



The Duques de Soria Foundation promotes cultural connections between Spain and Belgium with its VI Duke of Soria Award for Hispanism

- The Duques de Soria Foundation has awarded its biennial award to the thesis prepared by Nele Van Den Driessche, from the University of Ghent, on "*The construction with 'es que' in the Madrid youth language: functional, formal and sociolinguistic study*", which has stood out for its significant contribution to the field of Hispanism.
- The finalists for the prize, students from the seven Belgian universities teaching Hispanic linguistics and literature, explored topics ranging from classical literature to contemporary sociolinguistic issues.
- Several academics attended the award ceremony today, which recognises the relevance of research that promotes knowledge and recognition of Hispanic culture.

Brussels (Belgium), 24th February 2024 - The Duke of Soria, His Excellency Mr. Carlos Zurita, and the Spanish Ambassador in Brussels, His Excellency Mr. Alberto Antón Cortés, presided today at the University Foundation (Universitaire Stichting/Fondation Universitaire) in Brussels (Belgium), the award ceremony of the [6th edition of the Duques de Soria Prize for Hispanism](#), a biennial award promoted by the [Fundación Duques de Soria](#).

The winner of this edition was the thesis prepared by Nele Van Den Driessche, from the University of Ghent, on "*The construction with 'es que' in the Madrid youth language: functional, formal and sociolinguistic study*", which has stood out for its significant contribution to the field of Hispanism.

The Award, which is endowed with 5,000 euros, aims to **promote and encourage academic research in the field of Hispanic linguistics and literature at Belgian universities**. This year, works from the seven Belgium universities that offer the master's degree in "Taal-en Letterkunde: Spaans / Langues et littératures: Espagnol" competed for the award.

The **jury** of this sixth edition, chaired by Pedro Álvarez de Miranda, an academic from the Royal Spanish Academy, included distinguished members such as M^a Antonia Martín Zorraquino (Doctor in Romance Philology and Emeritus Professor at the University of Zaragoza), José Luis Cifuentes (Professor of Spanish Language at the University of Alicante), Rosa M^a Espinosa (Doctor in Hispanic Philology and former professor at the University of Valladolid), and M^a José Rodríguez Espiñeira (Professor of Spanish Language at the University of Santiago de Compostela), who contributed with their extensive experience and knowledge in the evaluation



of the theses. The event's **keynote lecture** was given by the jury president, who offered a very interesting perspective on Spanish toponymy in Flanders, highlighting the cultural and linguistic richness that Spain has historically shared with this region.

Several academics attended the award ceremony today, which recognises the relevance of research that promotes knowledge and appreciation of Hispanic culture. Among them were **professors from Belgian universities who made brief interventions on the progress of Hispanism in their respective institutions**, such as Professor Beatriz Calvo Martín from the Free University of Brussels (ULB), Professor Bert Cornillie from the Catholic University of Leuven (KULeuven), Professor Bárbara De Cock from the Catholic University of Leuven (KULeuven), Professor Marlies Jansegers from the University of Ghent, Professor Kristine Vanden Berghe from the University of Liège, and Professor An Vande Castele from the Free University of Brussels (VUB).

The **Prize finalists** also attended the ceremony, where they received recognition for their contributions on a variety of topics, from literary analysis to sociolinguistic studies. These works include:

- **Catholic University of Leuven (KULeuven):** Isabelle Maes with "After the city is taken. The absolute clause in the translated Aeneid (1427-1428) by Enrique de Villena"
- **Catholic University of Louvain (UCLouvain):** Stephanie Pecher with "The discursive construction of human rights violations. The Chilean social protests of 2019".
- **Free University of Brussels (ULB):** Mar Valls Fuster with "Analysis and comparison of the adaptations of the classic El sombrero de tres picos by Pedro Antonio de Alarcón carried out by A. González and by A. del Rio Malo".
- **Free University of Brussels (VUB):** Anastasija Jagafarova with "Analysis of conceptual metaphors in press articles on the crisis in Venezuela".

In the words of **Rafael Benjumea, president of the Fundación Duques de Soria**, *"Supporting the promotion and dissemination of Hispanic culture on a global scale and the preservation of Spanish-speaking cultural heritage is one of the fundamental purposes of the Fundación Duques de Soria. We are delighted to be able to continue contributing with our award to strengthen the strong cultural ties between Spain and Belgium and to encourage study and research in the field of Hispanism in the universities of this country"*.

Furthermore, in line with this promotion of dialogue and the cultural link between both countries, the Duke of Soria and Rafael Benjumea, as honorary president and president of the Board of Trustees of the Duques de Soria Foundation respectively, have also participated this morning in the delivery, also at the Brussels University Foundation, of the Carlos V Awards for the best Spanish students of the FDS Lectureship of the two previous courses organized by the

University of Ghent. A visit is also planned today to the headquarters of the Cervantes Institute in Brussels.

At these events, the Duques de Soria foundation has also been represented by its vice president (Jaime Olmedo), its general secretary (José María Rodríguez-Ponga) and its deputy general secretary (Reyes Velasco).

-THE END-

About the Fundación Duques de Soria (FDS)

The [Fundación Duques de Soria](#) (FDS) is a non-profit cultural institution aimed at enhancing the cultural and scientific richness of the hispanic world and the development of Soria as a cultural beacon. The FDS promotes initiatives across various fields of knowledge, including the organization of forums for the study and reflection on the Spanish language and Hispanic culture, support for the restoration, preservation and development of cultural heritage, and backing university research initiatives.

Among the most noteworthy activities of the FDS is its support for international Hispanism through the Permanent Observatory of Hispanism (OPH), fostering educational programs and scholarships that encourage academic and cultural exchange.

Additionally, the FDS focuses on preserving the Spanish language and culture, extending its impact beyond academia to the global community. Its efforts in Soria as a cultural hub underline its role as a bridge between cultures, promoting intercultural dialogue through education, research, and culture.

For more information:

Diana Cortecero Esquivel (Harmon Communication Agency)

dcortecero@harmon.es

+34 610 422 590