



International Balzan Foundation

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## **2022 Balzan Prizes: Science and Knowledge to Understand and Confront the Challenges of Our Times**

*750,000 Swiss Francs (approx. 770,000 Euros, 785,000 USD) will go to each of the winners, international scientists or scholars who have distinguished themselves in four especially significant research fields, from musicology to biotechnology, and from philosophy to glaciation.*

**Today the winners of the 2022 Balzan Prizes were announced in Milan.** Their research will contribute to understanding our world and our times by promoting the advancement of knowledge without borders, according to the guiding principles of the Balzan Foundation.

The subject areas of the prizes and the Prizewinners respond to the need to grasp the vital essence of today's scientific and intellectual challenges. Half of the amount of each Prize should be invested in an innovative research project carried out by young people under the guidance of the winner. In this way, the prizes contribute to scientific progress in different fields of research.

**The amount of each Balzan Prize is 750,000 Swiss Francs (approx. 770,000 Euros, 785,000 USD)**

### **The winners:**

**Martha Nussbaum** (USA – University of Chicago) **for Moral Philosophy,**

**Philip Bohlman** (USA – University of Chicago) **for Ethnomusicology,**

**Robert Langer** (USA – MIT) **for Biomaterials for Nanomedicine and Tissue Engineering,**

**Dorthe Dahl-Jensen** (Denmark – University of Copenhagen) **and Johannes Oerlemans** (The Netherlands – University of Utrecht) **for Glaciation and Ice-Sheet Dynamics.**

The verdict was reached after the customary final plenary meeting of the Balzan General Prize Committee, which evaluated and selected nominations from academies, universities, and research centres around the world. Their choices were based on the soundness, timeliness, and coherence of the candidates' research, identifying specific factors in the respective fields of study.

**The names of the winners were announced today in Milan by the President of the Balzan Prize Foundation – “Prize”, Alberto Quadrio Curzio, and by the Chairman of the General Prize Committee, Luciano Maiani,** at the traditional evening event held at the Corriere della Sera Foundation.

The laureates will personally receive the Balzan Prizes from the hands of the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, in Rome in November during the awards ceremony.

### **The Subject Areas**

**The four subject areas in which the prizes are awarded** are chosen from the two broad categories of **Literature, Moral Sciences, and the Arts** and **Physical, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences, and Medicine.** The rotation of subject areas makes it possible to give preference to new or emerging lines of research, and to support import areas of study that are often neglected by other great international forms of recognition.

This has made it possible, in the 61 years of the Prize's existence and 159 prizes awarded, to come full circle through all fields of knowledge, thus achieving the Foundations statutory aim to promote culture, the sciences, and the most meritorious initiatives in the cause of humanity, peace, and fraternity among peoples throughout the world, regardless of nationality, race, or religion.

After announcing the names of the winners of the 2022 Balzan Prizes, the Chairman of the General Prize Committee, Luciano Maiani, announced the **subject areas for 2023:**

#### **World Literature**

**Evolution of Humankind – Paleoanthropology**

**Evolution of Humankind - Ancient DNA and Human Evolution**

**High resolution images: from planetary to cosmic objects**

The amount of each 2023 Balzan Prize will again be 750,000 Swiss Francs.



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### **The Motivations for the 2022 Balzan Prizes**

#### **Martha Nussbaum for Moral Philosophy**

*For her sustained contribution to a wide range of philosophical topics that together redefine our understanding of our ethical being; for her transformative reconception of the goals of social justice, both globally and locally; and for her willingness to bridge the divide between the academy and the wider community.*

#### **Philip Bohlman for Ethnomusicology**

*Philip Bohlman is an award-winning ethnomusicologist and musician. His multifaceted and prolific work interrogates music and culture across space and time, in individual experience, and in encounters with others. Focusing primarily on European and Jewish musics, it addresses central issues in ethnomusicology, as well as in music research and the humanities more broadly, among which the most important are music and European nationalism; music, race, and the colonial encounter; globalization; the interstices between music and religion; Jewish music in modernity; historically informed performance of Jewish urban musics.*

#### **Robert Langer for Biomaterials for Nanomedicine and Tissue Engineering**

*For pioneering research on biopolymers and biomaterials, and their synthesis, and developing the field of nanomedicine, including advances in mRNA vaccines and tissue engineering. Langer's groundbreaking discoveries have paved the way for breakthroughs in the controlled release of macromolecules with many medical applications.*

#### **Dorthe Dahl-Jensen and Johannes Oerlemans for Glaciation and Ice-Sheet Dynamics**

*For their joint and complementary fundamental and groundbreaking contributions to the dynamics of glaciation and ice-sheets and their impact on understanding climate change and its mechanisms, paving the way to more reliable projections of ice sheet behavior and related changes in sea level.*

### **Facts and Figures of the Balzan Prize from 1961 to 2022**

Prizes awarded: 159

in the sciences: 75

in the humanities: 84

Number of Prizewinners: 177, including 15 women

in the humanities: 68

in the humanities: 59

Cumulative value of prizes awarded to date: 99,475,000 Swiss Francs

Amount invested in research 36,500,000 Swiss Francs

Nations: 32

*The International Balzan Foundation, founded in 1956, has two headquarters. At the International Balzan Foundation "Prize" in Milan, with Alberto Quadrio Curzio as President, the General Prize Committee chaired by Luciano Maiani selects the candidates and chooses the subject areas in which to award prizes. The International Balzan Foundation "Fund", in Zurich, with Gisèle Girgis-Musy as President, administers Eugenio Balzan's estate, and provides the financial means necessary for the International Balzan Prize Foundation "Prize" to do its work.*