

Soapbox Science 2023: women scientists take the floor at the heart of Brussels

On Saturday, June 24, 2023, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., 12 women scientists in Belgium will tell you about their research during the Soapbox Science Brussels event at the Carrefour de l'Europe/Europakruispunt, in front of the Central Station.



[Soapbox Science](#) is a science outreach initiative that aims to promote the visibility of women and non-binary scientists and their research by bringing them on the streets to reach the public. Soapbox Science events transform public areas in discussion forums based on Hyde Park's Speaker's Corner where scientists, on their soapboxes, talk about their research to the people passing by.

Why women scientists? Even today, they constitute a minority in the research field, and their relative number dwindles as the seniority in the field increases. Recent research shows that women and non-binaries face a lot of obstacles from a very young age, notably due to strongly held stereotypes and biases related to the image of the scientist.

For those reasons, Soapbox Science aims at tackling stereotypes, and shows to the public that science is not a stereotypically smart and socially awkward man's business and that anyone has the opportunity to enjoy science in an interactive way.

Soapbox Science was founded in 2011 in London, by Dr Seirian Sumner, from the University of Bristol, and Dr Nathalie Petteorelli, from the Zoological Society of London. The concept went on with great international success, with, during some years, more than 40 events in at least 13 countries.

This year will be the fourth edition for Brussels, after a [first online event in 2020](#) that was broadcast live on social media, and two real-life events [in 2021](#) and [in 2022](#).





*Illustrations of a Soapbox Science event in Brussels in 2021 (on the left) and in 2022 (on the right).
Credit: Soapbox Science Brussels.*

During the event, four soapboxes will be placed on the Carrefour de l'Europe/Europakruispunt in front of the Central Station of Brussels. On each soapbox, a speaker talks about their research and interacts with the public passing by, for the duration of an hour. Talks will be in French, Dutch and English, the most commonly used languages in Brussels. This year, we will explore the climate and pollution, using LED as a communication mean, insects for human alimentation, space weather, viruses and immune system, shrimps living in sea stars and snails!

Follow all updates on Twitter [@SoapboxscienceB](https://twitter.com/SoapboxscienceB), and come to the Carrefour de l'Europe/Europakruispunt to hear them talk and to discover their fascinating cutting-edge research!

Details and **programme** of the event: <https://soapboxsciencebrussels.oma.be/soapbox-science-brussels-events/soapbox-science-brussels-2023/>

Soapbox Science Brussels is sponsored by the Royal Observatory of Belgium, the Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy, the Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie, and Europlanet Benelux. It also has a support of the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles. The Royal Observatory of Belgium is the host institute of Soapbox Science Brussels.

Contact:

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Alexia
Lourtie

Irma
Pallarés
Torres

Veronique
Georlette

Alexia
Nectoux

soapbox
science

Anwesa
Maharana

Catalina
Poraicu

Come see
our 12
Soapbox Science
Brussels
speakers!

Noelia
Valderrama
Bhraunxs

24 June 2023
14:00 - 17:00

Annelies
Emmaneel

Kawtar El
Abdellati

Maria De
La Fuente
Ruiz

Rosa
Pietroiusti

Lena
Fonteyn

Programme / Programma

-- 14:00 - 15:00 --

Soapbox 1 : Dr Ir Véronique Georlette (*Université de Mons*)

Français: Le pouvoir caché de la LED, de l'éclairage à un moyen de communication !

Soapbox 2 : Lena Fonteyn (*Universiteit Hasselt*)

Nederlands: Train je immuunsysteem en word 100 jaar oud!

Soapbox 3 : Alexia Nectoux (*Centre de Recherche des Instituts Groupés*)

Français: De nuisibles à super-héros, le superpouvoir des insectes

Soapbox 4 : Rosa Pietroiusti (*Vrije Universiteit Brussel*)

English: Can the younger generation sue governments and companies for climate change?

-- 15:00 - 16:00 --

Soapbox 1 : Dr Irma Pallarés Torres (*Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*)

English: Why is the universe a mathematical place?

Soapbox 2 : Dr Annelies Emmaneel (*VIB-UGent Center for Inflammation Research*)

Nederlands: Hoe AI patiënten kan diagnosticeren

Soapbox 3 : Alexia Lourtie (*Université de Mons & Université Catholique de Louvain*)

Français: L'Odyssée parfumée d'une crevette

Soapbox 4 : Dr Maria De La Fuente Ruiz (*Université Libre de Bruxelles*)

English: Methane, the evil twin of Carbon Dioxide

-- 16:00 - 17:00 --

Soapbox 1 : Anwasha Maharana (*Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*)

English: The stormy Sun: can we be saved from the wrath?

Soapbox 2 : Dr Kawtar El Abdellati (*Universiteit Antwerpen*)

Nederlands: Besmet met waanzin - hoe virussen je mentale welzijn kunnen beïnvloeden

Soapbox 3 : Catalina Poraicu (*Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy*)

Français: Pollution atmosphérique sur la Belgique – le lien entre la science et la société

Soapbox 4 : Noelia Valderrama Bhraunxs (*Royal Museum for Central Africa & Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*)

English: Spotting snails to control and prevent parasitic diseases