



## FAB SCIENCE: science beyond the lab

Belgian-Spanish exchanges on science communication by other means

**webinar — 24th June — 11h - 12h30**

The LAB — SPAIN arts & science lab in Belgium

#SPreadScience

### MEET THE SPEAKERS

**Helena González** | Big Van Ciencia 🇪🇸



Ph.D. in Biomedicine, Helena is director and co-founder of [Big Van Science](#), a non-profit organization that aims to communicate science using drama-based activities, humor and storytelling. In this sense, her job includes being a scientific-comedian, a science educator, a public communication skills trainer and a science writer. She has coordinated and implemented more than 20 science education projects in Europe, Africa and Latin America working with both public and private companies.

She's author of more than 10 science education books, collaborator and scriptwriter on radio and TV, and editor and writer in National Geographic. She's content creator at Tik Tok and Youtube (@Clowntifics).

[YouTube](#) - [TikTok](#) - [Twitter](#)

## Oriol Marimon | Big Van Ciencia

Oriol Marimon, or Orilo as his mum calls him, becomes M. Sc in Chemistry at the University of Barcelona. After that he implemented his doctoral studies in the intricate bacterial world, unravelling pathogenicity with the use of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance. In 2013, Oriol co-funded [Big Van Science](#) group, and since that he has been delivering Scientific Stand-Up Shows for young adults and general public and Clown Shows for kids and families.

He also coordinated the European pedagogical research project [PERFORM](#), where developed and implemented pedagogical methodologies based on scenic arts to raise scientific aspirations in young adults. Currently, he designs and implements training courses on oral science communication for teachers and researchers at important universities all around the world as Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), University of Bristol (UoB) or Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (UNA), among others. He is also co-author of science communication books such as *How to talk about genetics with a mutant dragon* ([Alfaguara Juvenil](#)).



[YouTube](#) - [TikTok](#)

## Sandra Ortonobes | La Hiperactina



Sandra Ortonobes Lara has a degree in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Barcelona and a Master's degree in Scientific, Medical and Environmental Communication from the Pompeu Fabra University. She is also the creator of La Hiperactina, a science dissemination project on YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok and Twitch, where she explains topics on biomedicine and the human body such as what is cancer, why does

coffee wake us up or what effect does space have on us. In addition, she uses other formats such as podcasts, radio, talks, workshops or scientific monologues. Recently she published *¿Qué puede salir mal? Cómo sobrevivir a un mundo que intenta matarte*, her first [book](#).

[Youtube](#) - [Twitch](#) - [Instagram](#) - [Twitter](#) - [TikTok](#)

## Arianna Piccialli | Soapbox Science Brussels

Astrophysicist, originally from Naples, in Italy. For many years, her career has brought her to live in 5 different countries around Europe. She is currently a researcher at the [Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy](#) where she studies planetary atmospheres, in particular those of Venus and Mars.

In 2019, Arianna was selected as the Diversity Benelux officer of the Europlanet Society. During the Europlanet Science Congress 2020, she was the coordinator of the first Planetary Science Wiki Edit-a-thon to highlight diversity within the planetary science community. She





also published a paper on the participation of women scientists to ESA Solar System missions (Piccialli et al. 2020) and co-authored a paper concerning Covid-19 lockdown effects on gender inequality in the Italian Astronomy and Astrophysics research community (Nature Astronomy).

Arianna strongly believes that scientists should consider further ways to create an inclusive workplace for all. As a researcher and as a woman in science, she is convinced of the importance of combining her research activity with that of science outreach.

[Twitter](#) - [LinkedIn](#) - [Blog](#) - [Orcid](#) - [Soapbox Science Brussels](#) - [YouTube](#)

## **Christine Bingen** | Soapbox Science Brussels 🇧🇪



Belgian physicist, currently senior researcher at the [Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy](#), where she studies and characterizes the radiative and microphysical properties of aerosols in the stratosphere and the upper troposphere from satellite measurements. Her developments on aerosol are used in many applications of atmospheric and climate modelling. This gave her the opportunity to be part of several large-scale European projects initiated by ESA and by the European Commission.

Christine is passionate about outreach and participated in many events of science communication and scientific exhibitions in French, Dutch, and English. She is committed to stimulating youth interest in sciences, sharing knowledge, showing the beauty of sciences, and engaging the general public in the climate challenge. During the last years, she developed a growing commitment in the promotion of women in sciences and of more gender equity and inclusiveness in sciences and in scientific research.

[Soapbox Science Brussels](#) - [YouTube](#)





## Liesbeth Aerts | VIB-KU Leuven Center for Brain & Disease Research

Liesbeth Aerts trained as a scientist working in the field of neurodegeneration. She has a PhD in Biomedical Sciences and obtained a postgraduate diploma in Science Education & Communication.

Liesbeth worked as a Research Associate at UNSW Sydney between 2015 and 2017, and since 2016 she is Scientific writer & editor at [Highlight Science Writing](#).

She now works in science communication at the [VIB-KU Leuven Center for Brain & Disease Research](#). Also, she is co-founder of [Infopunt Proefdieronderzoek](#), an award-winning communication platform on animal research in Flanders.



[Website](#) - [LinkedIn](#) - [Google Scholar](#) - [ResearchGate](#)

## Mónica Vara | Spanish Scientists in Belgium Association - CEBE



Photographer Ralitza Soultanova

Born and raised in Zamora, Mónica holds a Ph.D. degree in Biomedical Sciences - Cancer from KU Leuven (Belgium) and she is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the VIB-VUB in Brussels.

As a passionate researcher and vocational scientist, Mónica is convinced that research passion and science communication are two sides of the same coin. Therefore, she actively collaborates with several science-communication initiatives in



Belgium such as “[Science Figured Out](#)” and “[Pint of Science](#)”. Since March 2020, Mónica coordinates the Science Communication Committee from [CEBE/SSBE](#) (Spanish Scientists in Belgium Association).

[LinkedIn](#)