

Press release

Antonio Loprieno is the new president of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

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The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences have a new president. Antonio Loprieno, Professor of History of Institutions and former Rector of the University of Basel, is Maurice Campagna's successor.

At their meeting on 18 October 2017, the delegates of Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences elected Professor Antonio Loprieno to be the association's next president. Professor Loprieno brings many years of international experience in higher education policy with him to the Academies' leadership. He is non-partisan and makes it a point to maintain an equal distance to all key players and institutions involved in the system of higher education and science.

"The primary function of the Academies is to build bridges between science and society. As President, I aim to increase dialogue with the public and to shape how science is integrated into the social discourse," said the new president. Professor Loprieno has also been elected to be the next president of the All European Academies (ALLEA) for the 2018–2021 term. In this additional role, he will also represent Switzerland's scientific community at the European level.

Antonio Loprieno studied Egyptology, linguistics and Semitic studies at the University of Turin in Italy. In the 1980s, he taught at various European universities, including the University of Göttingen in Germany and the University of Perugia in Italy. From 1989–2000, he was appointed Professor of Egyptology at the University of California in Los Angeles. He then worked at the University of Basel, first as Professor from 2000–2006 and then as Rector. In addition, he served as President of the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS) from 2008–2015.

The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences are looking forward to working together with Antonio Loprieno. Like his predecessor Maurice Campagna, Professor Loprieno

aims to promote more unity between the Academies. In addition, he attaches great importance to addressing the effects of digitalisation on our global society.

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The **Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences** is an association of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAHS), the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS), and the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW). It further comprises the centre of excellence for technology assessment (TA-SWISS) and Science et Cité as well as other scientific networks.

The academies engage themselves specifically for an equitable dialogue between science and society, and they advise politics and society in science-based issues that are relevant to society. They represent sciences across institutions and disciplines. Established in the scientific community, they have access to expertise and excellence and can therefore contribute specific knowledge to important political questions.

<http://swiss-academies.ch>