

## New Executive Board of the Swiss Young Academy elected

Bern, 5 July 2021

**The members of the Swiss Young Academy elected its Executive Board at their General Meeting and, with Lucas Mueller, their new speaker. In his one-year term of office, Lucas Mueller would like to devote his time to two urgent issues: the relationship between politics and science and how to improve precarious working conditions and inequality in academic institutions in Switzerland. In addition, Estefania Cuero's commitment as the first speaker of the Swiss Young Academy was acknowledged.**

The members of the Swiss Young Academy met virtually on 11 June for their General Meeting, on the theme of this year's motto "defining a common starting point". At the meeting, the members elected their Executive Board and their new speaker for 2021/22. Four members of the Executive Board were standing for re-election and Darius Farman was elected as a new member. In addition, the huge commitment of Estefania Cuero as the first speaker of the Swiss Young Academy was acknowledged. Thanks to her work, a culture of togetherness was built in the middle of the pandemic, and it will now serve as a foundation for further steps.

The newly-elected Executive Board of the Swiss Young Academy consists of the following five members:

- **Lucas Mueller**, Postdoc, Department of Geography and Environment, University of Geneva; Speaker of the Swiss Young Academy 2021/22
- **BinBin Pearce**, Senior researcher and lecturer, Department of Environmental Systems Science, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich
- **Stefanie Boulila**, Lecturer and project manager, Institute for Sociocultural Development, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts
- **Florian Egli**, Senior researcher and lecturer, Energy and Technology Policy Group, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich
- **Darius Farman**, Senior researcher, Avenir Suisse; Vice-president, Thinktank foraus

After having been elected speaker, Lucas Mueller reaffirmed his concerns for the coming year in office: first, to get Swiss research policy to focus on inequality and precarious working conditions in academic institutions, in particular through his collaboration in the Young Academy's project "Challenging Inequalities and Precarious Working Conditions in Swiss Academic Institutions". Second, he is keen to initiate a discussion on the relationship between science and politics in the wake of the Covid-19 and climate crises: "Science can reveal health and environmental problems and point to options for action. But such crises always have political dimensions as well and cannot be solved by scientists alone. A first step is a better understanding of the potential and limits of science in society, politics and science itself. For example, science can model possible epidemic or climatic scenarios. But it is a political decision to determine which measures - which may well affect different population groups differently - need to follow from such modelling.

Furthermore, scientists need stable working conditions to help to solve such crises in the long term." Lucas Mueller is a researcher in science and technology studies who is currently investigating the role of experts in the development of environmental policy and disaster management in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

The tasks of the Executive Board include the preparation of business and the adoption of the budget, the annual statements of account and the annual report to the General Meeting of members. The speaker represents the Young Academy internally and externally and chairs the Executive Board.

### More about the members of the Executive Board of the Swiss Young Academy

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**For further information, please contact:**

Karin Spycher, Head of Swiss Young Academy

Tel. +41 31 306 92 35

E-mail: [karin.spycher@akademien-schweiz.ch](mailto:karin.spycher@akademien-schweiz.ch)

The **Swiss Young Academy** networks young researchers from a wide range of scientific disciplines and universities and creates an inspiring environment for inter- and transdisciplinary exchange and innovative ideas. Its members are the representatives of Swiss science in the national and international context and are regarded as the young voice of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences. The Swiss Young Academy belongs to the network of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.