



Akademien der Wissenschaften Schweiz
Académies suisses des sciences
Accademie svizzere delle scienze
Academias svizras da las ciencias
Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

EVENT



Fondazione
Internazionale Balzan
"Premio"



**University of
Zurich** ^{UZH}

Annual Balzan Lecture 2012

Professor Sir Michael G. Marmot, University College
London, UK

Wednesday, 29 August 2012, University of Zurich



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«Fair Society, Healthy Lives»

Wednesday, 29 August 2012, 17.00h – 19.30h

Assembly Hall (Aula), University of Zurich

Organizing institutions: The International Balzan Foundation «Prize»
and the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, in cooperation
with the Center for Gerontology, University of Zurich

This year's Annual Balzan Lecture will be given by Sir Michael Marmot, University College London (UK), 2004 Balzan Prizewinner in Epidemiology.

The aim of this lecture is to present some recent research on the project «Fair Society, Healthy Lives». This project highlights the influence of social inequalities on health and life expectancy and tries to give advice on taking suitable action.

Program

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17.00h Reception

17.30h Welcome

Andreas Fischer
President of the University of Zurich

Alberto Quadrio Curzio
Member of the Board of the International
Balzan Foundation «Prize» and President
of the Class of Moral Sciences,
Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei

Heinz Gutscher
President of the Swiss Academies
of Arts and Sciences

17.45h Presentation of Sir Michael Marmot

Mike Martin
Center for Gerontology, University of
Zurich

17.55h **Lecture**
Fair Society, Healthy Lives

Sir Michael Marmot

18.35h Comment

Thomas Abel
Institute of Social and Preventive
Medicine, University of Bern

18.50h Discussion

Chair: *Mike Martin*

19.30h Aperitif

Participants

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Thomas Abel is a Medical Sociologist and Professor of Health Research at the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine of the University of Bern, Switzerland (<http://www.ispm.ch>). He is chair of the division of Social and Behavioural Health Research (<http://www.ispm.ch/index.php?id=796>). Applying a structure-agency perspective, his major research program addresses issues of social stratification and inequalities in health and health behaviours.

Prior to his appointment in Bern he was Professor of Public Health and Epidemiology, Dep. of Medicine at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, FRG (1993 - 95), Lecturer and Research Assistant in Medical Sociology, Dep. of Medicine at the Philipps-University, Marburg, Germany (1986 - 93), as well as Teaching and Research Assistant, Dep. of Sociology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA (1984 - 86). His academic qualifications include a Habilitation at the Philipps-University (Dep. of Medicine, 1993), a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois (Dep. of Sociology) in 1989, a Master's (1980) and a Dr. phil. (1984) degree from the Justus-Liebig-University (Dep. of Sports Science). He was a visiting Professor at the Université de Montreal in 2005 (Dép. de médecine sociale et préventive) and is currently a visiting Professor at UBC Vancouver (Dep. of Sociology).

Thomas Abel has published widely on theoretical and empirical challenges in social science applied to Public Health. As Editor-in-Chief he has led the International Journal of Public Health from 2000 until 2011. He has also served as reviewer and consultant for major national and international research institutions and funding agencies.

Sir Michael Marmot has led a research group on health inequalities for 35 years. He is Principal Investigator of the Whitehall II Studies of British Civil Servants, investigating explanations for the striking inverse social gradient in morbidity and mortality. He leads the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) and is engaged in several international research efforts on the social determinants of health. He was a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution for six years, and served as President of the British Medical Association (BMA) in 2010-2011. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, an Honorary Fellow of the British Academy, and an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians. In 2000 he was knighted by Her Majesty The Queen, for services to Epidemiology and the understanding of health inequalities. Internationally acclaimed, Professor Marmot is a Foreign Associate Member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM), and a former Vice President of the Academia Europaea. He won the Balzan Prize for Epidemiology in 2004, gave the Harveian Oration in 2006, and won the William B. Graham Prize for Health Services Research in 2008. He was Chair of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH), which was set up by the World Health Organization in 2005, and produced the report entitled: '*Closing the Gap in a Generation*' in August 2008. At the request of the British Government, he conducted Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post 2010, which published its report '*Fair Society, Healthy Lives*' in February 2010. He has now been invited by the Regional Director of WHO Euro to conduct the European Review of Social Determinants of Health and the Health Divide, which will report in September 2012. He has agreed to chair the Breast Screening Review for the NHS National Cancer Action Team. He is a member of The Lancet-University of Oslo Commission on Global Governance for Health.
www.instituteofhealthequity.org/

Professor Marmot's Balzan Research Project financed by the second half of his 2004 Balzan Prize has involved the establishment of a new programme of international fellowships at University College London's International Institute for Society and Health: www.ucl.ac.uk/iish/fellowships

Mike Martin received his M.A. in Educational Psychology from the University of Athens (USA) and his Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of Mainz (1994). He has worked at the German Centre for Research on Aging (DZFA) at the University of Heidelberg where he also obtained his habilitation in the Philosophical Faculty (2001). He has been Professor of the Psychology of Aging at the University of Zurich since 2002. He is currently director of the Gerontology Center, and co-director of the International Normal Aging and Plasticity Imaging Center (INAPIC) and the Multimorbidity.NET research network. The Gerontology Center is a selected member of the worldwide Gerontological Aging Research Network (GARN). He is author and editor of standard volumes on developmental changes and stability in midlife, old, and very old age, associate editor of several scientific journals focusing on development across the lifespan, and scientific advisor of numerous translational aging research organizations in several countries and the International Collaborative Research Network on Changes in Health and Cognition (IALSA). His publications (with co-authors) include *Psychologische Grundlagen der Gerontologie*, 2010; *The functional Quality of Life (fQOL) model*, 2012; «Bridging the gap»: Combining clinical and behavioral perspectives to advance gerontological research, 2011; *Cognition-based interventions for healthy older people and people with mild cognitive impairment*, 2011.

The International Balzan Foundation

The International Balzan Foundation was founded in 1956 by Lina Balzan to honour the memory of her father Eugenio Balzan, eminent journalist and later Administrative Director of the Milan based *Corriere della Sera*.

The International Balzan Foundation aims 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 creed. Currently, four annual awards are made: two in literature, moral sciences and the arts; and two in the physical, mathematical and natural sciences and medicine. In 2001, regulations concerning the prizes were changed, and prizewinners must now destine half of their awards for research projects carried out preferably by young researchers. At intervals of not less than three years, the Balzan Foundation also awards a prize for Humanity, Peace and Fraternity among Peoples.

The foundation is divided into two entities. The «Prize» Foundation with headquarters in Milan and the «Fund» Foundation with headquarters in Zurich. At the «Prize» Foundation in Milan, the General Prize Committee, which is composed of eminent European scholars and scientists, chooses the subject areas of the awards. Nominations for the prizes are received at the Foundation's request from the world's leading learned societies. The General Prize Committee then chooses from this select list of candidates the winners of the four awards.

The «Fund» Foundation in Zurich administers Eugenio Balzan's estate and provides the financing for the awards.

The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

The Association of the «Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences» includes the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAHS), the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS), and the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW) as well as the Centre for Excellence TA-SWISS. Their collaboration is focused on methods of anticipating future trends, ethics and the dialogue between science and society. In facing up to today's significant challenges at the international level, science and education are the most important resources of Switzerland. The necessary investments in the sciences depend on the confidence people have towards scientific achievements and their benefits for society. Scientific knowledge shall and must be for the common good; however, always with the critical analysis of society and politics and also with their agreement. It is the aim of the Swiss Scientific Academies to develop an equal dialogue between science and society and to advise politics and society on scientifically based, society-relevant questions. The academies stand for an open and pluralistic understanding of science. Thus, they represent the sciences comprehensively, at an inter-institutional as well as inter-departmental level. Based in the scientific community, they have access to expertise and excellence and therefore can contribute specialized knowledge to important political questions. Over the long-term, they mutually commit to resolving transdisciplinary questions in the following fields:

- » They offer foresight to society-relevant subjects in the fields of education, research and technology.
- » They commit to the perception of ethical-based responsibility in gaining and applying scientific knowledge.
- » They build bridges between science, politics and society.

The Center for Gerontology at the University of Zurich

This year's Balzan Lecture precedes the 13th Day of Gerontology of the Center for Gerontology, University of Zurich

The Center for Gerontology (ZfG) is an interdisciplinary and interfaculty competence center at the University of Zurich. Founded in 1998 on the initiative of university experts and gerontological and geriatric practitioners, it is currently the nucleus of a network of 60 scientists from the psychological, medical, theological, and social sciences. The Center currently employs 15 researchers who are supported by a large number of senior volunteer experts. Since 2011 the Center is selected member of the Global Aging Research Network (GARN) of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG).

Thematically, the Center's mission is to provide scientific evidence for the possibility and effectiveness of interventions to stabilize and increase quality of life in aging and older individuals. The Center is an interdisciplinary network of researchers and teachers in all fields of aging sciences and aims to increase the awareness of decision makers and the public for gerontological themes. The Center supports the collaboration between researchers, aging and older individuals and gerontological and geriatric practitioners.

Organisational details

Registration

Please go to www.akademien-schweiz.ch/balzan and register online by **20 August 2012**. Please note that the number of participants is limited.

Further information and organization

Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

Hirschengraben 11

PO 8160

3001 Berne

Email: info@akademien-schweiz.ch

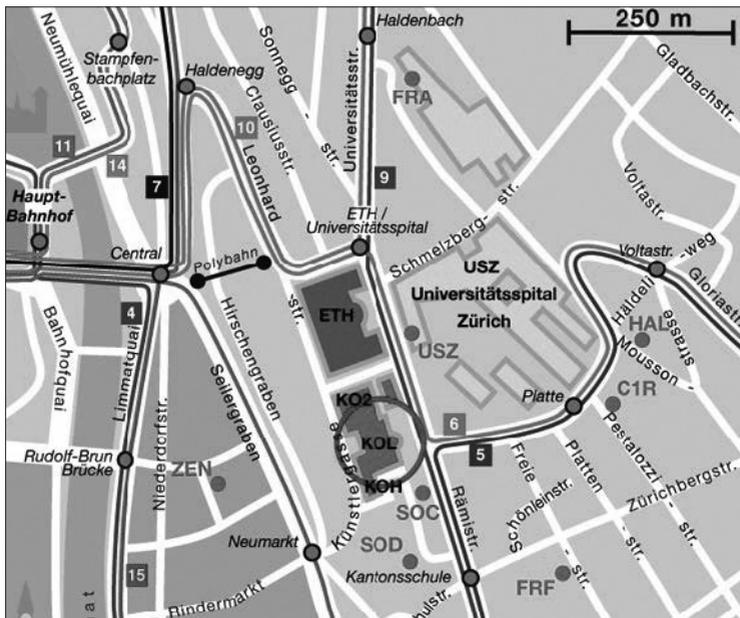
Phone: +41 (0)31 313 14 40

Language

The Lecture will be held in English.

Venue

University of Zurich
 Assembly Hall (Aula)
 Rämistrasse 71
 CH-8091 Zurich



From the tram stop «Bahnhofstrasse/HB», take tram No. 6 in the direction of «Zoo» till the station «ETH/Universitätsspital» (3 stops). Go further ahead on the same street until you see the Main Building of the University of Zurich (Rämistrasse 71) on your right side.

Picture source:

<http://www.scottishleftreview.org/article/sick-times-sick-people/>