

A series of conferences held at the *Ateneu de Maó*, given by internationally renowned experts.

The publication of a monographic issue of the journal *Ciència*, published by the *Institut d'Estudis Baleàrics*.

Participation in the *Fira de la Ciència* (Science Fair) and *Setmana de la Ciència* (Science Week), organized by the *Balearic Ministry of Economy*, the *Treasury and Innovation's Directorate General for Research, Technological Development and Innovation*.

The publication of two commemorative books, containing a compilation of talks given during the series of conferences "*Darwin in the Balearic Islands*" and papers and presentations given at the *International Symposium on Islands and Evolution*.



**Charles Robert Darwin**, born in Shrewsbury (England) on February 12<sup>th</sup> 1809, dedicated his entire life to science and strove to offer a rational and coherent interpretation of natural processes and the evolution of living beings. Influenced by his reading of Humboldt's travels and supported by J.S. Henslow, his professor at Cambridge, he began a voyage that would have a great impact on his own life and the rest of humanity's. He boarded the *Beagle*, which set sail on December 27<sup>th</sup> 1831 from Davenport to Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego, and some islands in the Pacific. His observations during this long journey, particularly on the Galapagos Islands, constituted the seeds that would lead to the publication in 1859 of his fundamental work "*On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*", which sold out on the first day. In 1871 he published "*The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex*", in which he presented his arguments in favour of the notion that human beings appeared on this planet owing to similar processes as the rest of species. A year later, in 1872, his third great work, "*The Expression of the Emotions in Man*

*and Animals*", saw the light. It is an essential landmark in understanding that evolution affects not only physical but also behavioural traits, with the consequent implications for behavioural sciences. Charles Robert Darwin died on April 19<sup>th</sup> 1882 at his Down residence, and is buried in Westminster Abbey.



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Any Darwin a les Illes Balears

"Darwin Year in the Balearic Islands"



Darwin

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# Darwin

The year 2009 has internationally been declared “Darwin Year” in commemoration of the bicentennial of the birth of this distinguished scientist and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of his seminal work on the origin of species.

The relevance of this anniversary, celebrated across the world, lies, on the one hand, in the direct repercussions of Darwinian and Neo-Darwinian theories on life sciences and, on the other hand, in the incorporation of multiple aspects of evolutionism into diverse fields of knowledge, such as the disciplines known as social sciences and humanities. The evolutionary ideas put forward by Darwin were integrated into numerous fields of knowledge, giving rise to new scientific and professional disciplines, reorienting the focus of others, facilitating the appearance of new explanatory models, and stimulating a disciplinary convergence in studies of the reality we inhabit. In addition, the social dissemination of evolutionary postulates, which have not always been correctly interpreted, caused an unprecedented impact on so-called “popular knowledge”, radically altering our conception

of the universe around us and deeply influencing the way we understand life.

Given all the above, with the participation of *Palma City Council* and other collaborating bodies and institutions, the *University of the Balearic Islands* and *Obra Social de “SA NOSTRA”* have been keen to join the numerous initiatives promoted by the international community. A programme of activities, with a clear multidisciplinary focus, has been organized that offers the citizens of the Balearics the opportunity to actively engage in Darwin’s legacy to humanity.

The *History of Health*, *History of Education*, and *Human Evolution and Cognition research groups*, together with the *Departments of Biology*, *Fundamental Biology*, and *Earth Sciences*, have put together a project that includes a series of activities to be conducted throughout the year. These activities are designed to involve different sectors of the islands’ population, with special attention to dissemination activities that have broad social coverage and those involving the participation of different educational strata, levels, and bodies.

## Committee of Honour:

Mr Francesc Antich Oliver,  
*President of the Government of the Balearic Islands.*  
Ms Francina Armengol Socias,  
*President of the Consell de Mallorca.*  
Mrs Montserrat Casas Ametller, *Vice Chancellor of the University of the Balearic Islands.*  
Ms Aina Calvo Sastre, *Mayor of Palma.*  
Mr Albert Moragues Gomila,  
*Balearic Councillor of the Presidential Department.*  
Mr Carles Manera Erbina,  
*Balearic Councillor for the Economy, Treasury and Innovation.*  
Mrs Bàrbara Galmés Chicón,  
*Balearic Councillor for Education and Cultural Affairs.*  
Mrs Joana Lluïsa Mascaró,  
*Balearic Councillor for Culture and Heritage.*  
Mr Felicià Fuster Jaume,  
*Chairman of the UIB’s Social Committee.*  
Mr. Fernando Alzamora Carbonell,  
*Chairman of “SA NOSTRA” Savings Bank.*

## Organizer Staff:

Dr. Camilo José Cela-Conde  
Dr. Antoni Miralles  
Dr. Eduard Petitpierre  
Dr. Bernat Sureda

## Coordinating Committee:

Dr. Joan March,  
from the *History of Health Research Group.*  
Dr. Guillem Xavier Pons,  
from the *Department of Earth Sciences.*  
Dr. Misericòrdia Ramón,  
from the *Human Genetics Group.*  
Dr. Jaume Rosselló,  
from the *Human Evolution and Cognition Group.*  
Dr. Bernat Sureda,  
from the *History of Education Group.*

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## General Programme of Activities

A programme of popular scientific conferences for education centres and municipalities in the Balearic Islands, some of which will also be given as part of different programmes offered by the *University for the Third Age* (UOM).

The presentation of Dr. Pascual Comín del Río’s book “*Darwin, una evolució extraordinària*”, published by *Pearson Educació* at “*SA NOSTRA*” *Cultural Centre* (No. 12 Carrer de la Concepció) February 4<sup>th</sup>.

The travelling exhibition “*Darwin Year in the Balearic Islands*”, which will open on the campus of the UIB on February 12<sup>th</sup> and then move to different municipalities in the Balearics.

A street in Palma will be named *Charles R. Darwin* by *Palma City Council* on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

The presentation of the “*Darwin Award*” for the best educational initiatives on the subject of Darwin and evolution conducted in the region’s non-university education centres.

A series of conferences and round tables entitled “*Darwin at the UIB*” of a multidisciplinary nature, aimed at students from the *University of the Balearic Islands*. Students attending will be awarded free-choice credits.

A series of specialist conferences entitled “*Darwin in the Balearic Islands I*”, given by prestigious scientists at the *University of the Balearic Islands* and “*SA NOSTRA*” *Cultural Centre* (No. 12 Carrer de la Concepció).

A series of film forums on Darwin and evolutionism to be held at *Municipal Theatre* (Passeig Mallorca, 9), offered by *Palma City Council* (march-april) and at “*SA NOSTRA*” *Cultural Centre* (No. 12 Carrer de la Concepció) (october).

A series of conferences entitled “*Darwin in the Balearic Islands II*”, given by internationally renowned scientists, in collaboration with the *Institut d’Estudis Catalans*.

The *International Symposium on Islands and Evolution*, held at the *Museu de Menorca*, Maó (Minorca), between September 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 2009.

The international scientific congress: “*150 Years After Darwin: From Molecular Evolution to Language*”, organized by the IFISC (*Institut de Física Interdisciplinària i Sistemes Complexos*), UIB-CSIC, and MPI-PKS (*Max-Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems, Dresden*). UIB Campus, November 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> 2009.