



International Balzan Foundation

# The Balzan Prize

Prizes and Prizewinners

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# The International Balzan Foundation

The International Balzan Foundation was established in Lugano in 1956 thanks to the generosity of Lina Balzan, who had come into a considerable inheritance on the death of her father, Eugenio. She decided to use this wealth to honour his memory.

Eugenio Francesco Balzan was born in Badia Polesine, near Rovigo (Northern Italy), on 20 April 1874 into a family of landowners. He spent almost his entire working life at Milan's leading daily newspaper, *Corriere della Sera*. After joining the paper in 1897, he worked his way up from editorial assistant to news editor and special correspondent. In 1903 editor Luigi Albertini made him managing director of the paper's publishing house; he then became a partner and shareholder in the company. He was not only a resourceful manager but also a leading personality in Milan. In 1933 he left Italy due to ever-increasing opposition to what was left of an independent *Corriere*. He then moved to Switzerland, living in Zurich and Lugano. He engaged in charitable activities, supporting many worthy causes.

He officially returned to Italy in 1950. Eugenio Balzan died in Lugano, Switzerland, on 15 July 1953.

Today, the Balzan Foundation, international in character and scope, acts jointly through two Foundations: one under Italian jurisdiction and the other under Swiss jurisdiction.

In Milan, the *International E. Balzan Prize Foundation* "Prize" aims to promote, throughout the world, culture, science and the most meritorious initiatives in the cause of humanity, peace and fraternity among peoples, regardless of nationality, race or creed. This aim is attained through the annual awarding of prizes in two general academic categories: literature, the moral sciences and the arts; medicine and the physical, mathematical and natural sciences. Specific subjects for the Prizes are chosen on an annual basis.

Nominations for these prizes are received at the Foundation's request from the world's leading academic institutions. Candidates are selected by the *General Prize Committee*, composed of eminent European scholars and scientists. Prizewinners must allocate half of the Prize to research work, involving young researchers.

In 2021, awards will be given in the following subjects:

- Holocaust and Genocide Studies;
- Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East;
- Microbiome in Health and Disease;
- Gravitation: physical and astrophysical aspects.

At intervals of not less than three years, the Balzan Foundation also awards a prize for humanity, peace and fraternity among peoples.

In Zurich, the *International E. Balzan Prize Foundation* "Fund" manages Eugenio Balzan's estate so as to place at the disposal of the International E. Balzan Prize Foundation "Prize" the necessary financial means to realize its objectives.

# Balzan Prizewinners for Literature, Moral Sciences, and the Arts; for Physical, Mathematical and Natural Sciences, and Medicine

- 2020 Susan Trumbore (Germany/USA) *Earth System Dynamics*  
Jean-Marie Tarascon (France) *Environmental Challenges: Materials Science for Renewable Energy*  
Joan Martínez Alier (Spain) *Environmental Challenges: Responses from the Social Sciences and the Humanities*  
Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade (Brazil) *Human Rights*
- 2019 Luigi Ambrosio (Italy) *Theory of Partial Differential Equations*  
Jacques Aumont (France) *Film Studies*  
Michael Cook (USA/UK) *Islamic Studies*  
Research Group composed by Erika von Mutius, Klaus F. Rabe, Werner Seeger and Tobias Welte – The German Center for Lung Research DZL (Germany) *Pathophysiology of respiration: from basic sciences to the bedside*
- 2018 Eva Kondorosi (France/Hungary) *Chemical Ecology*  
Detlef Lohse (The Netherlands/Germany) *Fluid Dynamics*  
Jürgen Osterhammel (Germany) *Global History*  
Marilyn Strathern (UK) *Social Anthropology*
- 2017 Bina Agarwal (India/UK) *Gender Studies*  
Aleida and Jan Assmann (Germany) *Collective Memory*  
James P. Allison and Robert D. Schreiber (USA) *Immunological Approaches in Cancer Therapy*  
Michaël Gillon (Belgium) *The Sun's Planetary System and Exoplanets*
- 2016 Piero Boitani (Italy) *Comparative Literature*  
Federico Capasso (USA/Italy) *Applied Photonics*  
Reinhard Jahn (Germany) *Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience*  
Robert O. Keohane (USA) *International Relations: History and Theory*
- 2015 Hans Belting (Germany) *History of European Art (1300-1700)*  
Francis Halzen (USA/Belgium) *Astroparticle Physics*  
David Michael Karl (USA) *Oceanography*  
Joel Mokyr (USA/Israel) *Economic History*
- 2014 Ian Hacking (Canada) *Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind*  
Dennis Sullivan (USA) *Mathematics (pure and applied)*  
David Tilman (USA) *Basic and applied Plant Ecology*  
Mario Torelli (Italy) *Classical Archaeology*

- 2013 Alain Aspect (France) *Quantum Information Processing and Communication*  
 Manuel Castells (USA/Catalonia) *Sociology*  
 Pascale Cossart (France) *Infectious Diseases: basic and clinical aspects*  
 André Vauchez (France) *Medieval History*
- 2012 David Charles Baulcombe (UK) *Epigenetics*  
 Ronald M. Dworkin (USA) *Jurisprudence*  
 Kurt Lambeck (Australia/The Netherlands) *Solid Earth Sciences, with emphasis on interdisciplinary research*  
 Reinhard Strohm (UK/Germany) *Musicology*
- 2011 Bronislaw Baczko (Switzerland/Poland) *Enlightenment Studies*  
 Peter Robert Lamont Brown (USA/Ireland) *Ancient History (The Graeco-Roman World)*  
 Russell Scott Lande (UK/USA) *Theoretical Biology or Bioinformatics*  
 Joseph Ivor Silk (USA/UK) *The Early Universe*
- 2010 Manfred Brauneck (Germany) *The History of Theatre in All Its Aspects*  
 Carlo Ginzburg (Italy) *European History (1400-1700)*  
 Jacob Palis (Brazil) *Mathematics (pure and applied)*  
 Shinya Yamanaka (Japan) *Stem Cells: Biology and Potential Applications*
- 2009 Terence Cave (UK) *Literature since 1500*  
 Michael Grätzel (Switzerland/Germany) *The Science of New Materials*  
 Brenda Milner (Canada/UK) *Cognitive Neurosciences*  
 Paolo Rossi Monti (Italy) *History of Science*
- 2008 Wallace S. Broecker (USA) *The Science of Climate Change*  
 Maurizio Calvesi (Italy) *The Visual Arts since 1700*  
 Ian H. Frazer (Australia/UK) *Preventive Medicine*  
 Thomas Nagel (USA/Serbia) *Moral Philosophy*
- 2007 Rosalyn Higgins (UK) *International Law since 1945*  
 Sumio Iijima (Japan) *Nanoscience*  
 Michel Zink (France) *European Literature (1000-1500)*  
 Bruce Beutler (USA) and Jules Hoffmann (France/Luxembourg) *Innate Immunity*
- 2006 Ludwig Finscher (Germany) *History of Western Music since 1600*  
 Quentin Skinner (UK) *Political Thought; History and Theory*  
 Paolo de Bernardis (Italy) and Andrew Lange (USA) *Observational Astronomy and Astrophysics*  
 Elliot Meyerowitz (USA) and Christopher Somerville (USA/Canada) *Plant Molecular Genetics*

- 2005 Peter Hall (UK) *The Social and Cultural History of Cities since the Beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century*  
 Lothar Ledderose (Germany) *The History of the Art of Asia*  
 Peter and Rosemary Grant (USA/UK) *Population Biology*  
 Russell Hemley (USA) and Ho-kwang Mao (USA/China) *Mineral Physics*
- 2004 Pierre Deligne (USA/Belgium) *Mathematics*  
 Nikki Ragozin Keddie (USA) *The Islamic World from the End of the 19<sup>th</sup> to the End of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*  
 Michael Marmot (UK) *Epidemiology*  
 Colin Renfrew (UK) *Prehistoric Archaeology*
- 2003 Reinhard Genzel (Germany) *Infrared Astronomy*  
 Eric Hobsbawm (UK/Egypt) *European History since 1900*  
 Wen-Hsiung Li (USA/Taiwan) *Genetics and Evolution*  
 Serge Moscovici (France/Romania) *Social Psychology*
- 2002 Walter Jakob Gehring (Switzerland) *Developmental Biology*  
 Anthony Thomas Grafton (USA) *History of the Humanities*  
 Xavier Le Pichon (France/Vietnam) *Geology*  
 Dominique Schnapper (France) *Sociology*
- 2001 James Sloss Ackerman (USA) *History of Architecture*  
 Jean-Pierre Changeux (France) *Cognitive Neurosciences*  
 Marc Fumaroli (France) *Literary History and Criticism (post 1500)*  
 Claude Lorius (France) *Climatology*
- 2000 Ilkka Hanski (Finland) *Ecological Sciences*  
 Michel Mayor (Switzerland) *Instrumentation and Techniques in Astronomy and Astrophysics*  
 Michael Stolleis (Germany) *Legal History since 1500*  
 Martin Litchfield West (UK) *Classical Antiquity*
- 1999 Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza (USA/Italy) *The Science of Human Origins*  
 John Elliott (UK) *History, 1500-1800*  
 Mikhael Gromov (France/Russia) *Mathematics*  
 Paul Ricœur (France) *Philosophy*
- 1998 Harmon Craig (USA) *Geochemistry*  
 Robert McCredie May (UK/Australia) *Biodiversity*  
 Andrzej Walicki (USA/Poland) *The Cultural and Social History of the Slavonic World*

- 1997 Charles Coulston Gillispie (USA) *History and Philosophy of Science*  
 Thomas Wilson Meade (UK) *Epidemiology*  
 Stanley Jeyaraja Tambiah (USA/Sri Lanka) *Social Anthropology*
- 1996 Arno Borst (Germany) *History: Medieval Cultures*  
 Arnt Eliassen (Norway) *Meteorology*  
 Stanley Hoffmann (France/USA/Austria) *Political Science: Contemporary International Relations*
- 1995 Yves Bonnefoy (France) *Art History and Art Criticism*  
 Carlo M. Cipolla (Italy) *Economic History*  
 Alan J. Heeger (USA) *The Science of New Non-Biological Materials*
- 1994 **Norberto Bobbio (Italy) *Law and Political Science***  
 René Cousteaux (France) *Biology*  
 Fred Hoyle (UK)  
 and Martin Schwarzschild (USA/Germany) *Astrophysics*
- 1993 Wolfgang H. Berger (USA/Germany) *Palaeontology with Special Reference to Oceanography*  
 Lothar Gall (Germany) *History: Societies of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries*  
**Jean Leclant (France)**  
***Art and Archaeology of the Ancient World***
- 1992 Armand Borel (USA/Switzerland) *Mathematics*  
 Giovanni Macchia (Italy) *History and Criticism of Literature*  
 Ebrahim M. Samba (Gambia) *Preventive Medicine*
- 1991 György Ligeti (Austria/Hungary/Romania) *Music*  
 Vitorino Magalhães Godinho (Portugal) *History: The Emergence of Europe in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries*  
 John Maynard Smith (UK) *Genetics and Evolution*
- 1990 **Walter Burkert (Switzerland/Germany)**  
***The Study of the Ancient World***  
 James Freeman Gilbert (USA) *Geophysics*  
 Pierre Lalive d'Épinay (Switzerland) *Private International Law*
- 1989 **Emmanuel Lévinas (France/Lithuania) *Philosophy***  
 Leo Pardi (Italy) *Ethology*  
 Martin John Rees (UK) *High Energy Astrophysics*
- 1988 Shmuel Noah Eisenstadt (Israel/Poland) *Sociology*  
 René Etiemble (France) *Comparative Literature*  
 Michael Evenari (Israel/France)  
 and Otto Ludwig Lange (Germany) *Applied Botany*

- 1987 Jerome Seymour Bruner (USA) *Human Psychology*  
Richard W. Southern (UK) *Medieval History*  
Phillip V. Tobias (South Africa) *Physical Anthropology*
- 1986 Otto Neugebauer (USA/Austria) *History of Science*  
Roger Revelle (USA) *Oceanography/Climatology*  
Jean Rivero (France) *Basic Human Rights*
- 1985 Ernst H.J. Gombrich (UK/Austria) *History of Western Art*  
Jean-Pierre Serre (France) *Mathematics*
- 1984 Jan Hendrik Oort (The Netherlands) *Astrophysics*  
Jean Starobinski (Switzerland)  
*History and Criticism of Literature*  
Sewall Wright (USA) *Genetics*
- 1983 Francesco Gabrieli (Italy) *Oriental Studies*  
Ernst Mayr (USA/Germany) *Zoology*  
Edward Shils (USA) *Sociology*
- 1982 Jean-Baptiste Duroselle (France) *Social Sciences*  
Massimo Pallottino (Italy) *Studies of Antiquity*  
Kenneth Vivian Thimann (USA/UK)  
*Pure and Applied Botany*
- 1981 Josef Pieper (Germany) *Philosophy*  
Paul Reuter (France) *International Public Law*  
Dan Peter McKenzie, Drummond Hoyle Matthews  
and Frederick John Vine (UK) *Geology and Geophysics*
- 1980 Enrico Bombieri (USA/Italy) *Mathematics*  
Jorge Luis Borges (Argentina)  
*Philology, Linguistics and Literary Criticism*  
Hassan Fathy (Egypt) *Architecture and Urban Planning*
- 1979 Torbjörn Caspersson (Sweden) *Biology*  
Jean Piaget (Switzerland) *Social and Political Science*  
Ernest Labrousse (France) and Giuseppe Tucci (Italy) *History*
- 1962 Paul Hindemith (Germany) *Music*  
Andrej Kolmogorov (Russia) *Mathematics*  
Samuel Eliot Morison (USA) *History*  
Karl von Frisch (Austria) *Biology*



## Balzan Prizewinners for Humanity, Peace and Fraternity Among Peoples

- 2018 *Terre des hommes* Foundation - *Helping Children Worldwide*, SIMSONE project: an innovative training model to save thousands of infants and mothers during childbirth in the rural areas of Mali
- 2014 Association *Vivre en Famille*, the creation of a maternity unit and revitalisation of a school in Ibambi, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- 2007 Karlheinz Böhm (Austria/Germany), Organisation *Menschen für Menschen*, Ethiopia Aid
- 2004 Community of Sant'Egidio, DREAM programme combating AIDS and malnutrition in Mozambique
- 2000 Abdul Sattar Edhi (Pakistan/India)
- 1996 International Committee of the Red Cross, endeavours in the hospitals of Wazir Akbar Khan and Karte Seh in Kabul, Afghanistan
- 1991 Abbé Pierre (France)
- 1986 United Nations Refugee Agency
- 1978 Mother Teresa of Calcutta (India/Macedonia)
- 1962 H.H. John XXIII (Vatican City/Italy)
- 1961 Nobel Foundation

## International E. Balzan Prize Foundation “Prize”

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