



International Balzan Foundation

Press Release

The 2020 Balzan Prizes Presented in Rome

The Ceremony was postponed due to the pandemic crisis.

750,000 Swiss Francs (€ 710,000; \$818,000; £605,000) for each of the four annual awards.

A common theme of great relevance to today's concern with the future of the planet is shared by one of the 2020 prizes in the sciences and one in the humanities.

Rome, 18 November 2021 - The **Balzan Prizes 2020** were presented today in **Rome** by the President of the Italian Republic. During the ceremony, which took place at the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, the prizes were presented to:

Susan Trumbore (USA/Germany) for Earth System Dynamics, **Jean-Marie Tarascon** (France) for Environmental Challenges: Materials Science for Renewable Energy, **Joan Martínez Alier** (Spain) for Environmental Challenges: Responses from the Social Sciences and the Humanities, **Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade** (Brazil) for Human Rights.

The ceremony, postponed due to the pandemic emergency crisis, took place in the presence of the Presidents of the International Balzan Foundation "Prize", **Alberto Quadrio-Curzio**, and the International Balzan Foundation "Fund", **Gisèle Girgis-Musy**. In accordance with the ceremony's usual formalities, each Prizewinner, introduced in turn by **Luciano Maiani**, Chairman of the General Prize Committee, gave a speech of acceptance and thanks.

«The Balzan Prize 2020 has fully achieved one of its fundamental aims of integrating the most promising scholarship and research on today's most relevant issues in an interdisciplinary perspective», stated Maiani.

The amount of each of the four 2020 Prizes is 750,000 Swiss Francs (€ 710,000; \$818,000; £605,000); the Prizewinners must destine half of the prize to finance research projects that are carried out by young scholars or scientists.

According to the established tradition reflecting the Italo-Swiss nature of the International Balzan Foundation, the awards 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 the President or a Representative of the Federal Council of the Swiss Confederation.

The awards ceremony for the 2021 Balzan Prizes will be held on 1 July 2022 in Bern.

With the 2022 Balzan Prizes, which will be announced in Milan in September 2022 and presented to the winners in Rome in November 2022, the traditional alternation of location for the ceremony events will be resumed: in Rome in even-numbered years, and in Bern in odd-numbered ones.

The ceremony will be followed, tomorrow, **Friday 19 November**, by the **Balzan Prizewinners Interdisciplinary Forum 2020**, which take place in the **Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei**. The Forum is a public event dedicated to the Balzan Prize subject areas where the four Prizewinners play a prominent role together with members of the Balzan General Prize Committee and members of the Accademia dei Lincei. *Live Streaming on www.balzan.org*

>> the motivations



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The motivations of the 2020 Balzan Prizes

The Prize for Earth System Dynamics went to **Susan Trumbore** *"For her outstanding contributions to the study of the carbon cycle and its effects on climate, and for pioneering the use of radiocarbon measurements in Earth-system research"*.

In the field of Environmental Challenges: Materials Science for Renewable Energy, **Jean-Marie Tarascon** was recognized *"For his exceptional contributions to basic and applied research in the field of electrochemical energy storage. For his work that led to the rapid development of lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles, and which improved our ability to manage electricity produced by intermittent renewable sources. For his drive in developing environmentally-friendly sodium-ion batteries"*.

Joan Martínez Alier received the Balzan Prize for Environmental Challenges: Responses from the Social Sciences and the Humanities *"For the exceptional quality of his contributions to the foundation of ecological economics, his pathbreaking analysis of the relationships between economies and the environment, his interdisciplinary as well as comparative approach, and his active role in the promotion of environmental justice"*.

The Balzan Prize for Human Rights was given to **Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade** *"For his fundamental theoretical and jurisprudential contributions to the definition and creation of a global juridical order based on the principle that all of humanity must constitute the subject of an international legal system open to individual appeals to justice and that may also be imposed upon nation-states"*.

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.