

# RIACat Seminar Training on impact

## RIACAt Seminar Presentation

RIACat (Research Impact Assessment in Catalonia) is an initiative of AQuAS (Agency for Health Quality and Assessment of Catalonia, Ministry of Health) and the Secretariat for Universities and Research (Ministry of Business and Knowledge), Government of Catalonia.

The primary objectives of this initiative are to raise awareness on the relevance and challenges of Research Impact Assessment (RIA), highlight its value to maximize societal and economic returns on investment in research by shaping research policies and practices, and articulate accountability mechanisms towards society for investments in research.

The initial RIACat strategy to accomplish these objectives is to put in place a 3.5-day seminar on Research Impact Assessment (RIACat Seminar) intended to analyse how RIA (Research Impact Assessment) can bring value to the Catalan research system, which mechanisms can be designed to develop an effective country strategy for the RDI public system, and how to succeed in deploying this strategy.

The program of the seminar is a reduced version of the “International School on Research Impact Assessment”<sup>1</sup> (ISRIA) program, adapted the contents to the Catalan context. ISRIA was cofounded in 2013 by AQuAS (Government of Catalonia), King’s College London (United Kingdom) and Alberta Innovates (Canada). This international 4.5-day course has been delivered annually in 4 continents over the past 5 years. Each continent has further developed locally adapted courses as a kind of ISRIA “spin-offs”. As an outcome of this international school, more than 400 practitioners have been trained, some of which currently developing responsibilities on impact evaluation and enhancement in influential research institutions.

The RIACat seminar is not specifically addressed at creating RIA experts in Catalonia, and hence is not considered a “school” on Impact Assessment. It rather focusses on building capacities in understanding and deciding how to best approach and use RIA. We are aware that several experiences on that regard are already underway in Catalonia, and a variety of agents are already working under the research impact assessment framework. Therefore, this seminar intends to identify experts and foster synergies to push forward shared strategies. We have seen with huge satisfaction that the RIACat seminar has already risen strong interest among the Catalan RDI community and has achieved an amazing level of commitment from the agencies collaborating in

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<sup>1</sup> (<https://www.theinternationalschoolonria.com/>)

the Seminar organisation. Special acknowledgements must be addressed to AGAUR, ACUP, AQU Catalunya, iCERCA, FCRI and Residència d'Investigadors (CSIC).

With all this in mind, the seminar has been designed in two sections.

- The first one provides a general overview of the RIA purposes and methodological options. It is addressed to high-level officials and decision makers at Higher Education and Research Institutions and policy evaluation practitioners.
- The second part is designed as working sessions and focuses on how to adapt RIA methodologies to the Catalan context, by means of lessons learned from other country experiences and analysing the needs and views of Catalan stakeholders. The dynamics of the course session requires small audiences to achieve a collective learning. Therefore, the organizers' hope is to consolidate this initiative with further editions.

The teaching materials delivered in RIACat Seminar are based on the ISRIA materials, under a Creative Commons BY-NC-SA 4.0 license at ISRIA website.

As an immediate outcome, the organizers expect to welcome a motivated community of practitioners, willing to push forward the RIA agenda in Catalonia, the main challenges and opportunities of which will be discussed during the seminar. In the mid-run, we hope that this motivated community become a pillar in supporting this future research impact agenda for Catalonia.

We strongly believe in the value of Research Impact Assessment to help Catalonia become a referent in transforming knowledge in economic and social impact for the benefit of society.

Paula Adam (AQuAS). Director of the RIACAT Seminar and co-founder of ISRIA

Montse Daban (Secretariat for Universities and Research). Coordinator of RIACAT Seminar.

Barcelona, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018.

## PROMOTER COMMITTEE

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PhD in economics (European University Institute, Florence, Italy). Co-founder of ISOR Group and co-founder of the International School on Research Impact Assessment (ISRIA). Public policy evaluator for the OECD.

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Degree in Biology (University of Barcelona 1987), PhD in Molecular Biology (Polytechnics University of Catalonia 1991), MSc Science Communication (Pompeu Fabra University 1996), Executive MA Diplomacy&Foreign Affairs (University Pompeu Fabra 2017). Pstdoc fellow UAB, CSIC and CWRU (Ohio). Member of the Permanent Board of the Catalan Council for Science Communication (C4).

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Chemical Engineer, Institut Químic de Sarrià (IQS). Master's degree in Business Administration (Open University Business School, UOBS, United Kingdom). In 2005 he contributed to found the Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC). and was associate director of the public consortium from its creation until his appointment as Director General for Research.

NÚRIA RADÓ

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BSc, Human Biology (Pompeu Fabra University, 2008), MSc Genetics and Evolution (University of Barcelona, 2009), PhD in Biomedicine, Evolutionary Genomics (Pompeu Fabra University, 2013), MSc in Science Communication (Imperial College London, 2014). Coordinator of RIACat Seminar.

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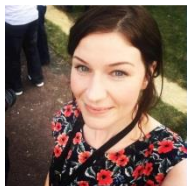


Degree in Biology (University of Barcelona, 1995), MSc in Public Health (Pompeu Fabra University, 2009). She's currently working on her PhD Thesis on Research Impact Assessment at Open University of Catalonia. Faculty at ISRIA.

## SPEAKERS

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BA (hons) Philosophy (University of Leeds, 2002). PhD University of York (2017). Research Impact residency, DC Labs postdoctoral research interests concern the philosophy of research, research impact, responsibility, metrics, expertise and knowledge. Postdoctoral Research Associate, The University of Sheffield.

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Division for Science and research system, Department for Strategic Development and Analysis. Trained at University of Oslo. Master of management at BI Norwegian Business School. Former director at the Department for Social Sciences and the Humanities, Research Council of Norway.

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Diploma in Economics (University of Ljubljana, 2009). Master in International Affairs, International Finance and Economic Policy, Advanced Policy and Economic Analysis (Columbia University, 2012). She has been consultant for the OECD and for the UN. Currently, Monitoring and Evaluation of Horizon 2020, European Commission.

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Degree in Economy (University of Barcelona, 1982), Diploma in International Relations and International Economics (Bologna Center, 1986), MA International Relations, Security Studies (The Johns Hopkins University, 1987), Senior research Fellow, University of Sussex 1991-2005.

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BSc Zoology and Developmental Biology, (University of Edinburg, 2001). MPhil Molecular Genomics (University of Cambridge, 2003). Program Director, International School on Research Impact Assessment (2014). He has provided a number of influential research impact assessment (RIA) reports over the last decade.

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BSc in Physics (University of Barcelona, 1993). MSc, Statistical Physics (Cho University, Tokyo, 1998), MSc on Science Policy (University of Sussex, 2006), Senior Research Associate, Georgia Institute of Technology. Currently, also visiting Professor, Leiden University. Co-author of the “Leiden Manifesto”.

STEN SÖDERBERG

*Senior Analyst at Swedish Research Council*



Degree in Psychology, Stockholm University.

Former member of the Ministry of Education and Research, Government of Sweden. Söderberg led the development of a REF-like framework (FOKUS), which included an impact element.

## RIACAT TEAM



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