International Balzan Foundation

The Balzan Prize

Prizes and Prizewinners
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, preferably involving young researchers.

In 2020, awards will be given in the following subjects:
- Earth System Dynamics;
- Environmental Challenges: Materials Science for Renewable Energy;
- Environmental Challenges: Responses from the Social Sciences and the Humanities;
- Human Rights.

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

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
Michael 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 16th 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
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name and Nationality</th>
<th>Field</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Pierre Deligne (USA/Belgium)</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nikki Ragozin Keddie (USA)</td>
<td>The Islamic World from the End of the 19th to the End of the 20th Century</td>
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<td>Michael Marmot (UK)</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
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<td>Colin Renfrew (UK)</td>
<td>Prehistoric Archaeology</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Reinhard Genzel (Germany)</td>
<td>Infrared Astronomy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Eric Hobsbawm (UK/Egypt)</td>
<td>European History since 1900</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wen-Hsiung Li (USA/Taiwan)</td>
<td>Genetics and Evolution</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Serge Moscovici (France/Romania)</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Walter Jakob Gehring (Switzerland)</td>
<td>Developmental Biology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Anthony Thomas Grafton (USA)</td>
<td>History of the Humanities</td>
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<td>Xavier Le Pichon (France/Vietnam)</td>
<td>Geology</td>
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<td>Dominique Schnapper (France)</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>James Sloss Ackerman (USA)</td>
<td>History of Architecture</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jean-Pierre Changeux (France)</td>
<td>Cognitive Neurosciences</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marc Fumaroli (France)</td>
<td>Literary History and Criticism (post 1500)</td>
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<td>Claude Lorius (France)</td>
<td>Climatology</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Ilkka Hanski (Finland)</td>
<td>Ecological Sciences</td>
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<td>Michel Mayor (Switzerland)</td>
<td>Instrumentation and Techniques in Astronomy and Astrophysics</td>
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<td>Michael Stolleis (Germany)</td>
<td>Legal History since 1500</td>
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<td>Martin Litchfield West (UK)</td>
<td>Classical Antiquity</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza (USA/Italy)</td>
<td>The Science of Human Origins</td>
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<td>John Elliott (UK)</td>
<td>History, 1500-1800</td>
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<td>Mikhael Gromov (France/Russia)</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<td>Paul Ricoeur (France)</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Harmon Craig (USA)</td>
<td>Geochemistry</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Robert McCredie May (UK/Australia)</td>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
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<td>Andrzej Walicki (USA/Poland)</td>
<td>The Cultural and Social History of the Slavonic World</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Charles Coulston Gillispie (USA)</td>
<td>History and Philosophy of Science</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thomas Wilson Meade (UK)</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stanley Jeyaraja Tambiah (USA/Sri Lanka)</td>
<td>Social Anthropology</td>
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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 Couteaux (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 19th and 20th 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 15th and 16th 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'Epinay (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 Torbjorn 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
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Peter Kuon (A/D)
Thomas Maissen (F/CH/D)
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Marjan Schwegman (NL)
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Victor Stoichita (CH/RO/E)
Peter Suter (CH)
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Suzanne Werder (I) Secretary General

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