The importance of frontier SSH research for the EU agenda

Lino Paula
ERC Executive Agency
Scientific Department,
Head of Sector Social Sciences
ERC Basics

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD
LONG TERM GRANTS
TO HIGH-RISK/HIGH-GAIN PIONEERING PROJECTS
IN ANY FIELD OF FRONTIER RESEARCH

Life Sciences

Physical Sciences and Engineering

Social Sciences and Humanities
ERC funding: part of Horizon 2020

For 2018, the budget is more than 1.8 billion euros, the highest ever since the beginning of the ERC.
ERC funding: 2017 breakdown

ERC funded projects in 2017, EUR

- Physical Sciences and Engineering; 874,057,559
- Life Sciences; 582,657,786
- Social Sciences and Humanities; 431,226,295
What does ERC offer?

**ERC Grant Schemes**

**Starting Grants**
- starters
- 2-7 years after PhD
- (≥ 50% commitment)
- up to €1.5 Million for 5 years

**Consolidator Grants**
- consolidators
- 7-12 years after PhD
- (≥ 40% commitment)
- up to €2 Million for 5 years

**Advanced Grants**
- track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years
- (≥ 30% commitment)
- up to €2.5 Million for 5 years

**Proof-of-Concept**
- bridging gap between research - earliest stage of marketable innovation
- up to €150,000 for ERC grant holders only

**Synergy Grants**
- 2-4 PIs up to €10 million for 6 years
- to lead to breakthroughs that cannot be achieved by a PI working alone
ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility

- **Excellence** is the sole evaluation criterion
- Work on a research topic of **own choice**, with a team of **own choice** ('bottom-up')
- to attract **top team members** (EU and non-EU) and **collaborators**
- to attract additional funding and **gain recognition**; ERC is a quality label
- **Independence** and **freedom of research** is fundamental
Particular emphasis on…..

Frontier of science, scholarship and engineering, i.e.

✓ Multi- or interdisciplinary proposals which cross boundaries between different fields of research, or

✓ Pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research, or

✓ Proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions.
Importance of (ERC) frontier SSH research for the EU agenda

Today's frontier research is the knowledge foundation for tomorrow’s innovation and policy-driven research.

Fundamental breakthroughs in SH research are key to addressing societal challenges.

Liberal democracy based on the rule of law requires evidence-based governance, with independent experts that can `speak truth to power`. 
EVALUATE: Energy Vulnerability and Urban Transitions in Europe
Stefan Bouzarovski, University of Manchester

- A novel conceptual framing – energy vulnerability – to explore how fuel poverty and domestic energy deprivation affect households and communities

- Project was key to the foundation of the new EU Energy Poverty Observatory and had policy impact globally

- influenced the framing of the H2020 calls; first European-level programme dedicating a specific funding topic to energy poverty
Restructuring of the North Atlantic fisheries, fish markets and fishery-dependent communities in the late medieval and early modern world.

Established a quantitative framework of extractions, supplies and prices, while charting qualitative preferences and politics that motivated actors of the fish revolution.

Vice-chairmanship of influential `Food from the Ocean` report, endorsed by the European Commissioner for Marine Affairs and Fisheries.
Eirene- Post-war transitions in gendered perspective: The case of the North-Eastern Adriatic region
Marta Verginella, University of Ljubljana

- Advanced Grant, Started in December 2017

- Introduces a novel analytical concept, defined as the ‘exclusion/inclusion paradox’ and argues its applicability to various aspects of women’s lives

- New insight on the long-lasting emancipatory effects of wars
Migration and asylum: The contribution of frontier research to the understanding of human mobility across frontiers

The European Research Council

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