

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- New member cohort helps GYA achieve gender parity
- “Trust in Climate Science” satellite panel stresses that urgent action is needed
- InterAcademy Partnership and GYA issue joint communique on COVID-19 and resulting challenges for higher education
- New GYA working paper highlights substantial research gap on early-career researchers in Latin America and the Caribbean region

This bulletin provides an overview and highlights of the activities of the Global Young Academy (GYA) in the first quarter of 2021, and complements our monthly newsletters (archive available [here](#)), which provide more comprehensive details.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

- [Meet the new GYA members](#)
- [Register for the 2021 GYA International Conference of Young Scientists on 2 June 2021](#)
- [Download the InterAcademy Partnership/ GYA joint communique on higher education](#)
- [Download the GloSYS LAC working paper](#)
- [Listen to, download, and subscribe to the GYA podcast “Voices of Young Scientists”](#)

GYA ACHIEVES GENDER PARITY OF MEMBERSHIP WITH NEW MEMBER COHORT

Under the leadership of [Leila Niamir](#) (Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change, Germany) the 69-member GYA Selection Committee recently finalised the selection of 31 new members to join the GYA in June 2021 for a tenure of five years. The new member cohort includes representatives from 28 individual countries, from all GYA general disciplines, and includes 19 females and 12 males.

In June 2021 when the new cohort is inducted, the gender ratio will be 101 female/98 male/1 non-binary. Such gender balance is a development that the GYA has been moving towards for the last few years, and is a reflection of the excellent female/non-binary applicants to the GYA.

In addition to helping the GYA meet its gender parity benchmarks, the new member cohort has increased GYA international representation by 9 countries. The newly-added countries include Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Hong Kong/People’s Republic of China, Iceland, Ireland, Kuwait, Slovenia and Ukraine.

The GYA is delighted to see that a number of new members are also members of – or in leadership positions in – their respective country’s National Young Academy.

Additionally, the GYA is pleased to welcome a number of Young Affiliates of [The World Academy of Science](#) (TWAS) among the 2021 new member cohort.

[Learn more about our new members.](#)

“TRUST IN CLIMATE SCIENCE” PANEL KICKS OFF GYA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2021

An online satellite panel and discussion on “Trust in Climate Science” opened the Global Young Academy’s 2021 International Conference of Young Scientists on the topic of “Trust in Science”.

The panel discussion featured insights from experts in oceanography, physics, science policy and biodiversity. In speakers’ talks and the following discussion, one tenet was clear: trust is not the same as action, and climate action is urgently needed.

However, building and maintaining public trust is part of what scientists do when they communicate their research, and this trust can ultimately support transformative change.

Read more and [watch the “Trust in Climate Science” panel here.](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE “TRUST IN SCIENCE” INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE!

The 2021 GYA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and International Conference of Young Scientists will be held online from 1 – 4 June.

The public Conference on 2 June 2021 will address the topic “Trust in Science”. Programme, panel, speaker information and registration can be found here: [Annual International Conference of Young Scientists.](#)

INTERACADEMY PARTNERSHIP AND GYA RAISE CONCERNS THAT COVID-19 THREATENS TO LEAD TO A “LOST GENERATION” OF RESEARCHERS

One year after the world began lockdowns to address the spread of COVID-19, existing societal inequities have been brought into sharp relief. In the higher education sector, in-person teaching, learning and research have faced severe interruptions or have been halted altogether. Faculty and student flexibility and mobility have been reduced, and university resources have been severely constrained and remain uncertain.

The impacts on early-career researchers (ECRs) and faculty are especially alarming. In addition to lost research and student training opportunities, reports of retracted postdoctoral and faculty offers, hiring freezes, pay cuts, lost professional development opportunities, and many young scholars dropping out of the workforce all threaten to lead to a “lost generation” of researchers if rapid action is not taken.

As GYA Co-Chair [Anindita Bhadra](#) (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata) recounted, “As a behavioural biologist, our research on free-ranging dogs is entirely field-based. Our experiments had to be stopped and a couple of students got stuck in a different city due to the lockdown in India. Since then, we have yet to get back to full-fledged field work, research is in a limbo and students are losing precious time.”

To address these issues, the [InterAcademy Partnership](#) (IAP) and the GYA have issued a joint communique highlighting some of the most pressing challenges for higher education globally and laying out recommendations to mitigate the harms of COVID-19 and seize on the opportunities to improve higher education systems around the world.

The main challenges in higher education highlighted in the communique are the reduction of flexibility and mobility, the interruption of research and career trajectories, the lack of access to fundamental learning resources, the increased complexity of students’ digital and learning needs, and the loss of human interaction from excess digitization in education delivery. Additionally, historically-disadvantaged groups, including women, those with childcare responsibilities and ECRs, are those whose careers suffer the most because of the pandemic.

The IAP and the GYA provide a set of recommendations to university administrators, higher education policymakers, research funding agencies, academies and scholars. These include promoting Open Education and research collaboration, expanding digital connectivity and access to hardware, and incorporating relevant local expertise.

[Read more and download the joint communique.](#)

GYA WORKING PAPER HIGHLIGHTS SUBSTANTIAL RESEARCH GAP ON EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS IN LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

The GYA has released a new working paper titled “Reviewing research on researchers: Our knowledge of early-career researchers in Latin America and the Caribbean”, which highlights how early-career researchers (ECRs) are key players in advancing knowledge societies.

The aim of this working paper is to develop a solid knowledge base to conduct further empirical research on the topic. This review was carried out with the conviction that examining how ECRs have been addressed in the scholarly literature can help make future studies about the global state of young researchers robust, critical and insightful.

The GYA Working Paper Series is intended to facilitate the rapid dissemination of research findings and work in progress by researchers and collaborators of the GYA. These papers seek to stimulate debate among GYA members, scholars and policymakers.

Download “[Reviewing research on researchers: Our knowledge of early-career researchers in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)”.

ABOUT THE GYA

The vision of the GYA is *science for all; science for the future*, and its mission is to give a voice to young scientists and researchers around the world. The GYA, founded in 2010, is an independent science academy of 200 outstanding early- to mid-career researchers from six continents who are selected from across disciplines based on their academic excellence and commitment to engage with society. GYA members serve five-year terms, and the GYA presently counts members and alumni from 86 countries. The GYA administrative Office is publicly funded and hosted at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. The wide array of GYA activities are supported by a range of international public and private funders.

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