



ASPEN
INSTITUTE
ESPAÑA

Fundación Aspen Institute España.
Calle Princesa 18
28008 Madrid
Tel.: 91 758 37 57
mail@aspeninstitute.es



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5 Five years
Aspen Institute España





The history of The Aspen Institute

Wolfgang Goethe
1749-1832

The bicentennial celebration of the birth of Wolfgang Goethe in 1949 provided an excuse to bring together a group of prominent intellectuals from all over the world in Aspen, Colorado, searching for a way out of the profound crisis which affected the West following the two World Wars. Among others, this group included Albert Schweitzer, Thornton Wilder, Arthur Rubinstein, and José Ortega y Gasset.



A. Schweitzer T. Wilder A. Rubinstein J. Ortega y Gasset

The challenge of finding a path for a disoriented civilization, addressed with the pragmatic optimism so characteristic of the North American Enlightenment tradition, gave way one year later to the creation of the The Aspen Institute. Over the years, The Aspen Institute has grown and consolidated itself as an international reference forum for debate. During this time, its brand and method have spread to other societies around the globe which have recognized the added value of a model of dialogue based on the values which define an open society.

Since 1950

the Institute has carried out its mission through four major types of activities: seminars, conferences, public policy programs and leadership programs.

The Aspen model has evolved to such an extent that its initiatives range from the classic Aspen Seminar, based on classic and contemporary texts reflecting the breadth of human civilization, to a wide variety of public policy programs in education, energy, technology, environment, healthcare and economics, among many others.



THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

Over time, different countries have seen the value of the Aspen model and have created institutions within their societies with the same objectives.

In addition to Spain, The Aspen Institute is currently present in ten other countries. These organizations collaborate with each other and are part of the Aspen Global Network:

United States
France
Germany
India
Italy
Japan
Czech Republic
Romania
Mexico
Ukraine
Spain

The Aspen Institute
in the world

Ortega y Gasset and The Aspen Institute

In 1949, at the invitation of Chancellor Hutchins of the University of Chicago, a sponsor of what later became the “Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies”, Ortega y Gasset agreed to visit the United States.

In his visit to Aspen, Ortega participated in the Goethe Bicentennial event. The philosopher, second only in reputation to Albert Schweitzer, who delivered the keynote address, joined luminaries like Thornton Wilder, Arthur Rubenstein, Giuseppe Antonio Borgese, and many others.

In his Aspen lecture, Ortega y Gasset reflected on the drama of life, which he defined as the “struggle to achieve being that which one has to be”. Ortega y Gasset reminded the audience that too often we avoid ourselves because we fill our lives with “the system of our occupations, --the serious ones as well as the frivolous”.

Upon his return from Aspen to Madrid, Ortega y Gasset wrote a long letter to the gathering’s organizer, Walter Paepcke. In that letter, which turned to be a very influential text for the history of The Aspen Institute, Ortega y Gasset expressed his delight that Paepcke was considering establishing something akin to a university at Aspen.

“As I give myself wholeheartedly to whatever I am doing—it is the only way to do things well and be oneself completely—I abandoned myself entirely to Aspen during those two

wonderful weeks I spent there; that is, I absorbed that atmosphere to the very marrow of my bones. Thus, many things came to me and cause me to react to them. Hence, one day there appeared to me, suddenly and all together, along with many other subjects, the ideas I shall now succinctly expound.” “I see in your initiatives a magnificent possibility for the creation of something completely new, much needed in America today.” Something with a “clear, definite, attractive pedagogical, thus human, style, endowed with great allure for the best American conscience.”

The institute, formally known as The Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, started its activity in 1950 with Ortega y Gasset as Trustee. His vision had been realized, not just in the name, but in the didactic and educational aims of the Institute.



“Struggle to achieve being that which one has to be”.

JOSÉ ORTEGA Y GASSET

A group of approximately 15 people are seated around a large, U-shaped table in a grand library. The room is filled with tall wooden bookshelves reaching up to the ceiling, packed with books. The lighting is warm and focused on the table. The people are dressed in business casual attire, and some are looking at papers or laptops. The atmosphere appears to be one of a formal yet open discussion.

Aspen Institute España

Aspen Institute España was established in 2010 as an independent nonprofit foundation aimed at fostering both value-based leadership as well as thoughtful reflection over the principles that define an open society. It provides a neutral and balanced forum in which committed members of society debate over issues of general interest. Its activities include seminars, conferences, public policy programs and leadership programs.



To promote an exchange of opinions and perspectives which may give rise to the ideals and principles which may inspire enlightened leadership in civil society.

Vision, mission and methodology

The Aspen Institute España's vision is to contribute to the strengthening of civil society by fostering a culture of dialogue and creating a network of people willing to promote debate as the backbone of civil society.

The mission of Aspen Institute España is to promote leadership based on the values which define an open society, and to provide a neutral and balanced forum in which to debate over critical issues of general interest. This mission is carried out through conferences and public policy and leadership seminars.

Aspen Institute España uses the Aspen method of text-based dialogue. Sessions are led by expert moderators and are held in small groups to promote an exchange of ideas and opinions amongst people of different backgrounds. Seminars are held under the Chatham House Rule. The goal of these dialogues is not so much to reach conclusions or find solutions to the issues discussed, but to promote an exchange of opinions and perspectives which may give rise to the ideals and principles which may inspire enlightened leadership in civil society.



Board of Trustees

Aspen Institute España adopts the goals of the The Aspen Institute in the US, adjusting them to the Spanish context. Since its establishment it draws on the support of civil society leaders and corporations which share its objectives and generously contribute to the work of the institute. Dr. Javier Solana is the President of the Board of Trustees of Aspen Institute España.

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Programs

Aspen Institute España seminars help leaders reflect on ideas and values to change society.

Through text-based dialogue with expert moderators and accomplished peers, seminar participants expand their knowledge, refine their tools of intellectual analysis, test the wellsprings of their convictions, and enhance their capacities to think more creatively in solving the critical problems facing society.



Aspen España Seminar

The “Transatlantic Values at a Crossroads: Contemporary Leadership Challenges” seminar is moderated by Todd Breyfogle and organized in collaboration with The Aspen Institute (US).

From the reading of classic texts of political philosophy and western literature, reflecting the depth of human civilization, participants analyze and discuss the core values of an open society and the tensions inherent to the definition of what constitutes such society. These seminars bring together a group of distinguished participants from different sectors of civil society, providing a neutral forum for reflection and debate over the present and future state of democratic societies, analyzed from the perspective of timeless human values.



Socrates Seminars

Following the lines set forth by The Aspen Institute in the US, the Socrates España Seminars provide a forum for emerging leaders (ages 28-45) from various professions to convene and reflect over contemporary issues through expert-moderated dialogues. These seminars enable participants to explore current, pressing leadership challenges. Discussions are built around contemporary texts, and are led by expert moderators who engage and encourage participants to share their views.

At the core of these Seminars is a remarkable group of emerging and recognized leaders including entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, representatives from the public sector and journalists, among others.

Seminar 2016

“Changing How We Change: Five Trends Shaping the Future of Technology, Education, Business, and Society” Moderated by William Powers

Seminars 2015

“How Technology is Changing Us: How We Think, Relate, and Lead” Moderated by Stephen Balkam

“The Moral Limits of Markets: Can Markets Do Social Good?” Moderated by Clive Crook

Seminars 2014

“Heroes and Villains: Leading Business, Politics, and Civil Society in the 21st Century” Moderated by Leigh Hafrey

“Privacy and Profits in a Data-Driven Marketplace” Moderated by William Powers

Seminars 2013

“The Deciders: How Google and Facebook Are Shaping the Future of Privacy and Free Speech” Moderated by Jeffrey Rosen

“The New Global Middle Class: How Will it Transform Innovation, Trade, and Markets” Moderated by Jack Goldstone

Seminars 2012

“From Facebook to Body Scanners: The Future of Privacy and Technology in the Age of Google” Moderated by Jeffrey Rosen

“Capitalism at a Crossroads” Moderated by Clive Crook

Political Leadership Program

This initiative was launched during the academic year 2012-2013, and is now in its fourth edition. The purpose of the Political Leadership Program is to serve as a space for debate between young Spanish politicians and policy-minded people dedicated to public service and who have a demonstrated leadership potential. It aims at providing a well-structured space for discussion, where knowledge and reflection over the issues addressed may find a common ground, and where personal ties may be established among participants.

The program is co-directed by Juan Moscoso del Prado (Socialist Party) and Guillermo Mariscal Anaya (Popular Party), and is structured around ten sessions throughout the year, in the form of open discussions and brief presentations from leading experts on relevant issues in the context of politics and public service. Sessions focus on three main areas of discussion: geopolitics, leadership and ethics and international economics.

Almost 40 speakers have participated in our sessions throughout the three editions of the Political Leadership Program, including Javier Solana, President of Aspen Institute España; Hugo Dixon, founder and editor of Reuters Breakingviews; Robin Wright, Journalist, Author and Foreign Policy Analyst; Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary General of SEGIB; Pablo García-Berdoy, Spanish Ambassador to Germany; Robin Niblett, director of the Chatham House; Óscar Fanjul, Vice-president of Omega Capital and member of the Trust Board of Aspen Institute España.



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Aspen Mediterranean Initiative (AMI)

Events taking place in the countries along the southern shore of the Mediterranean and the Middle East marked the beginning of a process of change in the region, the results of which are yet to be defined. Aspen Institute España had an opportunity to join in on efforts to help turn this process of change into a peaceful and orderly transition, pursuant to the consolidation of an open, stable, democratic society. The contribution was three-fold:

- **Young Leaders Seminars**
- **Global Networking**
- **Regional Integration**

This was a joint initiative between Aspen US, Aspen Italia and Aspen Institute España which individually or jointly designed activities in these three areas, coordinating goals and taking advantage of the synergies generated.

Seminar 2014

“Entrepreneurship strategies for the Mediterranean Region”. Moderated by Randall Kempner, Executive Director of ANDE (Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs)

Seminar 2013

“Social Innovation: Entrepreneurship and Responsible Leadership”. Moderated by Thomas Maak, Professor of Leadership at ESADE Business School and Gary Stewart, Director of Wayra

Seminars 2012

“Leadership and Education in times of transition”. Moderated by Alejandro Beltrán de Miguel, Managing Partner in Spain & Portugal, McKinsey & Company and Pablo Vázquez, President, INECO

“Global Networks & Business Strategies for Mediterranean Integration”. Moderated by José M. de Areilza, Secretary General, Aspen Institute España, Professor of Law and Luis Vives, Ph.D. Director of International Custom Programs, Professor of Strategy and General Management



**A network to promote
change in the region**

Cervantes Program

The new Cervantes Program aims to reflect and discuss the challenges of leadership in the XXI century for the Spanish speaking world, stimulating the debate over relevant issues for the region through contemporary texts. This program –co organized with CAF, Latin American Development Bank and the cooperation of The Aspen Institute Mexico and the Aspen Latinos & Society Program– will bring together 30 leaders from Latin American countries, The United States and Spain.

2016 Seminar

“How do countries create political, social, and economic consensus?” – Moderated by Michael Reid, Latin American columnist and writer-at-large, The Economist, and Enrique Mora, Director General of Foreign Policy and Security, Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs





Citizen Lawyers Forum

The goal of this forum was to discuss the role of lawyers as social leaders and the challenges they face as agents of social change. This two-year-long program reflected on the role of citizen lawyers from a global perspective, not only as Law professionals but also as distinguished community members with the skills and privileged positions to contribute to the common good.

Seminar 2014

"A Dialogue on Transatlantic Values: Lawyers and Public Service",
ESADE Madrid

Seminar 2013

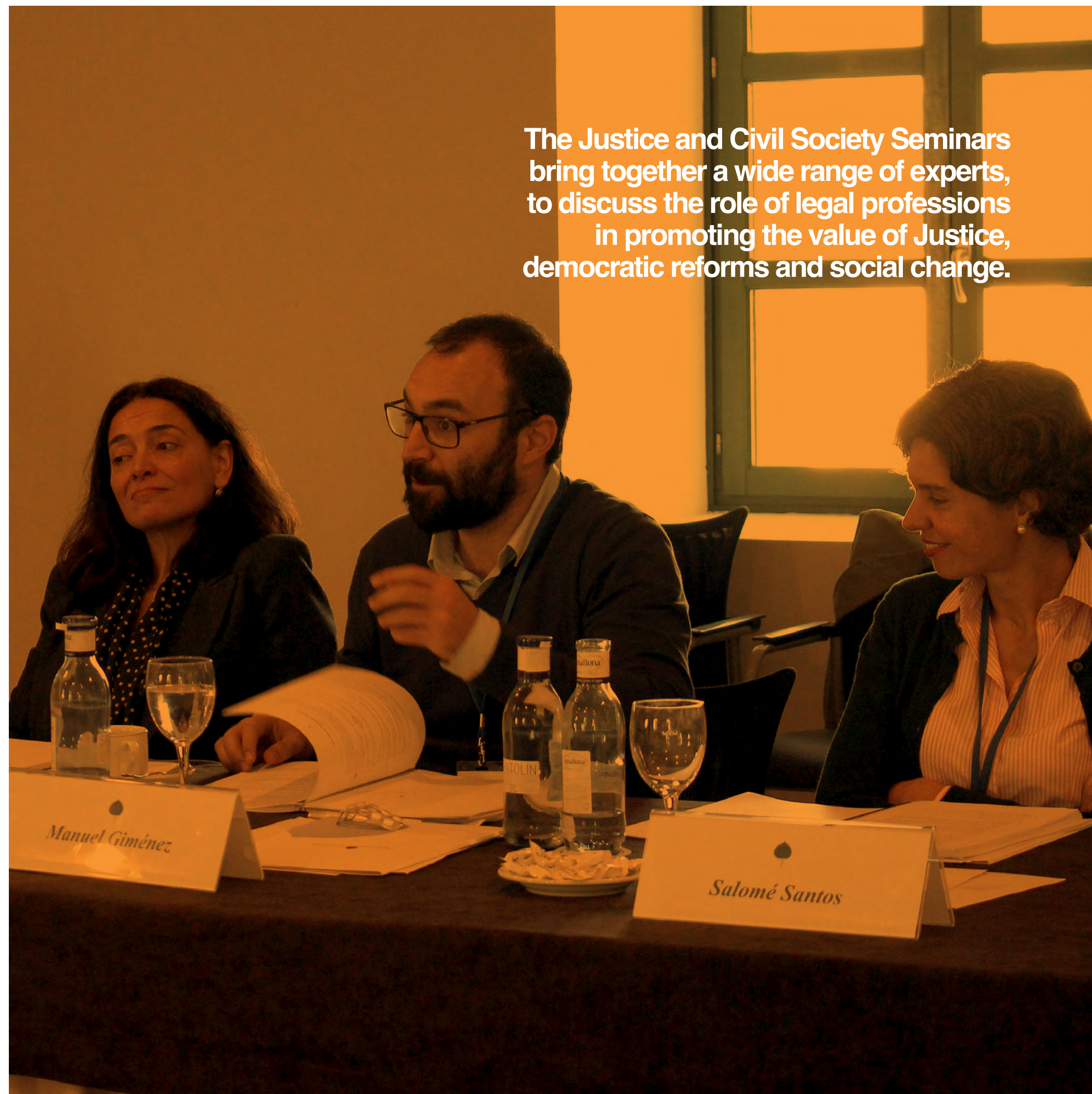
"Legal professionals in evolving global, political and financial contexts",
ESADE Madrid

Justice and Civil Society Seminar

The Justice and Civil Society Seminar is a new initiative that brings into the Spanish context the “Citizen Lawyers Forum” seminar, organized by Aspen Institute España in collaboration with ESADE Law School, in 2013 and 2014.

The “Justice and Civil Society” seminar, in turn, is connected with the “Justice and Society” seminar of The Aspen Institute USA program, which for four decades has brought together a wide range of legal experts to discuss the value of Justice and the relationship between public policies and Fundamental Rights. Along the same lines, but focusing on the Spanish reality, the program “Justice and Civil Society” operates as an open dialogue forum among prestigious representatives of the various legal professions existing in Spain (not exclusively practicing lawyers in their different realities), including judges, lawyers, notaries, government officials, NGOs representatives and academics.

The Justice and Civil Society Seminars bring together a wide range of experts, to discuss the role of legal professions in promoting the value of Justice, democratic reforms and social change.





Program on the Transformations of Spain

Taking as the guiding thread the desire to turn Spain into a country of innovators.

The goal of this program is to provide a forum for a group of Spanish leaders from different fields of expertise to reflect and debate over relevant current affairs within the economic, political and social context of Spain today. Taking as the guiding thread the desire to turn Spain into a country of innovators, the purpose of these seminars is to foster dialogue among members of civil society over the political, technological and knowledge society challenges faced by Spain today, as well as over potential reforms and future scenarios.

Seminar 2014

Seminar Aspen – ESADE: “Perspectives on Europe; A conversation about the present and the transformation of Spain”. ESADECRAPOLIS, Sant Cugat del Vallès, Barcelona

Seminar 2013

Seminar Aspen – Carlos III: “A Conversation on Spain: Current State and Future Transformation”. Campus BBVA La Moraleja, Madrid



Education Forum: “A conversation about the present and future of education”

César Bona



This program, coordinated by Professor Juan Urrutia and co-organized with Fundación Telefónica, promotes debates and initiatives for change among representatives of the various sectors of the educational community. With a focus on the current state and the future of education in our country we bring together groups of 50 people twice a year for moderated debates on topics such as the role of teachers, technology and education or immigration. This seminar also aims to serve as a forum to share the best practices that are being developed to enhance our education system and to respond to the training needs of today's world.

Seminars 2015

Seminar Aspen / Fundación Telefónica:

Edificio Telefónica, Madrid

- “The consolidation of the culture of evaluation in the educational system”
- “Educational Innovation in the Digital Society”

Seminar Aspen / Fundación Telefónica / Ashoka:

Campus BBVA de La Moraleja, Madrid

- “Transformation in the classroom and school management”
- “Public policies and social change”

Aspen Ideas @ Lunch



The Aspen Ideas @ Lunch Program is a forum for discussion on current issues for emerging leaders from different sectors of society, many of whom have already participated in Aspen Institute España programs. On the occasion of the publication of books or important events, it brings together a group of 30 people for a lunch discussion with experts on topics such as geopolitics, new technologies, leadership, energy, and international economy.

“Towards a Spain of consensus: national politics after 20-D”, Pablo Simón and Ignacio Urquizu

“Reflections on Latin America”,
Guillermo Fernández de Soto

“Europe’s Global Challenges”,
Gideon Rachman

“Markets, Generosity and Justice”,
Todd Breyfogle

ASPEN IDEAS FESTIVAL

Public Lectures and Debates

Aspen Institute España organizes conferences with distinguished national and international speakers on global issues of general interests such as economics, environment, energy, telecommunications and education, among others.

“A Global Test for U.S. Power”, Gideon Rachman, Madrid

“The transformation of the EU: the new inter-institutional balance”, Julian Priestley Nereo Peñalver, Miguel Poiars Maduro, and Íñigo Méndez de Vigo

“Ortega y Gasset and the creation of institutes for the humanities”, Todd Breyfogle, Madrid

“What money can't buy: The moral limits of the markets”, Michael Sandel



A photograph of a man with a beard and a woman smiling at each other. The man is wearing a dark suit and a name tag that says "Aspen Fellows". The woman is wearing a dark top. The background is blurred, suggesting a social event.

Alumni Network

Aspen Institute España selects each year from its network of Alumni those who have excelled during their participation at the seminars to become candidates for the Aspen España Fellows Program.

The Aspen Institute Alumni Network is an engaged community of people actively participating in our educational and policy studies events, providing important input for our activities, and helping sustain our mission to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues.

The creation of the Aspen Institute España Fellows Program joins the network of committed Aspen alumni with the mission of Aspen in Spain and offers its members the opportunity to join the international network of Aspen. Aspen Fellows may be trained to become moderators of Aspen seminars and have access to other programs and seminars of The Aspen Institute. Thus, their role as representatives and ambassadors of Aspen España is encouraged.

Aspen Institute España selects each year from its network of Alumni those who have excelled during their participation at the seminars to become candidates for the Fellows Program.

Alumni Testimonials

“The Aspen Institute Seminar was a life-time gift. It helped me learn how to pace my life to have time to listen and think”.

Laura Padrón
/Head of the Inherited Cardiac Diseases and Heart Failure research group at the Investigación Puerta de Hierro Foundation



Laura Padrón
/Head of the Inherited Cardiac Diseases and Heart Failure research group at the Investigación Puerta de Hierro Foundation

The Aspen Institute Seminar was a life-time gift. It helped me learn how to pace my life to have time to listen and think: to listen better paying more attention to the people around me; to think about important values to implement in my daily life. The moderator of the seminar had a lot to do with this learning experience, pushing us further and deeper into the texts.

@LauraPadrón



Daniel Romero-Abreu,
/President & Founder of Thinking Heads

“Participating in the seminars of Aspen Institute España was for me a formidable and transformative experience. Aspen offers a meeting point for people from different professions and national origins. And all of them are there to discuss and reflect without sectarianism, with an unusual deep understanding about the issues of the world we live in”.

@DanielRomeroAbreu



Crista Ruiz de Arana
/Clinical Psychologist

“The opportunity to reflect along with other people from different countries and different fields of work that Aspen provides is a unique experience. It marked me as a professional and as a person. It has allowed me stop and think about key issues of humanity, something I find more and more difficult in everyday life. It's amazing to rediscover the power of dialogue, when an appropriate framework is created. Aspen Institute España provides, in his seminars, such environment!”.

@CristinaRuizdeArana



Raphael Minder
/Spain and Portugal correspondent for the International New York Times

The Ronda seminar is one of these rare opportunities I have had to think outside the box, leaving behind my usual pursuits and return instead to the kind of thinking and reading that I had not done in two decades, since leaving university and the joys of studying for the sake of learning and enriching one's mind. It was wonderfully moderated and filled with impressive participants, as I discovered there and since. You don't believe me? Well, the young Socialist lawmaker who joined my seminar has since not only become leader of his party but could in fact be Spain's next head of government.

@RaphaelMinder

“One thing that I learned in the seminar is that good insights can come from where you least expect, and that there is tremendous value in bringing forth different perspectives to the table”.

Noelia Amoedo
/CEO Mediasmart



Manuel Torres,
/Managing Director, Strategy,
Health & Public Service, ACCENTURE

Attending the Aspen Executive Seminar in Ronda was a privilege, a unique opportunity to stop, read, think, perform and debate over with intelligent people fundamental issues related to our current society and ourselves; a deep breath of fresh air generously provided for us by the great Aspen España team in a superb setting.

@ManuelTorres



Noelia Amoedo
/CEO Mediasmart

My experience at the Aspen Executive Seminar in Ronda was incredibly enlightening and the moderator had much to do with it. The selection of readings we debated about was in itself thought provoking, and the moderator often had insights that made us think beyond what was immediately obvious and was excellent at conducting the discussions in a very fluid way. One thing that I learned in the seminar is that good insights can come from where you least expect, and that there is tremendous value in bringing forth different perspectives to the table. This is something that I have tried to keep present in my everyday life, both personally and professionally.

@NoeliaAmoedo



María Sicilia
/Director of Strategy, Enagás

Aspen España provides a unique atmosphere of collective exploration and enjoyment to better understand the key challenges in our increasingly complex world. I took away from my participation at the Aspen Seminar a number of questions about the real impact of my professional and life journeys.

@MaríaSicilia



Juan Moscoso del Prado
/Member the Economic and Social Council
of Spain (CES)

Aspen Institute Spain has open a challenging space of thinking and policy making that even after being in politics for a long time I did not know it existed. I believe that in times of crises sharing what we treasure as citizens of our democracies, that they are no so worn out as populists claim, and study and discuss using the texts of the best thinkers can really change things for the better.

@JuanMoscosodelPrado

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