

Media release

“Serving Swiss science with real enthusiasm”

Bern, 18 October 2017

Professor Antonio Loprieno has been chosen by the delegates of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences to be their new President. An Egyptologist and a former Rector of the University of Basel, he will assume his new position on 1 May 2018.

The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences will have a new President as of 1 May 2018. Antonio Loprieno, a professor of Egyptology and a former Rector of the University of Basel, was on Wednesday elected to the office by the delegates of the Academies. In its citation, the electoral commission writes that the Academies, and thus the Swiss community of scientists as a whole, have chosen in Loprieno a highly distinguished President who is both renowned and incredibly dedicated.

“I am delighted to be able to serve the Swiss scientific community on both a national and international level, and will do so with real enthusiasm”, said the newly elected President, who in September was already elected President of the All European Academies (ALLEA) for the period 2018 to 2021. As President of the Academies, Loprieno wants to emphasise the bridging function that the Academies can have as an interface with society, and to help safeguard public trust in science at a difficult time. He is thinking of topics such as digitisation, interdisciplinarity, new forms of science communication and applied research, but also of the current “post-factual” crisis of trust in science.

A linguist, university researcher and science manager

Antonio Loprieno was born in Italy in 1955 and grew up in Brussels. He studied Egyptology, linguistics and Semitology in Turin. This “linguistically socialised Egyptologist” acquired his extensive knowledge and experience through postdocs in Chicago and Göttingen, an associate professorship in Perugia, then professorships at the University of California in Los Angeles and in Basel, where he was appointed in 2000 and where he was also made Professor for the History of Institutions in 2015. From 2006 to 2015, Loprieno also served as Rector of the University of Basel and from 2008 to 2015 was the President of the Rectors’ Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS).

Antonio Loprieno will assume his office as President of the Swiss Academies on 1 May 2018. He will succeed Maurice Campagna, who was able to preside over the introduction of new statutes for global budgeting in the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.

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CV (in German):
<https://wwz.unibas.ch/personen/profil/person/loprieno/>

Publications:
https://wwz.unibas.ch/fileadmin/wwz/redaktion/dekanat/Bilder/Bibliographie_ALoprieno_Stand_01_08_2015_01.pdf

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>