

# Claude Lorius

## 2001 Balzan Prize for Climatology

*For his outstanding activities and innovative results in the field of polar paleoclimatology.*

## Research on the Mechanisms Governing the Climate System

### CNRS Grenoble

*Adviser for the General Balzan Committee: Enric Banda*

One of the most important methods of inquiry into past climate change is the study of polar ice, which is a natural laboratory preserving a “historic memory” of climate changes. Claude Lorius and his group worked for decades on this issue. They were the first to reconstruct not only the history of the Earth climate by analyzing polar ice, but also that of the composition of the atmosphere, starting from the analyses of the air bubbles that were trapped in the ice during the last hundreds of thousand years. Their researches allowed them to establish the causal relationships between climate and content of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

### Publications (in chronological order):

- N. Caillon, J. Jouzel, J. P. Severinghaus, J. Chappellaz, and T. Blunier, *A novel method to study the phase relationship between Antarctic and Greenland climate*, “Geophysical Research Letters”, vol. 30 (17), 1899, 2003.
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