



Fondazione Internazionale Balzan "Premio"

prot. n° 12768

December 2016

Sir / Madam,

In regard to the attached letter from the Chairman of the Balzan Foundation's General Prize Committee, Professor Salvatore Veca, we would be grateful if you would kindly forward supporting statements for each candidate you deem worthy of an award. In order to be valid, the nominations must be supported by the following documents:

- a statement of reasons for the nomination, including mention of particularly important publications;
- for candidates in the **social sciences** and the **humanities**, a bibliography, including the above-mentioned publications, citing publisher and publication year, and adding translations of original titles should there be works translated into other languages;
- a list of 10 to 20 of their most important publications (with full bibliographical citation) for candidates in the **sciences**;
- a curriculum vitae specifying present position, main academic activities, date and place of birth, nationality, residence and address;
- a recent photograph (high resolution, jpg by email to balzan@balzan.it) with indication of copyright if applicable.

It is to be noted that more than one candidate may be nominated for each prize subject. Furthermore, they do not necessarily have to be part of the institution of the individual making the nomination, nor of the same nationality.

Personal applications will not be considered.

Nominations must reach the General Prize Committee by March 15, 2017.

All of the above documentation should be addressed to the

Chairman of the General Prize Committee
Professor Salvatore Veca
Attention: Secretariat of the
International Balzan Foundation "Prize"
P.tta U. Giordano, 4
I-20122 Milano, Italia

Yours faithfully,

(Suzanne Werder)
Secretary General

International Balzan Foundation "Prize"



Fondazione Internazionale Balzan "Premio"

As Chairman of the General Prize Committee of the International Balzan Foundation "Prize" and on behalf of my colleagues on the Committee, I have the honour of inviting you to submit the names of candidates for the

2017 Balzan Prizes

which will be awarded in the following subjects:

**Collective Memory
Gender Studies**

**Immunological Approaches in Cancer Therapy
The Sun's Planetary System and Exoplanets**

Each of the four Balzan Prizes is worth 750,000 Swiss francs.

Half the Prize sum will be awarded to the Prizewinner in recognition of his/her work, while the other half will later be earmarked by the Prizewinner for research projects involving young researchers or research groups. The research proposal will be subject to the approval of the General Prize Committee.

Careful consideration will be given to all nominations.

The Balzan General Prize Committee will treat your nomination, which must be signed by the nominator, in the strictest confidentiality and expects that you will similarly respect the secrecy it entails.

December 2016

Salvatore Veca

*Chairman, Professor of Political Philosophy
at the Institute for Advanced Study (IUSS), Pavia*

SIERD A.P.L. CLOETINGH

Distinguished Utrecht University Professor; President of the Academia Europaea; former Vice-President of the European Research Council; member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, the Royal Norwegian Academy, the Royal Danish Academy, the German Academy of Technical Sciences and honorary member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

ÉTIENNE GHYS

Research Director, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Pure and Applied Mathematics Unit, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon; Member of the Académie des sciences, Institut de France, Paris

ANDREA GIARDINA

Professor of Roman History at the Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa; President of the International Committee of Historical Sciences; Fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome

H. CHARLES J. GODFRAY

Hope Professor of Zoology at the University of Oxford and Fellow of Jesus College; Fellow of the Royal Society

BENGT GUSTAFSSON

Professor Emeritus of Theoretical Astrophysics at the University of Uppsala; Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, and the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters

JULES A. HOFFMANN

Distinguished Class Research Director at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (Emeritus), Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Strasbourg; Professor at the University of Strasbourg; former President of the Académie des sciences, Institut de France, Paris; 2011 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine

PETER KUON

Professor of Romance Philology at the University of Salzburg, Austria

LUCIANO MAIANI

Professor Emeritus of Theoretical Physics at the University of Rome "La Sapienza"; Fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome, and of the American Physical Society

THOMAS MAIENEN

Director of the German Historical Institute in Paris; Chair in Early Modern History at the University of Heidelberg; Member of the Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften

ERWIN NEHER

Professor Emeritus, Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen; Member of the Academia Europaea; Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences and of the Royal Society, London; 1991 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine

ANTONIO PADOA SCHIOPPA

Professor Emeritus of Legal History at the State University of Milan; former President of the Istituto Lombardo, Academy of Sciences and the Humanities, Milan; Foreign Fellow of the Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres, Institut de France, Paris

MARJAN SCHWEGMAN

Professor Emeritus of Political and Cultural History of the Twentieth Century, Utrecht University; former Director of the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome

QUENTIN SKINNER

Barber Beaumont Professor of the Humanities, Queen Mary, University of London; Fellow of the British Academy and of Christ's College Cambridge; Foreign Fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome

VICTOR STOICHITA

Chair of Modern Art History at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland; Visiting Professor at the Istituto di studi italiani, University of Lugano (USI); Foreign Fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome

PETER SUTER

Honorary Professor of Medicine at the University of Geneva; former President of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

CARLO WYSS

Former Director for Accelerators at CERN. Expert in the design of superconducting acceleration cavities and magnets, for series manufacture by industry

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 2017, awards will be made in the following subjects:

- Collective Memory;
- Gender Studies;
- Immunological Approaches in Cancer Therapy;
- The Sun's Planetary System and Exoplanets.

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"* administers 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.

2016 Prizewinners

International E. Balzan Prize Foundation "Prize"

Pira Umberto Giordano 4 - 20122 Milan, Italy
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Federico Capasso
USA/Italy

Applied Physics



Reinhard Jahm
Germany

*Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience
including neurodegenerative and
developmental aspects*