



International Balzan Foundation

Press release

## **The Balzan Prize: a Prize that Rewards Research** *35 million Swiss Francs of research funding in all fields of knowledge*

*Milan / Zurich, 1 July 2022* - **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 illustrate the unique vocation of the Balzan Prize: to produce research in new fields by academics in the early stages of their careers.

In 20 years (2001-2020), the Balzan Prize has funded 79 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 2020, the total amount of research funding by the Balzan Prize reached 35 million Swiss francs (approx. EUR 34 500 000, US\$ 33 000 000).**

New research projects will be proposed by this year's Prizewinners, all in the 2021 prize subjects: **Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati** for Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East; **Alessandra Buonanno and Thibault Damour** for Gravitation: Physical and Astrophysical Aspects; **Saul Friedländer** for Holocaust and Genocide Studies; **Jeffrey Gordon** for Microbiome in Health and Disease.

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. 370,000 Euro, 390,000 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 2020. 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).