



# Short report on BrIAS and its activities

# 2018: our mission

**Yvon Englert and Caroline Pauwels,** asked respectively Serge Jaumain and Frank Deconinck to plan and implement BrIAS as the first Belgian Institute for Advanced Studies, dedicated **to stimulate R&D ideas, foster cooperation between ULB and VUB, and contribute to the scientific prestige of our universities and the Brussels Region.**



# Why in Brussels ?

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Brussels is a **patchwork of socio-economic and cultural environments.**

It offers a **unique potential for creativity and ground-breaking progress**, making it **very attractive to all those who want to help shape a harmonious and sustainable future.**



# BriAS: incubator of ideas

**BriAS strives to be an incubator of ideas** – preferably disruptive –

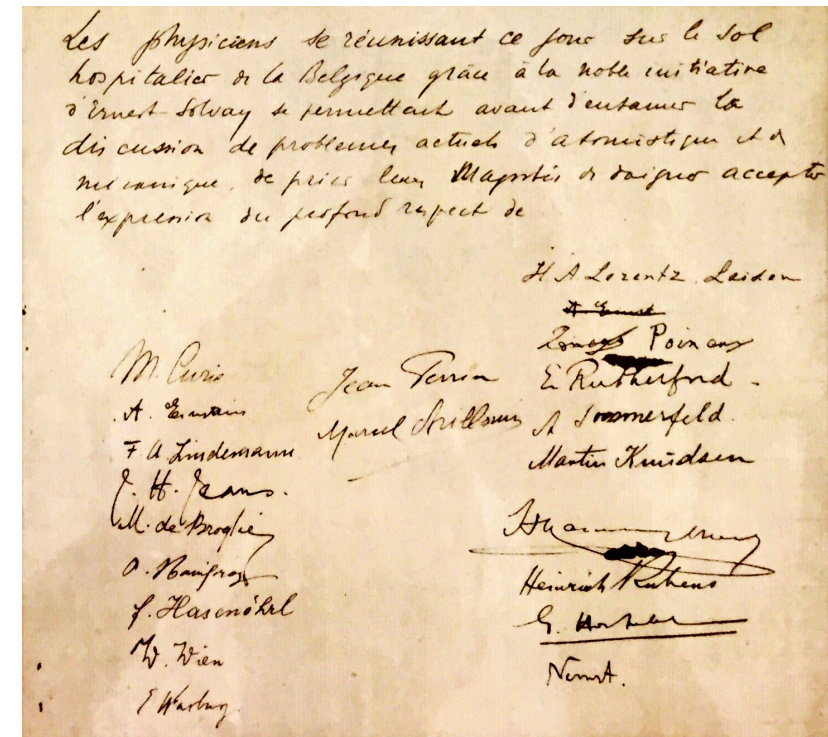
- on a theme of importance to **sustainable development**,
- by inviting **high-level scientists, "Fellows"**, from **different disciplines and socio-cultural backgrounds**, to discuss and collaborate in total **academic freedom**, leading to **mutual emulation and cross-fertilisation**,
- in an environment **free of daily hassles**,
- to allow science to advance on **unforeseen paths**.



# Interdisciplinary brainstorming

To optimise disruptive, creative thinking, one should bring together several high-level researchers from a wide spectrum of disciplines around a general theme. They should be able to work and spend a reasonable time together in a stimulating environment.

**BRIAS offers such an environment.**



Solvay attendants 1911

# BrIAS Fellows



Until today, BrIAS welcomed **61 Senior Fellows, 20 Junior Fellows and 2 Resident Artists** to discuss, challenge, brainstorm and propose ideas for future research.

The fellows came from **more than 30 countries**, including developing countries, and **stayed between one and several months**.



# 2021-2023 theme: “The past, present and future of food, climate and sustainability”.



**60 Talks, 36 Workshops, 8 Forums and 2 Writeshops,** approached from **highly diverse disciplines:** archaeobotany, plant physiology, politics, genetics, economy, climatology, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, history ...







Closing event of BrIAS Spring 2022 Program:  
*The past, present, and future of food, climate, and sustainability*



Closing session of BrIAS  
 The BrIAS Team  
 Vrije Universiteit Brussel &  
 Université libre de Bruxelles

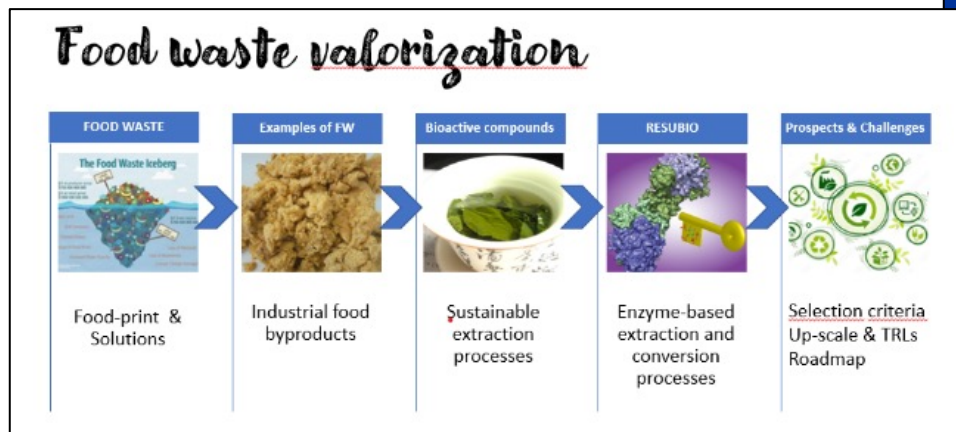


Mr. Raschad Al-Khafaji  
 Director  
 FAO Liaison Office with the  
 European Union and Belgium



Dr. Rathana Peou Norbert-Munns  
 Utrecht University  
 Copernicus Center  
 FAO Regional Office Asia  
 and the Pacific

14:00-16:00 CET | Thursday 14 April 2022 | ULB-Plaine Sall



# 2024-2025 theme: Robots and AI as enablers or disablers of the UN SDGs

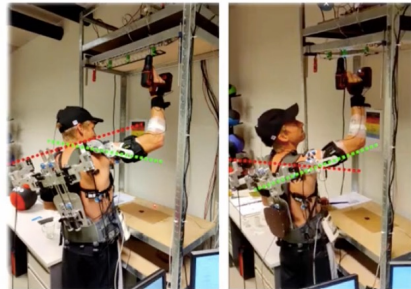
- **Already 65 talks at seminars and one-day or two-day forums** on Robots and Agriculture, Human-Robot Collaboration, Sustainable Robotic Technologies, War & Peace and Robotics...
- **All talks broadcasted** via both **Teams** and the **BrIAS YouTube channel**.





BrIAS Seminar 7: Stephen Bailey

### Do Occupational Exoskeletons Solve all the Problems?



BrIAS 2024 weekly seminars

9:28 / 40:21 Scroll for details



# Local and international networking



Next to the fellows, **over 250 guest speakers** were invited from **more than 70 universities, research institutes or policy centres.**

Also, **more than 25 companies, both local and international,** were involved with the activities, thereby **networking** them with international and local specialists.

The poster for the Forum on Sustainable Robotic Technologies features a central illustration of a globe surrounded by futuristic city buildings, a satellite, and a group of diverse people shaking hands. The text at the top includes logos for ULB, BrIAS, VUB, FARI (AI FOR THE COMMON GOOD INSTITUTE BRUSSELS), SMART, and SHINTO. Below the logos, it says 'The Brussels Institute for Advanced Studies presents the' followed by the title 'Forum on Sustainable Robotic Technologies' in large blue letters. At the bottom left, it provides the location and time: 'Join the forum at VUB AI Experience Center, Pleinlaan 9, 1050 Ixelles, 9:00 - 17:00 29/3/2024'. At the bottom right, there is a QR code and the text 'Register here'.

ULB BrIAS VUB FARI AI FOR THE COMMON GOOD INSTITUTE BRUSSELS SMART SHINTO

The Brussels Institute for Advanced Studies presents the

## Forum on Sustainable Robotic Technologies

Join the forum at  
VUB AI Experience Center  
Pleinlaan 9, 1050 Ixelles  
9:00 - 17:00 29/3/2024

More info in [www.brias.be](http://www.brias.be)

Register here

# Contact data and social media



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## Media

- <https://brias.be/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2DaPM77UyFym84aLM6YOVQ>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/vub-ulb-brias-be/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Brussels-Institute-for-Advanced-Studies-Brias-151419377048726>
- [https://twitter.com/BrIAS\\_Social](https://twitter.com/BrIAS_Social)
- <https://www.instagram.com/briasbrussels/>

**Thank you, and have a  
fruitful seminar**