



Fondazione Internazionale Premio E. Balzan
Fondation Internationale Prix E. Balzan
Internationale Stiftung Preis E. Balzan

Cerimonia di consegna dei Premi Balzan 2021



**Berna, Palazzo federale
Berne, Palais fédéral
Bern, Bundeshaus**

1° luglio 2022



Fondazione Internazionale Premio E. Balzan

I premiati Balzan 2021
Les lauréats Balzan 2021
Die Balzan Preisträger 2021

Giorgio Buccellati e Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati

Arte e archeologia del Vicino Oriente Antico
Art et archéologie du Proche-Orient ancien
Vorderasiatische Kunst und Archäologie

Alessandra Buonanno e Thibault Damour

Gravità: aspetti fisici e astrofisici
Gravitation: aspects physiques et astrophysiques
Gravitation: physikalische und astrophysikalische Aspekte

Saul Friedländer

Studi sull'olocausto e sul genocidio
Études sur la shoah et le génocide
Holocaust- und Genozidforschung

Jeffrey I. Gordon

Microbioma in salute e in malattia
Microbiome dans santé et maladie
Das Mikrobiom: seine Rolle in Gesundheit und Krankheit

*I Premi Balzan 2021 ammontano a CHF 750.000 ciascuno.
La metà dovrà essere investita dai premiati stessi in progetti di ricerca.*

*Les Prix Balzan 2021 s'élèvent à CHF 750.000 chacun.
La moitié doit être destinée par les lauréats à des projets de recherche.*

*Die Balzan Preise 2021 betragen je CHF 750'000.
Die Hälfte muss von den Preisträgern in Forschungsprojekte investiert werden.*

Fondazione Internazionale Premio E. Balzan

La Fondazione Internazionale Balzan nasce a Lugano nel 1956 grazie alla generosità di Lina Balzan che, alla morte del padre Eugenio e ispirandosi ai suoi propositi, destina il cospicuo patrimonio ereditato a un'opera per onorarne la memoria. Eugenio Francesco Balzan, nato a Badia Polesine (Rovigo) il 20 aprile 1874 da famiglia di proprietari terrieri, aveva passato quasi tutta la vita lavorativa al Corriere della Sera di Milano. Entrato al giornale nel 1897, era diventato in pochi anni redattore, capocronaca e inviato speciale. Nel 1903 il direttore Luigi Albertini gli affidava la gestione amministrativa della società editrice del Corriere della quale otteneva una piccola partecipazione azionaria. Amministratore abile e oculato, ma anche personaggio di spicco nella Milano del suo tempo, lasciava l'Italia nel 1933 per l'opposizione di fronte all'ostilità sempre più marcata nei confronti di quel che restava dell'autonomia del Corriere. Si trasferiva allora in Svizzera, tra Zurigo e Lugano, dove si era fatto accreditare da anni le proprie rendite, collocate con successo, e proseguiva l'intensa attività benefica verso enti e singoli. Rientrato ufficialmente in Italia nel 1950, Eugenio Balzan moriva a Lugano, nella Svizzera italiana, il 15 luglio 1953.

Oggi la Fondazione Balzan, che ha carattere internazionale, agisce attraverso due sedi: una di diritto italiano e l'altra di diritto svizzero.

A Milano, la Fondazione Internazionale Premio E. Balzan – Premio ha lo scopo di incoraggiare, senza distinzioni di nazionalità, di razza e di religione, la cultura, le scienze e le più meritevoli iniziative umanitarie, di pace e di fratellanza tra i popoli. Vi provvede attraverso l'assegnazione annuale di premi nelle categorie "lettere, scienze morali e arti" e "scienze fisiche, matematiche, naturali e medicina".

Le candidature per i premi nei campi scientifici e umanistici provengono da tutto il mondo, da istituzioni accademiche e culturali appositamente interpellate, e sono selezionate dal Comitato Generale Premi, a composizione europea. Ciascun premiato dovrà destinare metà dell'ammontare del premio a un lavoro di ricerca, favorendo i giovani.

Con un intervallo non inferiore a un triennio, la Fondazione Balzan assegna anche un "Premio per l'umanità, la pace e la fratellanza tra i popoli".

A Zurigo, la Fondazione Internazionale Premio E. Balzan – Fondo ha lo scopo di raccogliere, preservare e amministrare il patrimonio lasciato da Eugenio Balzan per mettere a disposizione della Fondazione Internazionale Premio E. Balzan – Premio i mezzi finanziari necessari all'attuazione della sua finalità.

Fondation Internationale Prix E. Balzan

La Fondation Internationale Balzan a été créée à Lugano en 1956 grâce à la générosité de Lina Balzan qui, à la mort de son père Eugenio, destina l'importante fortune qu'il lui avait laissée en héritage à une œuvre portant son nom. Né le 20 avril 1874 à Badia Polesine, près de Rovigo, dans le nord de l'Italie, Eugenio Francesco Balzan, fils de propriétaires terriens, consacra la plus grande partie de sa vie professionnelle au quotidien milanais *Corriere della Sera*. Entré à ce journal en 1897, il y fut tour à tour rédacteur, chef de service et envoyé spécial. En 1903, le directeur Luigi Albertini lui confia la direction administrative de la société d'édition du *Corriere* dont il devint par la suite un actionnaire. Administrateur habile et avisé en même temps que personnage de premier plan du monde milanais de son époque, il quitta l'Italie en 1933 à cause de l'opposition croissante à ce qui restait de l'autonomie du *Corriere*. Il s'installa alors en Suisse, entre Zurich et Lugano, où il avait depuis longtemps investi avec succès son patrimoine, et poursuivit son intense activité de bienfaisance envers les institutions et les particuliers. Rentré officiellement en Italie en 1950, Eugenio Balzan mourut à Lugano, en Suisse italienne, le 15 juillet 1953.

Aujourd'hui, la Fondation Balzan, dont la vocation est internationale, exerce son action par l'intermédiaire de deux Fondations, l'une dans la juridiction italienne, l'autre régie par les lois suisses.

À Milan, la Fondation Internationale Prix E. Balzan – Prix a pour objectif d'encourager partout dans le monde, sans distinction de nationalité, de race ou de religion, la culture, les sciences et les initiatives humanitaires les plus méritoires en faveur de la paix et de la fraternité entre les peuples. Dans ce but elle décerne chaque année des prix dans les catégories "lettres, sciences morales et arts" et "sciences physiques, mathématiques, naturelles et médicales".

Les candidatures pour ces prix sont présentées par des institutions culturelles du monde entier, que la Fondation Balzan sollicite expressément à cet effet. Elles sont ensuite sélectionnées par le Comité Général des Prix, organe de la Fondation dont les membres représentent différents pays européens. Chaque lauréat doit consacrer la moitié du prix à des projets de recherche prévoyant la participation de jeunes chercheurs.

À intervalles de durée variable, mais jamais inférieure à trois ans, la Fondation Balzan décerne également un "Prix pour l'humanité, la paix et la fraternité entre les peuples".

À Zurich, la Fondation Internationale Prix E. Balzan – Fonds a pour but de recueillir, sauvegarder et administrer le patrimoine laissé par Eugenio Balzan pour mettre à la disposition de la Fondation Internationale Prix E. Balzan – Prix les moyens financiers nécessaires à la réalisation de ses objectifs.

Internationale Stiftung Preis E. Balzan

Die Internationale Balzan Stiftung wurde 1956 in Lugano auf Wunsch von Lina Balzan errichtet. Sie hatte beim Tod ihres Vaters Eugenio ein beträchtliches Vermögen geerbt und widmete es einem Zweck, der sein Andenken in Ehren zu halten versprach. Eugenio Francesco Balzan wurde am 20. April 1874 in Badia Polesine in der norditalienischen Provinz Rovigo geboren und stammte aus einer Familie von Großgrundbesitzern. Fast seine gesamte berufliche Karriere vollzog sich bei der Mailänder Zeitung Corriere della Sera. 1897 nahm er seine Tätigkeit bei der Zeitung auf und wurde nach wenigen Jahren Redakteur, Leitartikler und Sonderkorrespondent. 1903 vertraute ihm der Herausgeber Luigi Albertini die Geschäftsführung des Corriere-Verlages an und machte ihn mit einer kleinen Beteiligung am Aktienkapital zum Miteigentümer. Eugenio Balzan war nicht nur ein fähiger und scharfsichtiger Geschäftsführer, er war auch eine herausragende Persönlichkeit im Mailand seiner Zeit. 1933 verliess er Italien aus Opposition gegen jene Kreise, welche die Unabhängigkeit des Corriere mehr und mehr gefährdeten. Er übersiedelte in die Schweiz, wo er schon früher sein Vermögen erfolgreich angelegt hatte, zuerst nach Zürich, dann in die italienischsprachige Schweiz nach Lugano. Von hier aus unterstützte er großzügig Institutionen und Privatpersonen. Erst 1950 kehrte er offiziell nach Italien zurück, starb aber am 15. Juli 1953 in Lugano.

Heute ist die Balzan Stiftung international ausgerichtet und verfügt über zwei Niederlassungen, die eine nach italienischem, die andere nach Schweizer Recht.

Die Internationale Stiftung Preis E. Balzan – Preis, mit Sitz in Mailand, verfolgt das Ziel, ohne Ansehen von Nationalität, Rasse oder Religion die Kultur und Wissenschaften sowie die verdienstvollsten humanitären Initiativen für den Frieden und die Brüderlichkeit unter den Völkern zu fördern. Dies geschieht durch die alljährliche Verleihung von Preisen auf den Gebieten der Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften, der Kunst, der Physik und Mathematik sowie der Naturwissenschaften und Medizin.

Vorschläge zur Nominierung der jährlichen Preisträger werden weltweit von Universitäten sowie anderen wissenschaftlichen und kulturellen Institutionen erbeten und vom Preisverleihungskomitee, dem bedeutende europäische Natur- und Geisteswissenschaftler angehören, geprüft. Die Hälfte der Preissumme muss von den Preisträgern für Forschungsarbeiten und deren Veröffentlichung unter Beteiligung junger Forscher verwendet werden.

Im Abstand von mindestens drei Jahren verleiht die Balzan Stiftung auch einen "Preis für Humanität, Frieden und Brüderlichkeit unter den Völkern".

Die Internationale Stiftung Preis E. Balzan – Fonds, mit Sitz in Zürich, verwaltet das von Eugenio Balzan hinterlassene Vermögen, um der Internationalen Stiftung Preis E. Balzan – Preis die zur Verwirklichung ihres Zieles notwendigen finanziellen Mittel zur Verfügung zu stellen.

International Foundation Prize E. Balzan

The International Balzan Foundation was established in Lugano in 1956 thanks to the generosity of Lina Balzan, who had come into a considerable inheritance on the death of her father, Eugenio. She decided to use this wealth to honour his memory. Eugenio Francesco Balzan was born in Badia Polesine, near Rovigo (Northern Italy), on 20 April 1874 into a family of landowners. He spent almost his entire working life at Milan's leading daily newspaper, *Corriere della Sera*. After joining the paper in 1897, he worked his way up from editorial assistant to news editor and special correspondent. In 1903 editor Luigi Albertini made him managing director of the paper's publishing house; he then became a partner and shareholder in the company. He was not only a resourceful manager, but also a leading personality in Milan. In 1933 he left Italy due to ever-increasing opposition to what was left of an independent *Corriere*. He then moved to Switzerland, living in Zurich and Lugano. He engaged in charitable activities, supporting many worthy causes. He officially returned to Italy in 1950. Eugenio Balzan died in Lugano, Switzerland, on 15 July 1953.

Today, the Balzan Foundation, international in character and scope, acts jointly through two Foundations: one under Italian jurisdiction and the other under Swiss jurisdiction.

In Milan, the International Foundation Prize E. Balzan – Prize aims to promote, throughout the world, culture, science, and the most meritorious initiatives in the cause of humanity, peace, and fraternity among peoples, regardless of nationality, race, or creed. This aim is attained through the annual awarding of prizes in two general academic categories: literature, the moral sciences, and the arts; medicine and the physical, mathematical, and natural sciences. Specific subjects for the awarding of Prizes are chosen on an annual basis.

Nominations for these prizes are received at the Foundation's request from the world's leading academic institutions. Candidates are selected by the General Prize Committee, composed of eminent European scholars and scientists. Prizewinners must allocate half of the Prize to research, involving young researchers.

At intervals of not less than three years, the Balzan Foundation also awards a prize for humanity, peace, and fraternity among peoples.

In Zurich, the International Foundation Prize E. Balzan – Fund manages Eugenio Balzan's estate so as to place at the disposal of the International Foundation Prize E. Balzan – Prize the necessary financial means to realize its objectives.

Message de bienvenue de la Présidente de la Fondation Internationale Prix E. Balzan – Fonds *Gisèle Girgis-Musy*

Mit diesem Stück heisse ich Sie herzlich willkommen im Saal des Nationalrats, dem politischen Mittelpunkt der Schweiz, wo die Balzan Stiftung für die Preisverleihungen seit vielen Jahren ein aussergewöhnliches Gastrecht genießt.

Sie hörten "Primavera", den ersten Satz der "Estaciones Porteñas" des argentinischen Bandoneon-Künstlers und Komponisten Astor Piazzolla, der als Begründer des Tango Nuevo gilt, einer Weiterentwicklung des traditionellen Tango Argentino mit Elementen aus modernem Jazz und klassischer Musik.

Die Interpreten des Quartetts «Züri Ost» sind

- Der Gitarrist Boris Klecic und der Bassist Ivan Nestic aus Zagreb, ein vielfach preisgekröntes Rhythmusgespann, deren Folk-Pop-Band «Kud Meya» im Kroatien der 90er-Jahre Kultstatus hatte;
- Oleg Lips aus Sankt Petersburg, ein wahrer Paganini auf dem Akkordeon, dessen Virtuosität und Spielfreude keine Grenzen kennen;
- Martin Schumacher aus Zürich, Klarinetist der Extraklasse, seit über 30 Jahren souverän unterwegs zwischen Jazz, Klassik und Orient.

Madame la Présidente du Conseil national, Irène Kälin,
Sehr geehrte Gäste aus Politik, Kultur, Wissenschaft und Medien,
et en particulier Mesdames et Messieurs les lauréates et les lauréats du Prix Balzan 2021,

au nom de la Fondation Internationale Prix E. Balzan, représentée aujourd’hui par les présidents et les membres des deux Conseils de Fondation « Premio » de Milan et « Fonds » de Zürich ainsi que par le président et les membres du Comité général des Prix, c’est pour moi un grand honneur de vous remercier de votre présence à cette cérémonie officielle de remise des Prix Balzan 2021. C’est la première fois dans toute l’histoire de la Fondation qu’une remise des prix a lieu en été. Après deux ans de pandémie et un report de cérémonie, nous sommes particulièrement heureux de pouvoir nous retrouver à nouveau, comme auparavant et sans restriction, afin de célébrer la remise des Prix Balzan 2021 à six éminentes personnalités.

C’est une journée importante pour notre Fondation, conçue et créée en 1956 par Angela Balzan, afin d’honorer le personnage extraordinaire qu’était son père Eugenio Balzan, qui lui avait légué son importante fortune après une prestigieuse carrière auprès du Corriere della Sera.

Journée particulièrement importante pour la Fondation Balzan, car c'est aujourd'hui que la Fondation remet, au cours de cette cérémonie, ses quatre prix annuels, chacun d'un montant de 750 000. francs suisses, afin d'honorer 6 personnalités éminentes qui se sont distinguées dans les divers domaines de la science et de la culture. C'est une journée qui concrétise ainsi la volonté et l'ambition de la Fondation Balzan d'encourager des personnes partout dans le monde, sans distinction d'origine, de nationalité ou de religion la culture et la science. En remettant ces prix, la Fondation Balzan ne cherche pas seulement à reconnaître l'excellence, mais elle regarde également vers l'avenir ; les lauréates et les lauréats Balzan doivent en effet consacrer la moitié du montant du prix à financer un projet de recherche conduit de préférence par de jeunes chercheuses et chercheurs ; ce qui représente un aspect important du Prix Balzan.

La Fondation Balzan « Prix » de Milan a pour objectif d'encourager la culture, les sciences et les initiatives humanitaires les plus méritoires. La Fondation Balzan « Fonds », sise à Zürich, est chargée quant à elle d'administrer le patrimoine légué de façon à être en mesure de mettre, année après année, à disposition de la Fondation « Prix » les moyens financiers nécessaires à la réalisation de ses objectifs. Cette tâche est rarement de tout repos. Ja, diese Aufgabe ist selten einfach.

Heute jedoch, nach einer fulminanten Entwicklung der Finanzmärkte im Jahr 2021, sind sowohl die Situation als auch die Perspektiven eher düster. Die Finanzmärkte sind eingebrochen. Klima- und Energiesorgen, politische Instabilitäten, Pandemie und jetzt noch der Krieg in der Ukraine: Kaum glaubten wir, nach zwei Jahren Pandemie zur Normalität zurückkehren zu können, spricht man nach dem Angriff Russlands auf die Ukraine von einer Zeitenwende in der Geschichte unseres Kontinents und von einer neuen Weltordnung.

Die Pandemie wie auch der Krieg in der Ukraine sind zwei Schockereignisse, die einerseits die Verletzlichkeit der globalen Lieferketten schonungslos aufgedeckt und andererseits die Vision einer friedlichen, durch Demokratie und gegenseitigen Handel stabilisierten Welt zerstört haben. Es zeichnet sich zusehends eine Deglobalisierung ab. Der politische Fokus wird auf protektionistischer Versorgungssicherheit und nationalen Lieferketten liegen. Somit werden, auch aufgrund der hohen Staatsverschuldung, die Preise und die Zinsen entsprechend steigen. Das Risiko vermehrter sozialer und politischer Unruhen wird zu Steuererhöhungen für die Unternehmen und zu einer stärkeren Umverteilung führen. Ein Wirtschaftsabschwung und gar eine Stagflation scheinen fast unvermeidlich. Dies wird die stark aussenhandelsorientierte Wirtschaft in Europa stark treffen. Einzig der in Europa sowie in der Schweiz angespannte Arbeitsmarkt macht Hoffnung, dass es nicht zu einer grösseren Arbeitslosigkeit mit all ihren Folgen kommen wird.

Nach eingehender Prüfung durch den Geschäftsführungsausschuss hat der Stiftungsrat der Balzan - Fonds kürzlich beschlossen, die langfristig orientierte Anlagestrategie unverändert weiterzuführen. Die taktische Asset Allocation bietet ausreichend Spielraum, um mit der aussergewöhnlich hohen Volatilität und Nervosität unter den Investoren adäquat umzugehen. Und last but not least: Wir haben in guten Jahren dafür gesorgt, dass wir auch mittelfristig die angesehenen Balzan Preise weiterhin verleihen können.

Invito ora il presidente della Fondazione Internazionale Premio Balzan di Milano, Prof. Alberto Quadrio Curzio, a prendere la parola.

Intervento del Presidente della Fondazione Internazionale Premio E. Balzan – Premio *Alberto Quadrio Curzio*

Signora Presidente Kälin,
Autorità,
illustri Premiati Balzan,
gentili Signore e Signori,

è un grande onore trovarsi in questa sede istituzionale, il Palazzo Federale, di una esemplare democrazia partecipata e portatrice di pace e progresso. Mi rivolgo a voi per la prima volta in questa sede quale Presidente della Fondazione Internazionale Balzan – Premio in occasione dell'appuntamento più importante e significativo: quello della premiazione ufficiale dei vincitori. Succedo in tale carica, ricordandolo con affetto e stima, al Presidente Professor Enrico Decleva che nel 2019 aprì questa cerimonia. Egli è scomparso nel 2020 lasciando a noi tutto l'ammirato ricordo dell'opera svolta anche alla Fondazione Balzan.

La cerimonia di conferimento dei Premi ai vincitori corona molti mesi d'intenso confronto e approfondimento tra i membri del Comitato Generale Premi, ai quali compete la responsabilità di selezionare le figure e le personalità che eccellono nelle materie di volta in volta oggetto del Premio. È, il loro, un impegno che viene assolto in una prospettiva di ampio respiro internazionale, avendo come criterio quello del merito e della valutazione comparativa della qualità dell'opera scientifica dei candidati e del loro contributo allo sviluppo della conoscenza. Esprimo dunque un particolare ringraziamento al Presidente, il Professor Luciano Maiani, collega altamente stimato, e a tutto il Comitato Generale Premi.

La conferma della qualità dell'opera svolta dal Comitato Generale Premi viene dalla eccellenza dei vincitori, che anche quest'anno abbiamo avuto modo di apprezzare nel corso del Forum interdisciplinare dei Premiati 2021 di ieri e del cui valore avremo piena conferma tra poco nella loro "lectio ufficiale" che si accompagna al conferimento del Premio. A loro esprimo le mie felicitazioni e i miei sentimenti di più viva ammirazione, certo anche che condurranno le ricerche dei giovani scienziati nei progetti associati ad una parte del premio.

Secondo la tradizione, le cerimonie di premiazione si svolgono ad anni alterni in Svizzera e in Italia, a conferma della forte complementarità e della stretta cooperazione che vigono tra le due Fondazioni intitolate a Eugenio Balzan: quella, con sede a Zurigo, e quella, con sede a Milano. Una cooperazione che è quanto mai fondamentale e significativa per il perseguimento degli obiettivi che ci accomunano: la promozione

e la salvaguardia della cultura e della scienza a favore del progresso, nonché dei valori umani a ciò connessi, nel contesto di una stretta collaborazione fra Svizzera e Italia.

In tale prospettiva, rivolgo un vivo, cordialissimo saluto alla Presidente della Fondazione Balzan – Fondo di Zurigo, la signora Gisèle Girgis-Musy, ringraziandola sentitamente per il grande impegno, l'efficacia e lo spirito di collaborazione con cui interpreta il suo importante ruolo.

La costante e proficua collaborazione che ci caratterizza si evidenzia anche negli eventi che si svolgono a contorno di questa cerimonia, a cominciare appunto dal Forum interdisciplinare di ieri, da parecchi anni organizzato con le Accademie svizzere delle scienze (a Berna) e con l'Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (a Roma). Ciò a riprova della più ampia cooperazione tra soggetti italiani e svizzeri che costituisce, come già detto, uno dei particolari connotati della Balzan.

Nel contesto di questa cooperazione, assieme alle Accademie svizzere delle scienze e, a Roma, all'Accademia dei Lincei, abbiamo organizzato ormai 10 seminari a tema fra giovani ricercatori e scienziati affermati. Si tratta dei cosiddetti "IinterR-La+B" (International Interdisciplinary Laboratory, dove L sta per Accademia dei Lincei, a+ sta per le Accademie svizzere e B sta per Balzan). L'idea base di questa iniziativa, che presiedo, è di dare vita a uno scambio reciproco tra ricercatori nei vari campi del sapere per incentivare il progresso scientifico nella interdisciplinarietà. Si dimostra così che la creatività non dipende solo dalla ricerca individuale in una materia, ma anche dall'interazione reciproca che conferisce ai giovani ricercatori un ruolo chiave nelle discussioni, rafforzando la loro visibilità e il loro impatto sul piano scientifico. A conti fatti nei 10 anni di vita di IinterR-La+B hanno partecipato alla iniziativa decine di giovani ricercatori provenienti dai più diversi Paesi.

Ricordo che la metà dei 750 mila franchi svizzeri, che costituiscono l'importo assegnato a ciascun vincitore (singolo o gruppo di lavoro) del Premio Balzan, deve essere destinata allo svolgimento di nuovi programmi di ricerca, affidati proprio a giovani studiosi. È questo un aspetto peculiare e distintivo del Premio Balzan sul cui significato non ho bisogno di insistere. Dal 2001, quando gli organi della Fondazione hanno introdotto questa importante clausola, sono stati sostenuti più di 80 progetti di ricerca in tutte le discipline scientifiche e umanistiche, condotti da giovani di 22 paesi del mondo, coinvolgendo nel lavoro (direttamente o indirettamente) oltre 500 ricercatori e investendo nell'impresa circa 36 milioni di franchi svizzeri.

Il "Sistema Balzan" non va quindi valutato tanto dal punto di vista dimensionale quanto per la capacità di ben usare i mezzi, messi a disposizione della Fondazione Balzan « Fondo » a Zurigo ottimamente amministrata. È infatti vasta la risonanza, tra volumi, articoli, conferenze e workshop, che hanno ottenuto i progetti di ricerca svolti

grazie al Premio Balzan.

Ci sembra che nel tempo, intorno e grazie ai Premi Balzan, si sia progressivamente costituita una sorta di “comunità” di studiosi, composta in primo luogo dai Premiati, ma comprendente anche – e in numero crescente – coloro che hanno partecipato e partecipano ai vari progetti di ricerca; per non citare, naturalmente, gli autorevoli componenti del Comitato Generale Premi.

Pensando a tale community di alto profilo e in continua espansione, abbiamo pensato di approntare uno strumento editoriale, i Balzan Papers, con il quale dare conto delle sue molteplici manifestazioni. La collana raccoglie gli atti di conferenze, Forum, linteR-La+B e saggi spontanei dei Premiati e di coloro che gravitano attorno alla Balzan. Non meno importante è la collana delle Annual Balzan Lectures che è arrivata ai 10 volumi, ciascuno elaborato da un vincitore del Premio Balzan. Anche questa iniziativa mantiene nel tempo l'identità culturale della Fondazione Balzan.

Prima di concludere, rinnovo le mie felicitazioni vivissime ai vincitori di quest'anno, e ringrazio di cuore tutti coloro che, con la loro opera nel Consiglio della Premio e della Fondo, insieme ai collaboratori a Milano e a Zurigo, hanno contribuito anche quest'anno a farci arrivare a questo momento, insieme conclusivo e di ripartenza dopo anni così dolorosi e difficili, nel quale rinnovare il nostro impegno a dare concretezza e forza propulsiva alle finalità di fondo della Balzan, tese a valorizzare i talenti, la ricerca scientifica e culturale, l'impegno umanitario.

Allocution de la Présidente de la Fondation Internationale Prix E. Balzan – Fonds *Gisèle Girgis-Musy*

Grazie delle sue parole, caro presidente Quadrio Curzio,

En vous remettant aujourd’hui ces prix dotés chacun de 750.000 francs suisses, dont la moitié devra être attribuée à la recherche conduite dans vos domaines respectifs, de préférence par de jeunes scientifiques,

Monsieur Giorgio Buccellati et Madame Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati
Madame Alessandra Buonanno et Monsieur Thibault Damour
Monsieur Saul Friedländer
Monsieur Jeffrey I. Gordon,

la Fondation Balzan veut distinguer et récompenser vos grands mérites dans des secteurs de la science et de la culture très différents.

Ceci n’est possible que grâce à l’engagement de tous les membres du Conseil de Fondation. Aussi je remercie à cette occasion très sincèrement tous les membres de la Fondation Balzan « Fonds » de Zürich, pour leurs précieuses contributions et leur soutien fort apprécié dans la gestion du patrimoine, en particulier des risques et du rendement. Mein Dank geht auch an das Sekretariat, Frau Kathrin Ott und dieses Jahr ganz besonders an Frau Daniela Beltrame, die nach über 20 Jahren treuer und loyaler Dienste in den Ruhestand geht. Ich heisse bei dieser Gelegenheit unsere neue Assistentin, Frau Antonella Statte, herzlich willkommen und danke auch Frau Franziska Winter, unserer Finanzexpertin, für die ausgezeichnete Zusammenarbeit im Dienst der Balzan Stiftung.

Mesdames et Messieurs, la cérémonie annuelle de remise des Prix Balzan se déroule alternativement à Rome et à Berne. A Rome, c’est le Président de la République italienne qui accompagne la remise des prix. A Berne, nous avons le privilège de procéder à la cérémonie dans la Salle du Conseil national, centre de la politique suisse, et je suis très honorée, Madame la Présidente du Conseil national, du privilège que vous nous accordez et vous suis très reconnaissante d’avoir accepté de nous adresser quelques mots de bienvenue. Madame la Présidente, Irène Kälin, je vous en prie.

Rede der Nationalratspräsidentin *Irène Kälin*

Werte Preisträgerinnen und Preisträger
Sehr geehrtes Präsidium der Balzan Stiftung
Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren, liebe Gäste

Welch eine Freude, Sie im Nationalratssaal empfangen zu dürfen! Es ist mir jedes Mal eine besondere Ehre, wenn Wissenschaft und Politik hier zusammenkommen. Denn die Wissenschaft ist für die Politik unerlässlich. Die Wissenschaft und ihre Erkenntnisse sind für uns alle unerlässlich.

Werte Preisträgerinnen und Preisträger
Alle Kinder haben Berufsträume. So auch ich. Eine Vielzahl. Realistische und weniger realistische. Und oft war meine kindliche Vorstellung wohl mehr dem Reich der Phantasie als der Realität zugehörig. Und so wollte ich Tierforscherin werden. Natürlich wegen den Tieren und weil ich glaubte, ich würde dann neue Tierarten entdecken und über die bereits bekannten noch Unbekanntes herausfinden. Heute weiss ich, dass an mir keine Tierforscherin verloren gegangen ist. Ich bin viel zu ungeduldig, zu wenig präzise und letztlich interessiert mich der Mensch und sein soziales Gefüge halt doch mehr als das Reich der Tiere.

Und trotzdem ist die Faszination und noch viel mehr die Achtung geblieben: Forschen, Entdecken, Erkunden. Wahrheiten hinterfragen. Neue ergründen. Analysen überarbeiten. Scheitern. Weitermachen. Zusammenfügen. Ergänzen. Widerlegen.

Sie, werte Preisträgerinnen und Preisträger, haben es sich zur Lebensaufgabe gemacht, solide Erkenntnisse zu gewinnen, haben Sie Ihr Leben der Wissenschaft verschrieben. Sie ergründen für uns die Welt, erklären sie im Kleinen und im Grossen. Machen in Ihrem jeweiligen Fachbereich die Welt etwas verständlicher. Bunter. Komplexer. Dafür ziehe ich meinen Hut vor Ihnen.

Ihre Erkenntnisse sind unser aller Erkenntnisse. Auch wenn wir vielleicht nicht alle im selben Masse verstehen, was der Kern Ihrer Forschung oder die genaue Abgrenzung Ihres Forschungsgegenstandes ist, so ist die Summe Ihres Schaffens doch unverzichtbar für uns alle. Sie agieren inmitten der Gesellschaft und steuern zu deren kultureller, wirtschaftlicher, sozialer und ethischer Entwicklung bei. Sie wissen um die Macht der Wissenschaft und deren aussergewöhnlichem Vermögen, die Welt zu erneuern.

Sehr geehrte Präsidentin und Präsident, Mitarbeiter und Mitarbeiterinnen der Stiftung Balzan

Wie der Bund so wollen auch Sie, dass die Gesellschaft die gewonnenen Erkenntnisse so gut und so schnell wie möglich aufnimmt. Für das Jahr 2021 zeichnen Sie den Entdecker des Mikrobioms Jeffrey Gordon, den Shoah-Historiker Saul Friedländer, zwei Kinder Einsteins, Alessandra Buonanno und Thibault Damour, die als Erste Gravitationswellen nachgewiesen haben, und zu guter Letzt das renommierte Paar alter nahöstlicher Archäologie, Giorgio Buccellati und Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati, aus. Durch Ihre Wahl haben Sie uns die Bedeutsamkeit der Entdeckungen dieser Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler, die in der Folge auch in den Medien grosse Beachtung gefunden haben, vor Augen geführt. Die heutige Preisverleihung bietet Gelegenheit, Forschungsbereiche ins Rampenlicht zu rücken, die bei anderen, internationalen Auszeichnungen leer ausgehen.

Ich danke der Balzan Stiftung, dass sie sich dafür einsetzt, insbesondere in der Politik neu gewonnenes Wissen bekannt zu machen, und dass sie neue Sterne am Firmament der Wissenschaft fördert, indem sie die Preisträgerinnen und Preisträger dazu anhält, die Hälfte ihres Preisgeldes, d.h. 375 000 Franken, für Projekte junger Forscherinnen und Forscher bereitzustellen. Denn die Wissenschaft darf nicht stehen bleiben. Unsere Welt ist zu komplex, um sich auszuruhen. Wissen muss erneuert werden.

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren

Wissenschaft ist nicht selbstverständlich. Sie braucht Raum und Mittel, Freiheit und Infrastruktur, um sich entfalten zu können. Nun, da im Osten Europas ein schrecklicher Krieg wütet, wird uns das wieder bitterlich bewusst. Forscherinnen und Forscher müssen fliehen, ihre Projekte teils hinter sich lassen zusammen mit ihren Liebsten. Es wird uns wieder in Erinnerung gerufen wie fragil Demokratie ist und wie viel von ihr abhängt.

Gemeinsam mit der Internationalen Stiftung Balzan - Preis plädiere ich für eine Wissenschaft und Forschung ohne Grenzen. Ich rufe die Politik auf, sich der Wissenschaft anzuschliessen, damit Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler – unabhängig von ihrem Herkunftsland, ihrem Geschlecht und ihren ökonomischen Voraussetzungen – zur Mehrung des menschlichen Wissens beitragen können.

Ich sage ganz bewusst « unabhängig von ihrem Geschlecht », denn auch mit Blick auf die Schweiz, die sonst für die Wissenschaft sehr gute Rahmenbedingungen hat – muss es uns zu denken geben, dass es nur wenige Frauen in der Forschung ganz nach oben schaffen. Für Wissenschaftlerinnen – und immer mehr auch für Wissenschaftler – ist eine bessere Vereinbarkeit von Beruf und Privatleben die Voraussetzung dafür, dass sie nach der Dissertation, der Promotion oder dem Postdoktorat ihre Karriere

fortsetzen. Und nicht zuletzt müssen unsere Kinder, Mädchen wie Buben, schon ganz früh gleichermassen ermutigt und bestärkt werden, an ihr Potenzial zu glauben. Denn wir wissen alle, dass Potential keine Frage des Geschlechts ist und demnach auch keine Frage des Geschlechts sein darf. Ich danke Ihnen für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit. Kommen wir nun zum emotionalen Höhepunkt dieser Preisverleihung – der Übergabe der Preise Balzan 2021.

Es gilt das gesprochene Wort

Intervento del Presidente del Comitato Generale Premi Balzan *Luciano Maiani*

Signora Presidente,
Signore e Signori,

nel corso del 2021 il Comitato Generale Premi della Fondazione Balzan, composto dai Professori Frances Ashcroft, Sierd Cloetingh, Paolo de Bernardis, Donatella della Porta, Børge Diderichsen, Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco, Étienne Ghys, Andrea Giardina, Charles Godfray, Nathalie Heinich, Jules Hoffmann, Peter Kuon, Luciano Maiani, Thomas Maissen, Stephen Mulhall, Marjan Schwegman, Victor Stoichita, Maria Strømme e Peter Suter, ha preso in esame le molte proposte pervenute da accademie, università ed eminenti personalità della cultura di tutto il mondo. Dopo lunghe e appassionate discussioni ha scelto i vincitori dei Premi 2021, che anche questa volta si distinguono non solo per i loro eccezionali contributi al campo per il quale sono stati premiati, ma anche per la passione che li ha spronati e l'impegno che li ha accompagnati in quella professione che, non esito a dire, è diventata un po' la loro vita.

Il messaggio insito nel Premio Balzan, che impone ai Premiati di investire nella ricerca e nei giovani, è proprio volto a valorizzare e a incentivare il talento e la passione per l'indagine scientifica, leve fondamentali per espandere gli orizzonti del sapere e per guidare il progresso dell'umanità.

Desidero rivolgere un sentito ringraziamento ai colleghi del Comitato per l'impegnativo contributo dato in una situazione resa difficile da una situazione sanitaria che speriamo sia definitivamente superata.

Ai Premiati Balzan 2021 rinnovo i più vivi e sinceri rallegramenti.

2021 Balzan Prize for Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East

For their achievements in the study of Hurrian culture and for highlighting its importance as the foundation of a great urban civilization, among the most flourishing in the ancient Near East in the third millennium BCE;
for promoting a digital approach to the study of archaeology;
for enhancing theoretical reflection on the nature of this discipline.



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Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati and Giorgio Buccellati
(1939, USA) (1937, Italia)

Giorgio Buccellati is Founder and Research Professor in the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology (Director of the Mesopotamian Lab) at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and in the Department of History at UCLA.

Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati taught at the Department of Art at California State University, Los Angeles, from 1973 until her appointment as Emerita (2003). Since 2003 she has continued her research at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Acceptance Speech Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati

Mrs. President of the National Council,
Members of the Balzan Foundation,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Marilyn and I first went to the field together in 1966. We spent one month in Syria, doing a survey in the steppe near Palmyra, and then three months in Iraq, excavating at the ancient site of Nippur. Many other seasons of field work followed, in Iraq, Turkey, Georgia, and especially in Syria, ultimately in the major project at Tell Mozan, ancient Urkesh, where excavations stopped in 2011 at the beginning of the war, at which point we started an intense activity of community archaeology with the local stakeholders.

The Balzan Foundation award comes as the culmination of this effort of ours, which has recently passed its half a century mark. In accepting it, we wish to express our profound gratitude for the recognition it gives of the theoretical and practical implications of our approach. These implications are perfectly embodied in the category in which our award falls: art and archaeology of the ancient Near East. Inverting the sequence of the two terms, we wish now to show how archaeology may be seen as the search for the whole, and art as the resulting whole, one that can have a profound impact not only in academia, but well beyond, within the social texture where archaeology takes place.

Let us reflect on the very notion of what an archaeological “find” is. What we have come to see more and more clearly is that what an archaeologist “finds,” in ways that are unlike any other discovery, is not so much this object or that architectural monument. It is rather the physical association, in the matrix of the earth, of the million bits and pieces that are buried in the accumulation resulting from their own collapse. It is a daunting task to fully understand this extremely complex cultural stratigraphy that is the unique signature of an archaeological site.

All the more so as these bits and pieces, as in most ancient Near Eastern sites, stem from a “broken tradition” – that is, a tradition that has no longer any living carriers. There are, today, no ancient inhabitants of Urkesh capable of telling us what this or that piece means, and thus how it correlates to other bits and pieces. We only have these mute witnesses, in their physical juxtaposition in the ground.

The task of archaeological reason is to recognize patterns that can lead us to attribute meaning, in a valid arguable manner, to these otherwise disjointed remnants of a tradition once alive. Archaeologists, we are called to mend the brokenness.

“Bits and pieces.” The term “bits” brings immediately to mind the digital dimension. And we may in some ways say that archaeology is natively digital. It is so in the first place metaphorically: on an excavation, the myriad fragments come to light in a disaggregate fashion out of the ground, similar to cells in a database. It is then properly digital when the physical record is translated into a referential record, one that accounts for each individual fragment and for its contact association with other fragments. A theoretical concern of mine, and one that has been successfully tested in the website I have created for our project, has been to go beyond the fragments and to create a website conceived as a whole, a website that is not just a container of fragments, however well structured. The Urkesh website proposes instead a digital discourse that interlaces the fragments into a new whole, one that develops a proper digital argument. It is a new departure in scholarly communication, one that affects the very notion of a website as a more powerful tool than recognized in current practice. One that ushers in an axial new moment in our history, comparable only to the beginning of language and the invention of writing.

A successful search for the whole yields, invariably, a little triumph. Nowhere is this more perceptible than when the resulting “whole” emerges as a work of art. Here I wish to share with you one example that has involved me deeply during the excavation years, and subsequently.

In an accumulation on ancient palace floors we found some 10,000 pieces of fragile dried mud. They were very small, most of them the size of a fingernail. Many bore the impression of a seal, so we had to save them all individually, recording their find spot, their contact association with everything else in the same context, and then clean them. Some one thousand turned out to bear an impression of a cylinder seal. And these impressions came in turn from some 50 different seals, and I had to reconstruct the iconography of each of them. It required infinite patience, but the “whole” that emerged from them was truly extraordinary. I had here the portraits of the king and his queen, of princes, courtiers, and officials. They were exquisitely designed, in a style that was quite new. And they were inscribed with cuneiform legends that gave us the name of these individuals, as well as the name of this ancient city, Urkesh, which had not been inhabited for some 3000 years. It was all extremely important for our understanding of the history of ancient Mesopotamia. But, as things developed, this new “whole” I had refashioned struck a much deeper cord, one that brought together, in the time of war, very different groups and individuals that might otherwise have been in conflict with each other. Since the beginning of the war, in 2011, we have conducted an extremely active program aimed at helping the local stakeholders appropriate this very ancient history of their territory, one that preceded all of them – Kurds, Arabs, Armenians, Assyrians, Yazidis – and gave them a new sense of belonging. These tiny fragile pieces, which would have escaped the attention of anyone but a trained archaeologist, spoke with a new vibrant voice.

The channel for this voice has been a series of activities we have undertaken with local members of our staff – exhibits in the main cities in the area, illustrated lectures in private homes in the villages, guided tours to the site, and ultimately programs that involved the youngsters in the schools, all the way from grammar schools to universities. And you can imagine my reaction at seeing young children sitting within one of the buildings we excavated, coloring our drawings of those seal impressions I had so painstakingly studied.

We leave you with one final thought, that has been weighing heavily on our minds in these years. In our collective “west” we have given much weight to an armed response to ISIS. We must go beyond that. As intellectuals, we have unique ways in which we can contribute to the fight against extremism and terrorism. The sense of pride in a heritage to which we, archaeologists, have given new life is a winning response to the ideology that nourishes extremism. We know that none of the people exposed to the beauty of art coming from their own subsoil have ever joined or will ever join ISIS, will ever even think of looting our site. It is, as I said, the real triumph of this whole which is only latent in the ground, a whole that emerged from the myriad fragments I had the good fortune to bring back to life.

2021 Balzan Prize for Gravitation: Physical and Astrophysical Aspects

For their leadership in the prediction of the gravitational-wave signals produced when compact objects like neutron stars and black holes spiral together and eventually merge. Their work was instrumental in the detection of gravitational waves, providing an extremely accurate confirmation of general relativity as the theory of gravitation, and allowing the LIGO and Virgo detectors to promote a type of astronomy which uses gravitational waves as new, powerful messengers of the universe.



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Credit IHES/MCV

Alessandra Buonanno and **Thibault Damour**
(1968, Italy/USA) (1951, France)

Alessandra Buonanno, Director at the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics (Albert Einstein Institute) in Potsdam, Germany, and Head of the Department of Astrophysical and Cosmological Relativity.

Thibault Damour has been a Professor of Theoretical Physics at the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques, Bures-sur-Yvette, France, since 1989.

Acceptance Speech Alessandra Buonanno

Mrs. President of the National Council,
Members of the Balzan Foundation,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with profound thanks to the Balzan Foundation and the Balzan General Prize Committee that I accept this generous award. I am deeply honored and humbled that my name is included in the list of so many distinguished Balzan Prizewinners.

I am delighted that the Balzan Prize Committee has recognized the topic of theoretical predictions of gravitational waves from binary systems, and I am also very pleased to share this prize with my former collaborator, colleague, and friend Thibault Damour.

I entered the research field of gravitational waves through a series of somewhat unanticipated events. Indeed, after a PhD thesis in theoretical cosmology, my scientific interest started to drift toward gravitational waves from binary systems during the first year of my postdoctoral time at the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques (IHES) outside Paris. Such a switch was also triggered by the attendance of an inspiring workshop where the first attempts to analyze data of a 40-meter gravitational-wave detector to search for signals from binary systems were discussed. Subsequently, I made the key decision to devote my research to gravitational waves instead of cosmology when I accepted a fellowship at Caltech, where I highly benefited from interactions with astrophysicists, data analysts, and experimentalists. I am grateful to other research opportunities that I had along my scientific career, including collaborations with worldwide experts in analytical relativity when working at the Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris, and with numerical-relativity pioneers immediately after the attendance of a workshop at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, near the University of Maryland, where the numerical waveforms produced by the merger of two black holes were first presented. I am also thankful to the Max Planck Society for the very generous funds and the academic freedom that have allowed me to quickly build, from scratch, an interdisciplinary research group, which spans from theory to observation through the analysis of experimental data, and be at the forefront of gravitational-wave astronomy from day one, when the advanced LIGO detectors came online in 2015.

Indeed, on September 14, 2015, the LIGO and Virgo Collaboration observed for the first time a gravitational wave emitted by the collision of two black holes. Today, after almost seven years, we have observed about 100 gravitational waves, emitted by the

merger of black holes and neutron stars, ushering in the field of multi-messenger astronomy with gravitational waves. This number will grow considerably over the next several years as the sensitivity of the instruments improves. In the next decade, new frequency bands will be opened. There will be new facilities on the Earth, such as the Einstein Telescope and Cosmic Explorer, which will observe binary black holes at the time the first stars formed, and a mission in space, LISA, which will observe gravitational waves from black holes of millions of solar masses, such as the one at the center of our own galaxy.

I feel lucky to have experienced firsthand the discovery of gravitational waves from merging black holes in 2015, and the observation of the first neutron-star coalescence in 2017. Great breakthroughs in science often occur by undertaking projects that seem impossible to accomplish. Forty years ago, the proponents of LIGO and Virgo, theorists, and experimentalists not only had the sagacity and ingenuity to build new instruments to observe the universe and detect gravitational waves for the first time on the Earth. They also had the courage and determination to persuade science funding agencies and many other scientists to embark on these somewhat risky projects. I think it is exceptional what women and men can achieve with their creativity, intellectual freedom and ingenuity, and their love for knowledge.

Unfortunately, today we are living an unusual time of crisis, in which often truth and science have been questioned and dismissed, and misinformation abounds. If we want to make the world a better place, I believe we need to make sure that people appreciate and value more than ever truth and science. As scholars, we have a responsibility in educating people to appreciate knowledge based on facts and confront ideas openly.

Science is a collective activity. The scientific insights that I have gained over the last twenty years in developing state-of-the-art waveform models for gravitational-wave observations and science were gained together with my senior and junior collaborators, notably postdoctoral scholars and PhD students, and my colleagues of the LIGO and Virgo collaboration. I dedicate the Balzan Prize to all of them.

I was very fortunate to grow up in an environment that did not prevent me from following my passions and curiosity, and achieve a scientific career. I want to thank my parents and my scientific mentors who nurtured my independence, and encouraged me to take advantage of opportunities, as they arose.

Once again, I thank you for this wonderful honor. I am using my Balzan Prize to support junior scientists in a research project, in collaboration with historians and philosophers of science, on the path to the solution of the two-body problem in general relativity in the last 30 years, and its impact in the first observation of gravitational waves.

Acceptance Speech Thibault Damour

Madame la présidente du Conseil national,
Members of the Balzan Foundation,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

it is for me a singular honor – and a great emotion – to receive the Balzan Prize for advances in the physical and astrophysical aspects of gravitation. The work for which Alessandra Buonanno and I receive the Balzan Prize today is the invention of a formalism (called Effective One-Body) that yields an analytical description of the gravitational wave signal generated by coalescing binary black hole systems. The Effective One-Body formalism gave the first complete description of the gravitational wave signal from the slowly evolving sinusoidal wave emitted during the early inspiral until the intense flash of gravitational radiation generated during the merger, ending in exponentially damped oscillations. This formalism was constructed and then developed by combining, in a novel way, insights and knowledge due to many authors. In this respect, I would like to acknowledge the crucial help in informing and developing the Effective One-Body formalism of many of my collaborators, notably Luc Blanchet, Gerhard Schafer, Piotr Jaranowski, Bala Iyer, Alessandro Nagar, Luciano Rezzolla, and Donato Bini. I wish also to acknowledge the insights in gravitational physics I got many years ago during my postdoctoral stay at Princeton University, notably through my interactions with Remo Ruffini and John Wheeler.

Indeed, science is, by essence, a cumulative endeavor. The cumulative character of science is well encapsulated in the famous sentence that every generation of scientists can see further only because they stand on the shoulders of giants. In this respect, it is particularly fitting to receive the Balzan Prize for Gravitation here in Bern, where in 1907 the greatest giant of 20th century physics, Albert Einstein, had the fundamental insight that led him to a new theory of gravitation: general relativity. Besides the key contributions of luminaries such as Einstein, scientific progress is based on collaboration and discussion with colleagues, students, and postdocs. I can therefore only accept the Balzan Prize with humility, as a representative of the community of theoretical physicists. In accepting the Balzan Prize, I am particularly happy for the rule that half of the prize should be used to involve an international group of young researchers. This will allow me to pay my debt for the insights – and help – I got from many fellow scientists over many years.

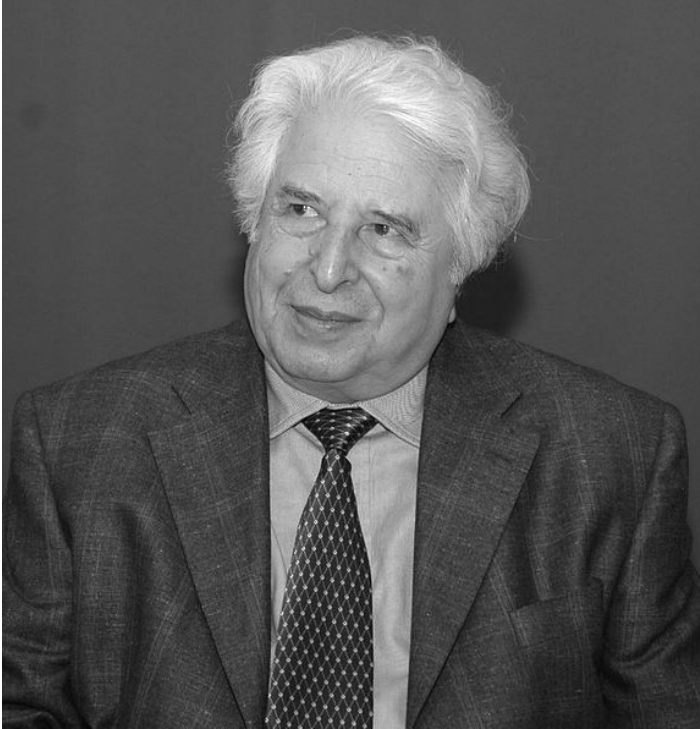
Thank you for your attention.

2021 Balzan Prize for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

For his unparalleled impact on the development of Holocaust Studies.

For his masterpiece, an integrated history
of the persecution and extermination of European Jews.

For creating a historical narrative that expresses the unspeakable,
intertwining scholarly analysis with the disruptive voices
of the victims, perpetrators and bystanders.



Saul Friedländer
(1932, Israel/USA)

Professor Emeritus of History at the University of California, Los Angeles

Acceptance Speech Saul Friedländer

Mrs. President of the National Council,
Members of the Balzan Foundation,
Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

The awarding of the 2021 Balzan Prize for Holocaust and Genocide Studies was an entirely unexpected honor for me. I am deeply grateful to all those who have made it possible. Of course, I accept the Prize and can only hope that the generous amount earmarked for research will open some additional vistas in this difficult and – unfortunately – still relevant domain.

In general terms, the notion of genocide is familiar to millions of people all over the world and the basic facts about the Holocaust may be widely although very superficially shared, notwithstanding a long period of silence following the end of the Second World War. In general, however, knowledge and understanding of various aspects of genocidal events remain mostly hazy for the immense majority of those not directly concerned. Thus, further research and the widest possible communication of its outcome are essential not only for purely scholarly reasons but also for drawing attention to potentially similar situations. The passivity of bystanders to the Holocaust – the research domain chosen here – is an obvious part of this overall effort.

For me, the present research will be the final sequel to the work that has been central to most of my life. For scholars of my generation, the study of the Holocaust was most often determined by biographical circumstances. Incidentally, this has sometimes been used as criticism in the name of some abstract objectivity. The initial motivation for my own work was the obvious consequence of my having been a Jewish child in hiding in wartime France, while my parents, sent back at the Swiss border, were delivered to the Germans and murdered in Auschwitz. It took many years, however, for my becoming aware that this history would be my life's work, and it took many more years before I decided to embark upon a general history of Nazi Germany and the Jews. The trigger of this second phase was precisely the argument of the prominent German historian of Nazism, Martin Broszat, used in an exchange of letters with me, that the memory of the Holocaust of Jewish survivors was "a mythical memory", worthy of respect but, as such, an obstacle to the more rational German historiography of those events.

A measure of subjectivity is only natural when considering such emotionally charged events as the Holocaust and other genocides. Such unavoidable subjectivity can, however, be limited and, if necessary, corrected when the historian is and remains aware of the context he or she is speaking from. This much should be obvious.

The role of the historian of these events is becoming increasingly important as time goes by and as the witnesses leave the scene. The politics of memory are a well-known phenomenon, as are ceremonial ritualization on the one hand and the exploitation of this past by the entertainment industry on the other. History is unable to compete with such massive social needs, but it remains the only avenue for a closer understanding of an unmasterable past.

I will contribute as much as possible to the research launched here. For giving me this opportunity, I am deeply grateful to the Balzan Foundation.

Thank you for your attention.

2021 Balzan Prize for Microbiome in Health and Disease

For founding the field of human microbiome research and revolutionizing our understanding of its roles in health and disease, including in our nutritional status.



Credit Matt Miller / Washington University School of Medicine

Jeffrey I. Gordon
(1947, USA)

Dr. Robert J. Glaser Distinguished University Professor and founding Director of the Center for Genome Sciences and Systems Biology at Washington University in St. Louis.

Acceptance Speech Jeffrey I. Gordon

Mrs. President of the National Council,
Members of the Balzan Foundation,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for this wonderful award and honor which, given its extraordinary history of recipients, I accept with the deepest gratitude on behalf of the magnificent group of students, post-doctoral fellows, staff scientists, and colleagues who I have been so fortunate to have worked with, and learned from, over the years.

When I was a student at Oberlin College, I experienced a place deeply committed to a liberal arts education. I was surrounded by individuals dedicated to understanding and resolving problems related to social justice; to how we can care for one another, live together peacefully, and flourish so that each person can realize her or his full potential.

When I was a medical student at the University of Chicago, I experienced a place of incredible disciplinary breadth and depth – a place filled with people driven by deep curiosity, a love of learning, and a thirst for knowledge.

When I was a young faculty member at Washington University in St. Louis, I encountered extraordinary mentors who had the ability to see the world through another person's eyes and to place young people in environments that were most supportive of their needs and strengths. They empowered young people by conveying a sense that you were valued for who you were and for what you stood for, not just for the work you had produced. I am so appreciative of their attentiveness, thoughtfulness and wisdom; their lessons have never been forgotten.

Soon after I joined the faculty, a PhD student knocked on the door of my newly opened lab and asked to come in. I am so grateful to 142 PhD students and post-doctoral fellows who have come to the lab to share their lives with me. They have had beautiful dreams and a wonderful sense of community – a belief that discoveries are born in caring, supportive, respectful, trusting, curiosity-driven environments where people can share their ideas freely and at the same time not be afraid to say 'I don't understand'.

Words cannot express my gratitude to my family for their unconditional support and love of a husband and father who also lived in the captivating, incredibly

stimulating, magical and mesmerizing world of science. Over the years, I have had the privilege and pleasure of working with fantastic collaborators. They include the late Abigail Salyers from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Tore Midtvedt from the Karolinska Institute, and Tahmeed Ahmed, Executive Director of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Bangladesh who, together with his team, have dedicated their lives to understanding the origins – and developing new ways to treat and ultimately prevent – maternal and childhood undernutrition. Other major collaborators include Michael Barratt at Washington University, Bernard Henrissat, now at the Technical University of Denmark, Andrei Osterman at Sanford Burnham Presbys Medical Discovery Institute, Carlito Lebrilla at the University of California - Davis, and Christopher Newgard at Duke University.

Current human microbiome research is addressing questions first posed by microbiologists more than a century and a half ago ... but it is doing so with new and rapidly expanding sets of tools – both experimental and computational. When I was young, I was captivated by Paul de Kruif's book, *The Microbe Hunters*. Turning the pages of this book, I found the relationship with microbes portrayed in war-like rather than in mutually beneficial terms, and their roles explained in a singular rather than a community context. Later, I came to understand that 'mutually beneficial' was the more common form of our relationship with micro-organisms.

When I was young, I dreamed of going to Mars to search for life. When I was older, I did not have to travel that far to encounter new life forms. A trip a few meters inside was sufficient to encounter a captivating world of trillions of microbes – a terra incognita. Being able to see ourselves as a splendid collection of interacting human and microbial cellular and genetic parts teaches us that we do not travel through life alone unaccompanied, that there is a profound microbial dimension to our biology and health status. The dynamism of our microbial communities; their adaptability; the breadth of functions encoded in the genomes of community members that we have not had to acquire in our 'human' genome; the seemingly astronomical number of potential interactions between community components, and these components and their hosts, make the journey exploring this terra incognita awe-inspiring and humbling. The public is also captivated. As such, there is a need to approach bench-to-bedside translation of discoveries mindfully, and to engage in a proactive societal dialogue about the ethical, legal, social, safety, and regulatory issues raised by this research.

I'm older now, but I feel very young. It is because I truly believe that all the work that we have done makes it possible to begin to do what we have always dreamed of doing. The best part of the journey is now, and will be tomorrow. Thank you.

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Les Prix Balzan pour les lettres, les sciences morales et les arts; les sciences physiques, mathématiques, naturelles et la médecine

- 2021** Saul Friedländer (Israël/États-Unis) *Etudes sur la shoah et le génocide*
Jeffrey I. Gordon (États-Unis) *Microbiome dans santé et maladie*
Giorgio Buccellati e Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati (Italie et États-Unis) *Art et Archéologie du Proche-Orient ancien*
Alessandra Buonanno (Italie/USA) e Thibault Damour (France) *Gravitation: aspects physiques et astrophysiques*
- 2020** Susan Trumbore (États-Unis/Allemagne) *Dynamique du système terrestre*
Jean-Marie Tarascon (France) *Défis environnementaux: science des matériaux pour les énergies renouvelables*
Joan Martínez Alier (Espagne) *Défis environnementaux: les réponses des sciences sociales et humaines*
Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade (Brésil) *Droits humains*
- 2019** Luigi Ambrosio (Italie) *Théorie des équations aux dérivées partielles*
Jacques Aumont (France) *Études cinématographiques*
Michael Cook (Royaume-Uni) *Études islamiques*
Groupe de recherche du Centre allemand pour la recherche pulmonaire composé d'Erika von Mutius, Klaus F. Rabe, Werner Seeger, Tobias Welte (Allemagne) *Pathophysiologie de la respiration: des sciences de base au lit du patient*
- 2018** Eva Kondorosi (Hongrie/France) *Écologie chimique*
Detlef Lohse (Pays Bas/Allemagne) *Dynamique des fluides*
Jürgen Osterhammel (Allemagne) *Histoire globale*
Marilyn Strathern (Royaume-Uni) *Anthropologie sociale*
- 2017** Bina Agarwal (Inde/Royaume-Uni) *Études de genre*
Aleida et Jan Assmann (Allemagne) *Études sur la mémoire collective*
James P. Allison et Robert D. Schreiber (États-Unis) *Approches immunologiques dans la thérapie du cancer*
Michaël Gillon (Belgique) *Les planètes du système solaire et les exoplanètes*
- 2016** Piero Boitani (Italie) *Littérature comparée*
Federico Capasso (États-Unis/Italie) *Photonique appliquée*
Reinhard Jahn (Allemagne) *Neurosciences moléculaires et cellulaires*
Robert O. Keohane (États-Unis) *Relations internationales: histoire et théorie*

- 2015** Hans Belting (Allemagne) *Histoire de l'art européen (1300-1700)*
Francis Halzen (États-Unis/Belgique) *Physique des astroparticules y compris l'observation des neutrinos et des rayons gamma*
David M. Karl (États-Unis) *Océanographie*
Joel Mokyr (États-Unis/Israël/Pays-Bas) *Histoire économique*
- 2014** Ian Hacking (Canada) *Épistémologie et théorie de la connaissance*
Dennis Sullivan (États-Unis) *Mathématiques (pures et appliquées)*
G. David Tilman (États-Unis) *Écologie des plantes: aspects fondamentaux et appliqués*
Mario Torelli (Italie) *Archéologie classique*
- 2013** Alain Aspect (France) *Informatique et communication quantiques*
Manuel Castells (États-Unis/Catalogne) *Sociologie*
Pascale Cossart (France) *Maladies infectieuses: recherches fondamentales et aspects cliniques*
André Vauchez (France) *Histoire du Moyen Âge*
- 2012** David Charles Baulcombe (Royaume-Uni) *Épigénétique*
Ronald M. Dworkin (États-Unis) *Théorie et philosophie du droit*
Kurt Lambeck (Australie/Pays-Bas) *Sciences de la terre solide, particulièrement les contributions interdisciplinaires*
Reinhard Strohm (Royaume-Uni/Allemagne) *Musicologie*
- 2011** Bronislaw Baczko (Suisse/Pologne) *Études sur les Lumières*
Peter Robert Lamont Brown (États-Unis/Irlande) *Histoire ancienne (Monde gréco-romain)*
Russell Scott Lande (Royaume-Uni/États-Unis) *Biologie théorique et bioinformatique*
Joseph Ivor Silk (États-Unis/Royaume-Uni) *L'univers primordial (du temps de Planck jusqu'aux premières galaxies)*
- 2010** Manfred Brauneck (Allemagne) *Histoire du théâtre et des spectacles vivants*
Carlo Ginzburg (Italie) *Histoire de l'Europe (1400-1700)*
Jacob Palis (Brésil) *Mathématiques (pures et appliquées)*
Shinya Yamanaka (Japon) *Biologie des cellules souches et leurs applications potentielles*
- 2009** Terence Cave (Royaume-Uni) *Littérature à partir de 1500*
Michael Grätzel (Suisse/Allemagne) *Science des matériaux nouveaux*
Brenda Milner (Canada/Royaume-Uni) *Neurosciences cognitives*
Paolo Rossi Monti (Italie) *Histoire des sciences*

- 2008** Wallace S. Broecker (États-Unis) *Science du changement climatique*
 Maurizio Calvesi (Italie) *Les arts figuratifs depuis 1700*
 Ian H. Frazer (Australie/Royaume-Uni) *Médecine préventive*
 Thomas Nagel (États-Unis/Serbie) *Philosophie morale*
- 2007** Rosalyn Higgins (Royaume-Uni) *Le droit international après 1945*
 Sumio Iijima (Japon) *Nanoscience*
 Michel Zink (France) *Littérature européenne (1000-1500)*
 Bruce Beutler (États-Unis) et Jules Hoffmann (France/Luxembourg)
Immunité innée
- 2006** Ludwig Finscher (Allemagne) *Histoire de la musique occidentale depuis le 17^e siècle*
 Quentin Skinner (Royaume-Uni) *Histoire et théorie de la pensée politique*
 Paolo de Bernardis (Italie) et Andrew Lange (États-Unis) *Astronomie et astrophysique observationnelles*
 Elliot Meyerowitz (États-Unis) et Christopher Somerville (États-Unis/Canada) *Génétique moléculaire des plantes*
- 2005** Peter Hall (Royaume-Uni) *Histoire sociale et culturelle des villes depuis le début du 16^e siècle*
 Lothar Ledderose (Allemagne) *Histoire de l'art de l'Asie*
 Peter et Rosemary Grant (États-Unis/Royaume-Uni) *Biologie des populations*
 Russell Hemley (États-Unis) et Ho-kwang Mao (États-Unis/Chine) *Physique des minéraux*
- 2004** Pierre Deligne (États-Unis/Belgique) *Mathématiques*
 Nikki Ragozin Keddie (États-Unis) *Le monde islamique à partir de la fin du 19^e jusqu'à la fin du 20^e siècle*
 Michael Marmot (Royaume-Uni) *Epidémiologie*
 Colin Renfrew (Royaume-Uni) *Archéologie préhistorique*
- 2003** Reinhard Genzel (Allemagne) *Astronomie infrarouge*
 Eric Hobsbawm (Royaume-Uni/Égypte) *Histoire européenne depuis 1900*
 Wen-Hsiung Li (États-Unis/Taiwan) *Génétique et évolution*
 Serge Moscovici (France/Roumanie) *Psychologie sociale*
- 2002** Walter Jakob Gehring (Suisse) *Biologie du développement*
 Anthony Thomas Grafton (États-Unis) *Histoire des humanités*
 Xavier Le Pichon (France/Viêtnam) *Géologie*
 Dominique Schnapper (France) *Sociologie*

- 2001** James Sloss Ackerman (États-Unis) *Histoire de l'architecture*
 Jean-Pierre Changeux (France) *Neurosciences cognitives*
 Marc Fumaroli (France) *Histoire et critique littéraires du 16e siècle à nos jours*
 Claude Lorius (France) *Climatologie*
- 2000** Ilkka Hanski (Finlande) *Sciences écologiques*
 Michel Mayor (Suisse) *Instrumentation et techniques en astronomie et en astrophysique*
 Michael Stolleis (Allemagne) *Histoire du droit du 16e siècle à nos jours*
 Martin Litchfield West (Royaume-Uni) *Antiquité classique*
- 1999** Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza (États-Unis/Italie) *Science des origines de l'homme*
 John Elliott (Royaume-Uni) *Histoire moderne*
 Mikhael Gromov (France/Russie) *Mathématiques*
 Paul Ricœur (France) *Philosophie*
- 1998** Harmon Craig (États-Unis) *Géochimie*
 Robert McCredie May (Royaume-Uni/Australie) *Biodiversité*
 Andrzej Walicki (États-Unis/Pologne) *Histoire culturelle et sociale du monde slave*
- 1997** Charles Coulston Gillispie (États-Unis) *Histoire et philosophie des sciences*
 Thomas Wilson Meade (Royaume-Uni) *Epidémiologie*
 Stanley Jeyaraja Tambiah (États Unis/Sri Lanka) *Sciences sociales: anthropologie sociale*
- 1996** Arno Borst (Allemagne) *Histoire: cultures médiévales*
 Arnt Eliassen (Norvège) *Météorologie*
 Stanley Hoffmann (France/États-Unis/Autriche) *Science politique: relations internationales contemporaines*
- 1995** Yves Bonnefoy (France) *Histoire et critique des beaux-arts*
 Carlo M. Cipolla (Italie) *Histoire économique*
 Alan J. Heeger (États-Unis) *Science des matériaux nouveaux non-biologiques*
- 1994** Norberto Bobbio (Italie) *Droit et science politique*
 René Couteaux (France) *Biologie*
 Fred Hoyle (Royaume-Uni) et Martin Schwarzschild (États-Unis/Allemagne) *Astrophysique*
- 1993** Wolfgang H. Berger (États-Unis/Allemagne) *Paléontologie (plus particulièrement ses aspects océanographiques)*
 Lothar Gall (Allemagne) *Histoire: sociétés des 19e et 20e siècles*
 Jean Leclant (France) *Art et archéologie de l'antiquité*

- 1992 Armand Borel (États-Unis/Suisse) *Mathématiques*
Giovanni Macchia (Italie) *Histoire et critique des littératures*
Ebrahim M. Samba (Gambie) *Médecine préventive*
- 1991 György Ligeti (Autriche/Hongrie/Roumanie) *Musique*
Vitorino Magalhães Godinho (Portugal) *Histoire: l'essor de l'Europe aux
15e et 16e siècles*
John Maynard Smith (Royaume-Uni) *Génétique et évolution*
- 1990 Walter Burkert (Suisse/Allemagne) *Sciences de l'antiquité*
James Freeman Gilbert (États-Unis) *Géophysique*
Pierre Lalive d'Épinay (Suisse) *Droit international privé*
- 1989 Emmanuel Lévinas (France/Lituanie) *Philosophie*
Leo Pardi (Italie) *Ethologie*
Martin John Rees (Royaume-Uni) *Astrophysique des hautes énergies*
- 1988 Shmuel Noah Eisenstadt (Israël/Pologne) *Sociologie*
René Etiemble (France) *Littérature comparée*
Michael Evenari (Israël/France) et Otto Ludwig Lange (Allemagne)
Botanique appliquée
- 1987 Jerome Seymour Bruner (États-Unis) *Psychologie humaine*
Richard W. Southern (Royaume-Uni) *Histoire médiévale*
Phillip V. Tobias (Afrique du Sud) *Anthropologie physique*
- 1986 Otto Neugebauer (États-Unis/Autriche) *Histoire des sciences*
Roger Revelle (États-Unis) *Océanographie/climatologie*
Jean Rivero (France) *Droits fondamentaux de la personne*
- 1985 Ernst H.J. Gombrich (Royaume-Uni/Autriche) *Histoire de l'art occidental*
Jean-Pierre Serre (France) *Mathématiques*
- 1984 Jan Hendrik Oort (Pays-Bas) *Astrophysique*
Jean Starobinski (Suisse) *Histoire et critique des littératures*
Sewall Wright (États-Unis) *Génétique*
- 1983 Francesco Gabrieli (Italie) *Orientalisme*
Ernst Mayr (États-Unis/Allemagne) *Zoologie*
Edward Shils (États-Unis) *Sociologie*
- 1982 Jean-Baptiste Duroselle (France) *Sciences sociales*
Massimo Pallottino (Italie) *Sciences de l'antiquité*
Kenneth Vivian Thimann (États-Unis/Royaume-Uni) *Botanique pure et
appliquée*

- 1981** Josef Pieper (Allemagne) *Philosophie*
Paul Reuter (France) *Droit international public*
Dan Peter McKenzie, Drummond Hoyle Matthews et Frederick John Vine
(Royaume-Uni) *Géologie et géophysique*
- 1980** Enrico Bombieri (États-Unis/Italie) *Mathématiques*
Jorge Luis Borges (Argentine) *Philologie, linguistique et critique littéraire*
Hassan Fathy (Égypte) *Architecture et urbanisme*
- 1979** Torbjörn Caspersson (Suède) *Biologie*
Jean Piaget (Suisse) *Sciences sociales et politiques*
Ernest Labrousse (France) et Giuseppe Tucci (Italie) *Histoire*
- 1962** Paul Hindemith (Allemagne) *Musique*
Andrej Kolmogorov (Russie) *Mathématiques*
Samuel Eliot Morison (États-Unis) *Histoire*
Karl von Frisch (Autriche) *Biologie*

Les Prix Balzan **pour l'humanité, la paix et la fraternité entre les peuples**

2018

Fondation *Terre des hommes - Aide à l'enfance*, projet SIMSONE : un modèle de formation innovant pour sauver des milliers d'enfants à la naissance et de mères dans les zones rurales au Mali

2014

Association *Vivre en Famille*, construction d'une maternité et réhabilitation d'une école à Ibambi, République Démocratique du Congo

2007

Karlheinz Böhm (Autriche / Allemagne), Organisation *Menschen für Menschen*, Aide pour l'Éthiopie

2004

Communauté de Sant'Egidio, programme DREAM de lutte contre le SIDA et la dénutrition en Mozambique

2000

Abdul Sattar Edhi (Pakistan / Inde)

1996

Comité International de la Croix Rouge, action dans les hôpitaux de Wazir Akbar Khan et Karte Seh, à Kaboul, Afghanistan

1991

Abbé Pierre (France)

1986

Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les Réfugiés

1978

Mère Thérèse de Calcutta (Inde / Macédoine)

1962

S.S. Jean XXIII (Cité du Vatican / Italie)

1961

Fondation Nobel

Züri Ost Kurzbiographie

Martin Schumacher: Klarinette, Bassklarinette
Oleg Lips: Akkordeon
Boris Klecic: Gitarre
Ivan Nestic: Kontrabass

Ein Zürcher, ein Russe und zwei Kroaten haben sich im Sommer 2006 zur akustischen Anfeuerung einer Hochzeitsparty gefunden und sind seither mit einem riesigen Repertoire an Musik aus aller Welt unterwegs. Für die diesjährige Balzan Preisverleihung haben sie drei Kompositionen des argentinischen Bandoneonisten und Komponisten Astor Piazzolla ausgesucht, welcher als Begründer des Tango nuevo gilt, einer Weiterentwicklung des traditionellen Tango Argentino mit Elementen aus modernem Jazz und klassischer Musik.

Boris Klecic und Ivan Nestic, Gitarrist und Bassist aus Zagreb, bilden ein vielfach preisgekröntes Rhythmusgespann, deren Folk-Pop-Band «Kud Meya» im Kroatien der 90er Jahre Kultstatus hatte. Oleg Lips aus Sankt Petersburg ist ein Tausendsassa, ein wahrer Paganini auf dem Akkordeon, dessen Virtuosität und Spielfreude keine Grenzen kennen. Martin Schumacher schliesslich ist ein Zürcher Klarinettist der Extraklasse, seit über dreissig Jahren souverän unterwegs zwischen Jazz, Klassik und Orient.

Programm:

Zur Eröffnung:
Astor Piazzolla, Primavera
1. Satz der "Estaciones Porteñas", 1970

Mittelstück:
Astor Piazzolla, Oblivion
aus der Filmmusik zu "Heinrich IV" von Marco Bellocchio, 1984

Zum Abschluss:
Astor Piazzolla, Libertango
Titelstück der gleichnamigen LP, 1974

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Fondazione Internazionale Premio E. Balzan – Premio
P.tta Umberto Giordano 4
I - 20121 Milano

T +39 02 7600 22 12

balzan@balzan.it
www.balzan.org

Internationale Stiftung Preis E. Balzan – Fonds
Claridenstrasse 20
CH-8002 Zürich

T + 41 44 201 48 22

balzan@balzan.ch
www.balzan.org