



Your Voice on Research in Europe

[Home](#) » [News](#) » The 2019-2020 European Young Researchers' Award – EYRA



The 2019-2020 European Young Researchers' Award – EYRA

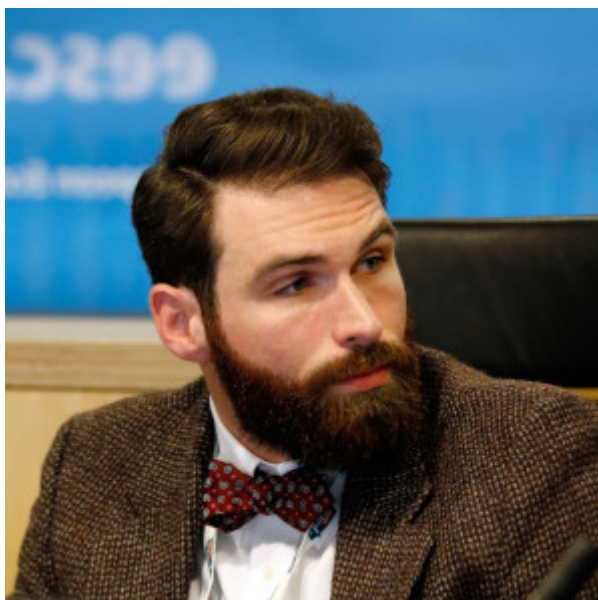
Posted on September 8, 2020 by EuroScience

The International Selection Committee for the **European Young Researchers' Award** 2019-2020 appointed by the **EuroScience Board**, has selected **Michael Bossetta** as the recipient of the **European Young Researchers' Award for PhD students** and **Valentina Sessini** as the recipient of the **European Young Researchers' Award for Postdocs**. EYRA is given to recognize young researchers who have demonstrated an outstanding research performance, teaching engagement and outreach activity and have incorporated a clear European dimension in their research.

The Committee was pleased to receive a total of 50 applications in the two categories. After having made a short selection, it was difficult, given the outstanding quality and very diverse fields of the candidates, **Michael Bossetta** and **Valentina Sessini** were selected as the winners. <https://www.euroscience.org/news/the-2019-2020-european-young-researchers-awards-eyra/>

[Home](#)[Who we are](#)[What we do](#)[What we say](#)[How we work](#)[Join EuroScience](#)[News](#)[My Profile](#)

University). He has been a visiting scholar at Amsterdam University, the Netherlands, and North Carolina U, USA. During his academic career, Bossetta has received a number of important international grants and awards. His research interests cover a broad field within media studies and political science with a special focus on the influence of modern media platforms on the development of European democracy. Bossetta has presented his research in international channels, at conferences and in ca. 20 peer-reviewed articles and chapters to international publications.



Michael Bossetta

Michael Bossetta is a promising young researcher in political science and media studies, who has an impressive list of accomplishments across the four basic criteria that are highlighted by EYRA. His research findings on the fields of social media, politics and democracy in Europe are not only timely and relevant, but also carried out on a high level. Bossetta's work has led to a large number of publications in prestigious journals. He is active in his research environment and has organized several symposia and panel discussions at an international level. The EYRA jury also appraises his devotion for communicating the value of his research to the scientific community, the broader public and to policy-makers. His work has been portrayed in well-known journalistic platforms such as *New York Times*, *Financial Times* and *The Guardian*.

Valentina Sessini holds a Marie Curie postdoctoral scholarship at Alcalá University, Spain, after a postdoc position in Chemistry at Mons University, Belgium. Her PhD in Engineering was defended at Perugia University, Italy, in 2016, and for her BA and MA in Material Science she studied at Cagliari University and Sassari University, Italy, and at Menéndez Pelayo University, Spain, where she has also been an assistant researcher in 2017. She has received important grants and awards. Sessini's research interests focus on the development of bio-based materials and nanotechnology, which have provided her with the opportunity to be involved in broad European research networks. She has published ca. 20 peer reviewed articles and several book chapters in significant international outlets and has taken out a patent.



[Home](#)[Who we are](#)[What we do](#)[What we say](#)[How we work](#)[Join EuroScience](#)[News](#)[My Profile](#)

Valentina Sessini

Valentina Sessini impressed the jury with her broad European research experience and continuous engagement in European networks. Together with her innovative approach to tackle several Sustainable Development Goals including smart energy, responsible production and climate action, she integrates high impact research with wide ranging social and political implications without compromising research quality, a unique qualification which has earned her a patent already and generated numerous prestigious articles. Her research is at the forefront of the interdisciplinary field of Material Science, which no doubt will make her name known in the years to come. The EYRA jury also acknowledged her strong engagement in public communication and scientific outreach.

The European Young Researcher Award – Popular prize

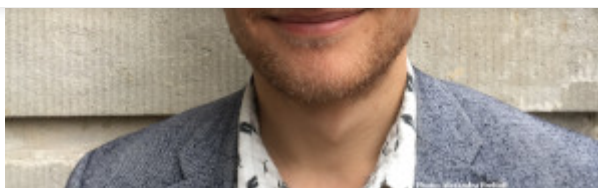
During the **EuroScience Open Forum – ESO2020** in Trieste, the EYRA Award Ceremony took place as a virtual event with an audience following the open access live streaming. All participants voted online for the winner in each category of the EYRA Popular Prize after presentations by the six finalists. In the PhD category: Michael Bossetta, Francisco Valente Gonçalves, Sophus Helle; in the postdoc category: Valentina Sessini, Elaine Toomey, María Viñas.



EYRA moderators: Svend Erik Larsen, and Stephane Berghmans

The winner of the 2019 – 2020 EYRA Popular Prize in PhD category is



[Home](#)[Who we are](#)[What we do](#)[What we say](#)[How we work](#)[Join EuroScience](#)[News](#)[My Profile](#)

Sophus Helle

Photo credit: Alexandra Freltoft

Sophus Helle is a writer, translator, and cultural historian. He holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from Aarhus University and an MA in Assyriology from the University of Copenhagen, and has been a visiting researcher at Universität Würzburg and Columbia University. He has published a Danish translation of the Babylonian epic *Gilgamesh*, which was praised by reviewers as “one of those miracles that makes life worth living”; his English translation of the same epic will appear with Yale University Press in early 2021. He specializes in ancient literature, especially the Babylonian epics, but his interests range widely, from the oldest poetry to present-day pop culture. His work has primarily focused on *Gilgamesh*; the poems of Enheduana, the first known author; the history of philology; and the historical study of sex, gender, and affect. He has 15 international articles to his name, including in leading journals such as *Modern Language Quarterly*, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* and *Orbis Litterarum*.

The winners of the 2019-2020 EYRA Popular Prize in Postdoc category are

María Viñas is a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Optics of the Spanish Research Council (IO-CSIC). Her B.S. and MSc in Optics and in Optical Engineering, and her PHD in Physics, also from Complutense University, have developed her ongoing research interests in Optics, which brought her a number of important grants and awards and have involved her in research collaboration in the USA and across Europe, both in research institutions and industrial research labs. Her research achievements lie within the development of Visual Optics and Biophotonics. María Viñas has published c. 40 international publications in high impact journals.



[Home](#)[Who we are](#)[What we do](#)[What we say](#)[How we work](#)[Join EuroScience](#)[News](#)[My Profile](#)

Valentina Sessini, who had been selected by the international committee as the EYRA yearly winner in Postdoc category, has also been voted as the winner of the Popular Prize which she shares in a tied vote by the audience with María Viñas.



Valentina Sessini

Sponsors

Cactus Communications is offering the winners of the European Young Researchers Award a service package aimed at disseminating their research globally.

For the last 17 years, **Cactus Communications** (CACTUS), a global scientific communications company, has helped researchers, journals, publishers, societies, labs, and universities communicate their research to a wider audience of peers, policymakers, media, and general public. As part of a partnership with EuroScience, CACTUS will provide the winners of the EYRA with an Impact Package of dissemination and communication services aimed at spreading research in enhanced formats such as videos and infographics and helping it reach a broader audience of peers, public, and key decision makers. The winners can use this package twice in a two-year period. CACTUS will also help to communicate their science to the ESOF audience. The winners will also gain access to CACTUS's growing research community where they can share their stories with researchers across the world.

ELSEVIER is offering the winners of the European Young Researchers Award

- Free access to Elsevier solutions for a year. This includes ScienceDirect, Scopus, Mendeley, as well as discipline-specific solutions, depending on the winner's research area.
- Elsevier Gold Open Access journal article fee waived for one article. *This requires the article to be submitted through the peer-review process and accepted.*
- Depending on the winners' locations, a visit to the Elsevier Amsterdam office, including meeting with an editor in their discipline, and a 1:1 consultancy training on how to showcase their research achievements. Alternatively, this could be conducted online.

[Home](#)[Who we are](#)[What we do](#)[What we say](#)[How we work](#)[Join EuroScience](#)[News](#)[My Profile](#)[ESOF2020 hybrid format was huge hit →](#)

Archives

 ▼

Categories

[Calls](#)[News](#)[Press Releases](#)

Top 20 Tags

[ESOF \(94\)](#)[Awards \(42\)](#)[Statement \(35\)](#)[esof 2016 \(28\)](#)[Young researchers \(23\)](#)[EYRA \(19\)](#)[ESOF 2018 \(16\)](#)[Science TV and new media festival \(15\)](#)[ESOF 2014 \(15\)](#)[Rammal \(14\)](#)[grants \(14\)](#)[workgroups \(12\)](#)[ESOF 2020 \(12\)](#)[ESOF 2012 \(12\)](#)[researchers' rights \(12\)](#)[European Commission \(9\)](#)[european science writers award \(8\)](#)[governing board \(6\)](#)[science policy \(5\)](#)[general assembly \(5\)](#)

Our Statements

[Read EuroScience statements](#)



+33 (0) 3 88 24 11 50
office@euroscience.org

Your Voice on Research in Europe

EuroScience is a European non-profit grassroots association open to research professionals, teachers, students, science administrators, policy-makers, etc. and generally to any citizen interested in science and technology and its links with society.

EuroScience represents not only European scientists of all ages, disciplines and nationalities but also from the business sector and public institutions such as universities and research institutes.

Newsletter

Subscribe

Follow us



EuroScience © 2014 All rights reserved

[Home](#) | [Contact EuroScience](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Legal notice](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)