Gordon McBean</b>	
15:00 - 16:30	Member Session II - Member Research	
16:30 - 18:30	EC - EC business transition meeting	
16:30 - 18:30	Working Group and creative time	
19:00 - 23:00	Farewell Gala Dinner & Ceilidh <i>Graduation Ceremony for Class of 2012</i>	

## Day 4

Friday, 19 May 2017

Internal GYA Day

07:30 – 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 - 11:30	Discussion about GYA future (II)
12:00 - 12:45	Working Group / Incubator Group plans for the coming year
12:45 - 13:00	Auld Lang Syne - Scottish Goodbye
13:00	Official end of AGM and departure

### Local Organizing Committee

**Dr Martin Dominik**, Reader, School of Physics and Astronomy, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, UK

**Dr Stefan Hild**, Reader/Lecturer for Experimental Physics, University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK

### Programme Organising Committee

**Dr Sharon Aronson-Lehavi**, Senior Lecturer of Theatre and Performance Studies, Aar-Ilan University, Israel

**Dr Roberta D'Alessandro**, Professor of Syntax and Language Variation, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

**Dr Matthew Jan Daniel Esser**, Professor in Laser Device Physics and Engineering, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

**Dr S. Karly Kehoe**, Canada Research Chair in Atlantic Canada Communities, Saint Mary's University, Nova Scotia, Canada

**Dr Karen Lorimer**, Senior Research Fellow in Public Health, Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland, UK

**Dr Jan-Christoph Heilinger**, Assistant Professor, Ethics-Centre, University of Munich, Germany

**Dr Alexander Kagansky**, Chancellor's Fellow, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

**Dr Srinjoy Mitra**, Research Faculty, Biomedical Engineering, University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK

**Dr Borys Wrobel**, Research Faculty, Complex Systems Group, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland

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# Participants of the GYA AGM 2017



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Photo: Stewart Grant





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