Balzan Prizes 2014 Award Ceremony in Rome

750,000 Swiss Francs (€620,000; $800,000 £490,000) for each of the four annual awards.
Half of the amount must be destined by the winners to research projects
1,000,000 Swiss Francs (€830,000; $1,000,000; £660,000) for the Peace Prize

Rome, 20 November 2014 - The Balzan Prizes 2014 were presented today by the President of the Italian Republic. During the ceremony, which took place at the Palazzo del Quirinale, the prizes were presented to:
IAN HACKING (Canada), University of Toronto and Collège de France, for Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind; *
DENNIS SULLIVAN (USA), City University of New York, for Mathematics (pure or applied);
G. DAVID TILMAN (USA), University of Minnesota, for Basic and/or applied Plant Ecology;
MARIO TORELLI (Italy), University of Perugia, for Classical Archaeology.
The Prize for Humanity, Peace and Fraternity among Peoples was attributed to VIVRE EN FAMILLE (France).

The ceremony took place in the presence of the Presidents of the International Balzan Foundation "Prize", Enrico Decleva, and the International Balzan Foundation "Fund", Achille Casanova. In accordance with the ceremony’s usual formalities, each Prizewinner, introduced in turn by Salvatore Veca, Chairman of the General Prize Committee, gave a speech of acceptance and thanks.
According to the established tradition reflecting the Italo-Swiss nature of the International Balzan Foundation, the Award Ceremony takes place in alternate years in Rome, in the presence of the President of the Italian Republic, and in Bern, in the presence of a Representative of the Federal Council of the Swiss Confederation.

The Balzan Prize for Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind was given to Ian Hacking "For his fundamental and pioneering contributions to philosophy and the history of social and natural sciences, for the thematic breadth of his research, for his original epistemological perspective centred on a version of scientific realism and defined in contrast with the dominant paradigm in the philosophy of science of the twentieth century ".
Dennis Sullivan received the Balzan Prize for Mathematics "For his major contributions to topology and the theory of dynamical systems, opening new perspectives for generations to come. For his exceptional results in many fields of mathematics, such as geometry, the theory of Kleinian groups, analysis and number theory ".
In the field of Plants Ecology, David Tilman was recognized "For his huge contributions to theoretical and experimental plant ecology, work that underpins much of our current understanding of how plant communities are structured and interact with their environment". The Prize for Classical Archaeology went to Mario Torelli "For the profoundly innovative character of his studies in all of the main fields pertaining to the cultures of the ancient world, from Greek to Etruscan to Roman, and for the great relevance of his methodological experimentation and his archaeological discoveries. For the originality of his work, in which historical-epigraphic investigation, iconological analysis, historical-religious evaluation and anthropological research come together in a well-founded, overarching vision that is always supported by perceptive attention to the economic and social structures as well as the ideological and institutional aspects of ancient cultures ".
The Balzan Prize for Humanity, Peace and Fraternity among Peoples was given to Vivre en Famille with the following motivation: “Founded in 1993, in France, in order to provide foster families for children with mental health issues, the association later extended its field of activity to Africa. Today, it focuses its attention on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), but still maintains its original vocation of supporting international adoption and, furthermore, works to guarantee for disadvantaged infants hospital treatment, schooling and clinics together with medical assistance for mothers. The Balzan Prize funding is destined to the creation of a maternity unit and the revitalisation of a school at Ibambi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)’’.

The amount of each of the four annual Prizes is 750,000 Swiss Francs; the Prizewinners must destine half of the prize to finance research projects that are preferably carried out by young scholars or scientists. The Balzan Prize for Humanity, Peace and Fraternity among Peoples is a special prize awarded at intervals of no less than three years. The Prize 2014 is 1,000,000 Swiss Francs.

The Ceremony 2014 will be followed by a series of events on Friday 21 November, at the Accademia dei Lincei, starting at 10:30 am with the presentation of the book The Balzan Prizewinners’ Research Projects, an Overview 2014 and a programme involving several young researchers. At 12:00 pm, Vivre en Famille, Balzan Prize for Humanity, Peace and Fraternity among the Peoples, will be presented in a public meeting. From 2:30 pm* onwards, the Balzan Prizewinners Interdisciplinary Forum will be held.

* The Prize awarded to Ian Hacking, who was not able to take part in the ceremony, was accepted on his behalf by his daughter, Rachel Gee Hacking.

International Balzan Foundation; Press Office: T +39 02 76002212 M +39 334 1687132 ufficio.stampa@balzan.it