

EUROVISION SONG CONTEST 60TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

VENUE: BAFTA 195 PICCADILLY, LONDON
REGISTRATION: <https://www.regonline.co.uk/escconference60th>

AGENDA

1000 INTRODUCTION

Paddy O'Connell – Moderator - BBC Radio 2 and 4 Presenter, Journalist and Former Eurovision Song Contest Commentator for BBC

Jon Ola Sand – Executive Supervisor – Eurovision Song Contest – European Broadcasting Union

1015 KEYNOTE

by **Dr Karen Fricker** - Canada - Asst. Professor, Department of Dramatic Arts, Brock University, St Catharine's Ontario and co-editor of *Performing the New Europe: Identities, Feelings, and Politics in the Eurovision Song Contest* (Palgrave 2013).

"What Eurovision has taught us about Europe"

1100 PANEL DISCUSSION ON "RITUAL"

How watching Eurovision is an institution of European family life and European popular life. How has the advent of social media changed/enhanced what it means to watch Eurovision? How has Eurovision engendered a sense of cosmopolitanism?

Taking Part:

Prof Brian Singleton - Ireland - holds the Samuel Beckett Chair of Drama and Theatre at Trinity College Dublin,

Phil Jackson - UK - Associate Head of Media and Programme Leader for BA Media, Music and Sound, Edge Hill University, Liverpool

Aija Medinika - Latvia - Former Head of Press for Latvian Television

Dave Benton - Estonia - Eurovision Winner 2001

William Lee Adams - United States - Contributor for Newsweek and TIME magazines and founder of current most popular and innovative Eurovision website WiwiBloggs

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60TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE**1145 KEYNOTE**

by **Dr Dean Vuletic** - Australia - Historian and Marie Curie Fellow at the University of Vienna, where he runs the research project "Eurovision: A History of Europe through Popular Music" and teaches a course with the same title

"The History of Europe through the Eurovision Song Contest"**1230 LUNCH****1330 PANEL DISCUSSION ON "INNOVATION"**

This panel explores The Eurovision Song Contest as a vanguard of innovation in television, multimedia and social networking. Discussions will include how the Contest has changed in terms of staging, the changes and challenges in how the Eurovision Network comes together on one night of the year and how social media and websites have created a whole new engagement with the event.

Taking Part:

Jon Ola Sand - Norway – Executive Supervisor – Eurovision Song Contest – European Broadcasting Union

Sietse Bakker - The Netherlands - Event Supervisor of Eurovision Song Contest and formally founder of ESCToday - the first global popular website dedicated to the event.

Guy Freeman - United Kingdom - Executive Producer of the 1998 Eurovision Song Contest and "Eurovision's Greatest Hits" Anniversary Show. Head of UK Delegation to 2015 Contest.

Pernille Gaardbo - Denmark - Executive Producer of the 2014 Eurovision Song Contest

Frank Saalens - The Netherlands – Manager of EBU Network Operations Centre

1415 KEYNOTE

by **Dr Paul Jordan** - United Kingdom - an expert on the Eurovision Song Contest and in 2011 was awarded his PhD, *The Eurovision Song Contest: Nation Building and Nation Branding in Estonia and Ukraine*, from the University of Glasgow.

"The Eurovision Song Contest: A platform for nation branding and nation building"**1500 PRESENTATION ON EUROVISION SONG CONTEST AUDIENCES**

Francesca Cimino – Senior Media Analyst – EBU Media Intelligence Service

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1515 **INTERVIEW WITH CONCHITA WURST – WINNER OF EUROVISION 2014**

Discussing how Eurovision embraces diversity and builds communities

1600 **PANEL DISCUSSION ON "INSPIRATION"**

Panel discussion about how the Song Contest functions in different communities/nations/regions as site of national/personal/gender-sexual identity realization. How have people used Eurovision as a way to access European and National identity?

Taking Part:

Kjell Ekholm - Finland - Former Member of Eurovision Reference Group and Head of Delegation for Finland

Dr Peter Rehberg - Germany - Ph.D. Dept. of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Texas

Geert Willems - The Netherlands - Journalist and Author - "Douze points, Twelve points – Facts and Myths about the Eurovision Song Contest"

Fraser Nelson - United Kingdom - Journalist and Editor of political magazine The Spectator

Andi Knoll – Austria – Eurovision Song Contest Commentator for ORF

1645 **SUMMING UP**

Paddy O'Connell with Dean Vuletic, Karen Fricker and Paul Jordan

1700 **CONFERENCE ENDS**