

Dear colleagues,

There are very few days left before the kick off next Sunday, September 16th 2018, of the **XXXVII Annual Meeting of the Willi Hennig Society** to be held in Barcelona, and there are some extra pieces of information we would like to share with you.

Weather

September offers some of the better weather conditions in Barcelona. It is about the end of summer, but sunny and still quite hot, average daytime temperatures are around 26°C (78°F), whereas the average minimum temperatures drop down to 17°C (62°F.). However, during this time of the year storms are frequent, especially during the late afternoon, which help to cool down and clean the atmosphere and make the climate more pleasant. It is probably convenient to bring an umbrella or a raincoat, and a light jacket, sweater or similar for the cooler nights. On the other hand, the average temperature of the sea is 24°C, which is still warm enough to enjoy the more than 8 km of sandy beaches that the city has to offer, some of them very close to the meeting venue (e.g. *Platja de Llevant*). So, do not forget your swimming suit!

Arrival Information and Transport

By plane

- If you are arriving by **plane** (airport info at <https://www.aerpuertobarcelona-elprat.com>), you can either take a **taxi** directly to your destination (which will cost around €30-35 to the meeting venue, a little bit less to the city center) or alternatively, take the metro, the airport bus or train into the city center.
- The **metro** Line9 (orange line) leaves from terminal T1 and also have a stop in terminal T2 and joins you directly to the Metro network but will require a change of trains to get into the city centre. A one-way ticket is currently €4.50.
- The **Aerobus** (airport bus, www.aerobusbcn.com) brings you direct to the city center from the airport, via Plaça Espanya, and



stops outside the *Corte Inglés* shopping center in the Plaça Catalunya. The Aerobus from Terminal 1, the A1, (€5.90 one-way) is a distinctive royal blue, while the one from Terminal 2, the A2, (€5.90) is sky blue. Operation times are between 06.00 and 01.00, running approx. every 15 minutes, with a journey time of around 35 minutes.

- The less convenient **airport train** about 200m from the T2 terminal building (from the T1 terminal you have to take a free shuttle). The train stops in *Estació de Sants* (Central railway station), at *Passeig de Gràcia* and also at the station in the *Plaça Catalunya*, though a change at *Sants* is required for the latter. It runs every 30 minutes, in both directions, from 05.45 to 23.00 and currently costs €4.10.

From any of these city centre locations, you can either take the Metro, a bus or a taxi to the meeting venue.

By train

If you are arriving by train in Barcelona from France, you may arrive at either *Estació de Sants* (Central railway station) or the *Estació de França*. From there you can take the Metro, a bus or a taxi to the congress venue.

By coach

Most international coach operators stop in the new coach station adjoining *Sants* Central railway station. From here you can either take the Metro, a bus or a taxi to your destination.

Taxis in Spain are relatively cheap compared to many other countries. A journey from one city location to another shouldn't cost you much more than about €10 (though the airport will be about three times that by taxi).

By car

Parking in Barcelona can be difficult and expensive. Most of the city's central streets are either no parking zones or are metered. Away from the city center it is however possible to leave a car parked legally and without charge for up to a maximum of 8 days, but only in a limited number of streets.

City transport to the meeting venue (*Museu Blau*)

Barcelona has an excellent public transportation network, which includes the metro, buses, tram and trains. Conveniently, all these transports share the same ticketing system, so you can get a multi-trip card (e.g. T10) and use them in all these transports. You can reach the meeting venue using the following transports:



- **Metro**, L4 (*línia groga*, yellow line). Stop at *Maresme-Fòrum* (*Rambla Prim* exit)
- **Tram**, T4 line, stop at *Fòrum*
- **Bus**, number 43, H16 stop at *Fòrum*, 7, 36, 99, *Bus Turístic Ruta Verda* (Turistic bus-green line), B23

You can find all necessary information regarding the transport network, connections and timetable at the TMB website (<https://www.tmb.cat/en/barcelona-transport>)

- **Taxis**, Barcelona taxis are painted in a characteristic black & yellow aposematic color. All taxis use taximeter. Although Uber and Cabify services are available, they are not popular. You may want to use instead local taxi apps such as MyTaxi, EasyTaxi or Hailo Taxi. Alternatively, just stick out your arm in the street and wave when you see a taxi with the top green light on.
- **Car**, there are parking lots available at the *Museu Blau* and in the nearby *Diagonal Mar* shopping mall

Colloquium venue and Registration desk

The main meeting venue will be at the *Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona* (aka *Museu Blau*, Parc del Fòrum, Plaça Leonardo da Vinci, 4-5, 08019 Barcelona, phone +34 932 566 002). The museum's building, designed by Herzog & de Meuron after winning a design competition held in 2000, was originally conceived as the main venue of the *Forum Universal de les Cultures*, hosted in Barcelona in 2004. The "Forum" event somehow initiated the urban renovation of an area comprised between the eastern end of the Avinguda Diagonal street, the city waterfront, and the Ronda del Litoral; previously, this 40-hectare site was a sort of no man's land, occupied by old industrial buildings and disused technical infrastructures. The city's natural history museum originally hosted at the *Castell dels Tres Dragons* building in the Ciutadella Park moved to this new location in 2011.



The **registration desk** will be located at the *Museu Blau*, and will be open on Sunday, September 16th, from 16:00 to 20:00. Welcoming drinks and appetizers will be served during registration. You will also get invitations to visit the museum's permanent exhibition "Planet Life".

There will be an open desk for information and late registration at the same location throughout the congress.

Contributions

We have done an effort to accommodate all the contributions we have received in the format (talk or poster) originally proposed by the author. The meeting program is available in the 'program' tab of meeting website. Additionally, you can visit the following link <http://hennig2018bcn.shdlr.com> to synchronize the program to your favorite calendar app or share it through social media. Changes and updates in the schedule will be readily available at the meeting and program websites, so please stay tuned.

Oral presentations

Oral presentations have been organized in Morning-I (9:00-10:40), Morning-II (11:40-13:20), and Afternoon (15:00-16:40) sessions. All sessions will be held at the *Sala d'Actes* (Lecture Hall) of the *Museu Blau*. Regular oral presentations will be 15 minutes long with an estimated 5 minutes for discussion. Plenary lectures will be 45 minutes long with an estimated 15 minutes for discussion. However, bear in mind that in accordance with the Society rules: "cutting off a question and answer period can only be done after the moderator has asked for a vote of cloture from the audience. A 2/3 majority of those present is required for cloture. Hence, a speaker may be called to stop for time, but the question and answer period continues as long as there is debate or until halted by cloture". Make your slides in you preferred program, but a final file in PDF format is highly recommend for avoiding compatibility problems. All the speakers should contact the person of the organization in charge of the computers to load their presentation well in advance of their scheduled talks, preferable during the coffee break/lunch/poster session immediately before their corresponding session. The lecture hall computer is a PC. Mac users please check that your presentation is compatible with Windows. Try to avoid using your own computer since switching computers may take some extra time.





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Posters

Poster sessions will be held on Monday 17th, Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th, from 17:40 to 18:40 in the *Vestibul* (Vestibule) of the *Museu Blau*, besides the coffee break space and across the lecture hall. Please make posters A0 portrait size. We kindly request the authors to bring their posters on the morning of the first day of the congress (Monday 17th). Poster boards will be labelled with the presenting authors last name. Mounting material to hang your poster will be provided. Poster presenters are asked to be present at their poster on the day they were assigned in the meeting schedule. Please retire posters during the coffee break of Thursday 21st.

Meals

During the colloquium, **lunches** (13:30 to 15:00), as well as **morning** (10:40-11:40) and **afternoon** (16:40-17:40) **refreshment breaks** will be provided to all registered participants at the *Vestibul* at *Museu Blau*. The meeting banquet will be held at restaurant **Mirabé** (<http://mirabe.com>, +34 934 18 58 80, C/ Manuel Arnús 2, 08035 BCN, mirabe@mirabe.com). From a unique hilltop overlooking Barcelona at the end of Av. Tibidabo, Mirabé offers a picture-perfect setting to bask in the spectacular views the city has to offer, while enjoying Mediterranean cuisine full of special touches. Although the restaurant is in the city, arriving there by public transport involves some transfers. We will arrange a bus transport that will leave from the Museum and will return people after the banquet to the same spot.

Entertainment and nightlife

The last meeting session of the day will end around 18:40, giving you ample opportunities to enjoy the wonderful nightlife that Barcelona is famous for: a wide range of restaurants, bars and clubs. The area around the museum is not specially exciting in terms of restaurants and bars. However, there are several *xiringuitos* (beach bars with terraces on the sand) not far from the meeting venue (15 minute walk). They open daily until 2am. However, if you hop into the public transport, a whole world of opportunities will be readily available.

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Barcelona is an agglomerate of many neighborhoods, some of them former villages that joined the city during the enlargement that followed the removal of the walls that enclosed the city until the end of the 19th century. Some of these neighborhoods have their own, distinct personality, and are great places for strolling, having dinner and drinks. Most popular neighborhoods are (ordered by closeness to the venue) Poble Nou (take the yellow metro line and stop at *Poblenou* station), the *Barceloneta* (yellow line to *Barceloneta*), the Old City, which includes La Ribera, el Barri Gòtic (yellow line to *Jaume I*), and el Raval (green line to *Drassanes* or *Liceu*), Poble Sec (green line to *Poble Sec*) l'Esquerra de l'Eixample (blue line to *Hospital Clínic*, red line to *Universitat*) and Gràcia (yellow line to *Joanic* or green line to *Fontana*). You can use apps such as The Fork (<https://www.thefork.com/city/barcelona>) for choosing and booking your preferred restaurant or Time out (<https://www.timeout.com/barcelona>) to get information about what is going on in the city.

There are also a number of festivals and festivities that can be enjoyed in September in Barcelona. From September 7th to 16th you can enjoy daylight and night activities in the Festa Major del Poblenou (*Poblenou* popular festival). On Sunday 16th, the opening of the meeting will overlap with the final party of the festival, there will be fireworks and dancing in the street. Check the festival website for further information (www.festamajorpoblenou.org). The closing of the meeting, on the other hand, will almost coincide with Barcelona's Festa Major, the city big popular festival, which begins on Friday 21 September and will continue until Monday 24 September. You can find the complete program of activities at:

<http://lameva.barcelona.cat/barcelonacultura/en/recomanem/merce-2018-festa-major-mac>.

Please do not hesitate to ask the organization personal information about restaurant and evening activities.

If there is any extra information you may need or any further inquire please do not hesitate to get in contact with us at hennig2018bcn@gmail.com.

Best regards and see you all soon in Barcelona!

The organizing committee

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