



International Balzan Foundation

Press release

## **The Balzan Prize: a Prize that Rewards Research**

*More than thirty million Swiss Francs of research funding in all fields of knowledge*

*Milan / Zurich, 3 September 2018* - **On the basis of the Balzan Foundation Statute promulgated in 2001, Balzan Prizewinners must apportion half of the value of the Prize to the financing of research projects involving a new generation of young researchers.** These research projects in particular illustrate the unique vocation of the Balzan Prize: to produce research in new fields by academics in the early stages of their careers.

In 17 years (2001-2017), the Balzan Prize has funded 68 research projects in all academic disciplines. More than 500 young researchers from more than 20 countries have been involved directly or indirectly.

**With the share of the Prizes awarded in 2017, the total amount of research funding by the Balzan Prize surpassed 30 million Swiss francs (CHF 30,500,000, approx. EUR 26,000,000, US\$ 30,500,000 ).**

New research projects will be proposed by this year's Prizewinners, all in the 2018 prize subjects:

- *Social Anthropology*
- *Global History*
- *Fluid Dynamics*
- *Chemical Ecology*

Following established procedure, these project proposals contain the parameters of the research, institutions and research centres to be involved, the names of designated research supervisors, and a tentative list of young researchers to be employed. Upon approval by the Balzan General Prize Committee, the funds 375,000 SFR. (approx. 325,000 Euro, 380,000 USD) – will be released by the Balzan 'Fund' Foundation to each of the four new research projects.

The Balzan 'Prize' Foundation follows the progress of the research projects, designating a member of the Balzan General Prize Committee as advisor at the Prizewinner's request. Reports and updates on the developments of their projects are provided by the Prizewinners on a regular basis. To date, output has been characterized by the publication of hundreds of notable academic articles and groundbreaking volumes, in addition to conferences and workshops.

The volume *The Balzan Prizewinners' Research Projects: An Overview* reports on all projects carried out and still operating at the time of publication. Originally released in 2010, it has been updated every two years, with the latest edition appearing in 2016. The complete volume may be downloaded in the "publications" section on the Balzan website: [www.balzan.org](http://www.balzan.org).

*News of upcoming and past events regarding the Balzan Research Projects are regularly posted in the section on the Balzan Research Projects on the Foundation's homepage [www.balzan.org](http://www.balzan.org).*

*Balzan Research Projects' List >>>*



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## Balzan Prizewinners' Research Projects 2001-2017

### 2017

ALEIDA and JAN ASSMANN, Collective Memory - *Ancient Literature: Survival and Rewriting*  
BINA AGARWAL, *Gender Studies*  
JAMES ALLISON and ROBERT SCHREIBER, *Immunological Approaches in Cancer Therapy* -  
MICHAEL GILLON, *The Sun's Planetary System and Exoplanets* -

### 2016

PIERO BOITANI, Comparative Literature - *Ancient Literature: Survival and Rewriting*  
FEDERICO CAPASSO, Applied Photonics - *Optoelectronics and nano-photonics in two-dimensional nanomaterial heterostructures; Quantum Effects in Complex Systems ('Q-EX')*  
REINARD JAHN, Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience - *Reconstitution of exocytosis using synthetic vesicles in intact cells*

### 2015

HANS BELTING, History of European Art (1300-1700) - *Iconic Presence: Images in Religion*  
FRANCIS HALZEN, Astroparticle Physics including neutrino and gamma-ray observation - *Balzan Fellowship Programme for a Postdoctoral Researcher*  
DAVID KARL, Oceanography - *Microbial Processes at Ocean Station ALOHA*  
JOEL MOKYR, Economic History - *Global and Quantitative Economic History*

### 2014

IAN HACKING, Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind - *Styles of Reasoning*  
DENNIS SULLIVAN, Mathematics (pure/applied) - *Computing Three Dimensional Fluids*  
DAVID TILMAN, Basic/applied Plant Ecology - *Biodiversity: Causes, Consequences and Conservation*  
MARIO TORELLI, Classical Archaeology - *Ancient Sanctuaries of the Area of Etruria and Lazio: Religious and Cultural Interference*

### 2013

ALAIN ASPECT, Quantum Information Processing and Communication - *Quantum Information Processing and Communication: Quantum Information with Photons and Atoms*  
MANUEL CASTELLS, Sociology - *The Cultural and Social Dimensions of the Economic Crisis 2008-2014. Financial Cultures, Human Suffering and Social Protests*  
PASCALE COSSART, Infectious Diseases: basic and clinical aspects - *Epigenetics and Bacterial Infections: The Role of a Novel Histone Deacetylase SIRT2*  
ANDRÉ VAUCHEZ, Medieval History - *The Cult of the Saints in the West in the Latter Centuries of the Middle Ages. Research on Shrines and Religious Life in France and Italy*

### 2012

DAVID BAULCOMBE, Epigenetics - *Further Investigation of Epigenetics in Hybrids and Evolution*  
RONALD DWORKIN, Jurisprudence - *Dworkin-Balzan Fellowship Programme*  
KURT LAMBECK, Solid Earth Sciences (interdisciplinary research) - *Sea-level Change during Glacial Cycles*  
REINHARD STROHM, Musicology - *Towards a Global History of Music*

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**2011**

BRONISLAW BACZKO, Enlightenment Studies - *A Critical Dictionary of Utopia in the Century of the Enlightenment*

PETER BROWN, Ancient History (Graeco-Roman World) - *Figures in a Landscape: Topography and Hagiography in the World of Syriac Christianity*

RUSSELL LANDE, Theoretical Biology or Bioinformatics - *Theories of Quantitative Character Evolution and Stochastic Population Dynamics*

JOSEPH SILK, The Early Universe - *An Oxford New College - Johns Hopkins Centre for Cosmological Studies*

**2010**

MANFRED BRAUNECK, History of Theatre in all its Aspects - *The Role of the Independent Theatre in Contemporary European Theatre: Structural and Aesthetic Changes*

CARLO GINZBURG, European History (1400-1700) - *A Comparative Approach to Religions. A Historical Perspective - from the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Centuries*

JACOB PALIS, Mathematics (pure and applied) - *Dynamical Systems, Chaotic Behaviour - Uncertainty, Linear Cocycles and Lyapunov Exponents*

SHINYA YAMANAKA, Stem Cells: Biology and Potential Applications - *Molecular Basis during iPS Cell Generation and Its Application*

**2009**

TERENCE CAVE, Literature since 1500 - *The Balzan Interdisciplinary Seminar: Literature as an Object of Knowledge*

MICHAEL GRÄTZEL, Science of New Materials - *Improving the Performance of the Dye Sensitized Solar Cell (DSC)*

BRENDA MILNER, Cognitive Neurosciences - *Hemispheric Interaction in Cognitive Processes*

PAOLO ROSSI MONTI, History of Science - *Cosmology and Physics, Memory and Emotions: Research on the History of Science*

**2008**

WALLACE BROECKER, The Science of Climate Change - *Past Patterns of Precipitation and Earth Temperature*

MAURIZIO CALVESI - The Visual Arts since 1700 - *Three Research Projects on the Visual Arts in Italy*

IAN FRAZER, Preventive Medicine - *Immune Regulation and Therapeutic Immunisation*

THOMAS NAGEL, Moral Philosophy - *Philosophical Aspects of Global Order*

**2007**

BRUCE BEUTLER and JULES HOFFMANN, Innate Immunity - *Endogenous Activators of Inflammation in Insects and Mammals*

ROSALYN HIGGINS, International Law since 1945 - *Oppenheim's International Law. A New Volume on the Law of the United Nations*

SUMIO IJIMA, Nanoscience - *Carbon Nanotubes: Structural Study and Applications in Biomedicine*

MICHEL ZINK, European Literature (1000-1500) - *Three Objectives in the Studies of Medieval Literary Texts*

**2006**

PAOLO DE BERNARDIS and ANDREW LANGE, Observational Astronomy and Astrophysics - *An Experimental Investigation of the First Stages of the Formation of Cosmic Structures, An Experimental Investigation of CMB Polarization*

LUDWIG FINSCHER, History of Western Music since 1600 - *History of the Trio Sonata - Catalogue Raisonné of the Tradition*

ELLIOT MEYEROWITZ and CHRISTOPHER SOMERVILLE, Plant Molecular Genetics - *Live Imaging of Cellular Differentiation in Shoot Apical Meristems and in Cellulose Synthesis*

QUENTIN SKINNER, Political Thought; History and Theory - *Balzan-Skinner Lectures and International Conferences*

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**2005**

PETER AND ROSEMARY GRANT, Population Biology - *Evolution in Small Populations*

PETER HALL, The Social and Cultural History of Cities since 16<sup>th</sup> Century - *New Patterns of Urban Activity*

RUSSELL HEMLEY and HO-KWANG MAO, Mineral Physics - *New Directions in Mineral Physics:*

*Multidisciplinary High Pressure Science*

LOTHAR LEDDEROSE, History of the Art of Asia - *Buddhist Stone Inscriptions in North China. Heidelberg*

*Colloquies in East Asian Art History*

**2004**

PIERRE DELIGNE, Mathematics - *Pierre Deligne Contest*

NIKKI RAGOZIN KEDDIE, Islamic World from 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> C. - *Women, Gender, and the Family in the Muslim World*

MICHAEL MARMOT, Epidemiology - *UCL Balzan International Fellowship Programme*

COLIN RENFREW, Prehistoric Archaeology - *Two Lines of Research in Prehistoric Archaeology*

**2003**

REINHARD GENZEL, Infrared Astronomy - *Cosmic Formation and the Evolution of Galaxies and Massive Black Holes*

ERIC HOBSBAWM, European History since 1900 - *Reconstruction in the Immediate Aftermath of War: a Comparative Study of Europe, 1945-50*

WEN-HSIUNG LI, Genetics and Evolution - *Evolution of Gene Regulation and Regulatory Modules in Yeast*

SERGE MOSCOVICI, Social Psychology - *The Social Representation of Marxism*

**2002**

WALTER GEHRING, Developmental Biology - *Genomic Analysis of Eye Development*

ANTHONY GRAFTON, History of the Humanities - *Joseph Justus Scaliger (1540-1609) - Edition of the Correspondence*

XAVIER LE PICHON, Geology - *A Geodynamic Research Team in Aix-en-Provence*

DOMINIQUE SCHNAPPER, Sociology - *Social Integration in Modern Democratic Societies*

**2001**

JAMES SLOSS ACKERMAN, History of Architecture - *James Ackerman Award; Summer School in Applied Palaeography*

JEAN-PIERRE CHANGEUX, Cognitive Neurosciences - *Neuronal Organization of the Brain and Cognitive Functions*

MARC FUMAROLI, Literary History and Criticism (post 1500) - *The Comte de Caylus (1692-1765) and His Milieu: The Respublica Literaria*

CLAUDE LORIUS, Climatology - *Research on the Mechanisms Governing the Climate System*