



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA  
CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB

[www.aecardiffknowledgehub.wales](http://www.aecardiffknowledgehub.wales)



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

A major part of the work of the Cardiff Hub this year has again been devoted to SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies), a key part of the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism, which provides independent scientific evidence to the Commissioners to inform their decision making. The most concrete achievement this year was the co-ordination of the work for the Evidence Review Report on '*Making Sense of Science under Conditions of Complexity and Uncertainty*' and the publication of this substantial (186 pages) report. It was presented at the European Research and Innovation Days in Brussels in September and has since received much favourable coverage as well as being discussed at many meetings throughout Europe. The Cardiff Hub also participated in another SAPEA project '*Towards an EU Sustainable Food System*', together with ALLEA, by co-ordinating work on the Systematic Literature Review with a team from Cardiff University's Library, the Sustainable Places Research Institute and the Research Centre for Urban and Regional Food. The Evidence Review Report will be published in 2020.

The Cardiff Hub has organized many successful events this year and, for the first time, some of these have taken place in Continental Europe. The very well attended meeting held at KU Leuven in November on '*The Future of Research: Assessing the Impact of Plan S*' was important and timely. I was delighted to speak at this event, having just been appointed Editor-in-Chief of the American Physiological Society's new flagship Open Access journal *FUNCTION* to be launched next year. Another example of a very successful event this year was the Translational Medicine conference held at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest in September.

None of this work could have been accomplished without the dedicated Hub staff. Louise Edwards (Cardiff Hub Manager) has become indispensable, not only for AE, but for the whole of SAPEA and has acquired a well-deserved reputation in Brussels, and throughout Europe, for supreme efficiency and competence. Esther Dorado Ladera has been recognised for her outstanding work on outreach and impact in SAPEA, but is sadly leaving us to go back to her native Catalonia. Juliet Davies has proven to be a superb Event Organizer and the credit for the great success of our many events abroad and in the UK must go to her. The continued, and very real, support for the Hub by the President of AE, Sierd Cloetingh, and Cardiff University's Vice-Chancellor, Colin Riordan, has also been crucial for our work.

Thinking about an appropriate message for the festive season, I was inspired by an exhibit at the Biennale in Venice, which I visited immediately after speaking at a scientific conference held at the University of Padua in October, celebrating the remarkable achievements of one of Europe's most distinguished biomedical scientists, Tullio Pozzan FRS MAE. The video installation '*Becoming*' sends a message of hope for a future based on unity and tolerance, rather than division and hatred, which is much needed in Europe at this time. Happy New Year!

Ole (Ole H Petersen CBE MAE ML FRS)  
Academic Director of the AE Cardiff Knowledge Hub

### '*Becoming*' by Morteza Ahmadvand

Born 1981 in Khoram Abad, Iran. Works in Tehran, Iran

Selected images from Video Installation (3 single-channel videos). [Photos: Nina Burdakova]

In '*Becoming*', each of three wall-mounted screens display one of three shapes symbolic of the main Abrahamic religions: a Christian cross, a Jewish Star of David and a cube representing the Islamic Kaaba. The three shapes slowly revolve until they have each transformed into the same unified shape, a sphere. The globe-like sphere suggests planet Earth, which we and all other living creatures inhabit together. Inspired by the classical Persian poetry of Hafez and Rumi, it reminds us not to dwell on trivialities, but focus on what is essential. The installation offers a simple message to encourage compromise and unity.