

The Balzan Prizewinners Interdisciplinary Forum

Thursday, 30 June 2022, 1:30 pm
University of Bern
Hochschulstrasse 4, 3012 Bern

 swiss academies
of arts and sciences



International
Balzan
Foundation

Programme

13:00 Registration

13:30 Musical Opening

Quartet Inferno

13:35 Welcome Address

Prof. Christian Leumann, Rector of the University of Bern

13:40 Opening Address

Prof. Marcel Tanner, President of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

13:45 Introductory Speech

Prof. Alberto Quadrio Curzio, President of the International Balzan Foundation "Prize"

13:50 Musical Intervention

Quartet Inferno

13:55 Chair: Part I

Prof. Luciano Maiani, Chairman of the Balzan General Prize Committee

Microbiome in Health and Disease

14:05 Announcement of the 2021 Prizewinner

Prof. Peter Suter, Member of the Balzan General Prize Committee

14:15 Presentation by Prof. Jeffrey Gordon, 2021 Prizewinner

14:35 Questions and Discussion

Gravitation: Physical and Astrophysical Aspects

14:45 **Announcement of the 2021 Prizewinners**
Prof. Paolo de Bernardis, Member of the Balzan
General Prize Committee

14:55 **Presentation by Prof. Alessandra Buonanno &
Prof. Thibault Damour, 2021 Prizewinners**

15:15 Questions and Discussion

15:25 **Coffee Break**

16:10 **Chair: Part II**
Prof. Alberto Quadrio Curzio, President of the
International Balzan Foundation "Prize"

Holocaust and Genocide Studies

16:15 **Announcement of the 2021 Prizewinner**
Prof. Thomas Maissen, Member of the Balzan
General Prize Committee

16:25 **Presentation by Prof. Saul Friedländer,
2021 Prizewinner**

16:35 **Presentation of Friedländer's Balzan
Research Project by Prof. Christina Morina,
Deputy Supervisor**

16:45 Questions and Discussion

16:55 **Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East
Announcement of the 2021 Prizewinners**

Prof. Peter Kuon, Vice-Chairman of the Balzan
General Prize Committee

17:05 **Presentation by Prof. Giorgio Buccellati and
Prof. Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati, 2021 Prizewinners**

17:25 Questions and Discussion

17:35 **Joint session of Q&A with all the Prizewinners**

17:55 **Closing Remarks**
Prof. Marcel Tanner, President of the Swiss Academies
of Arts and Sciences, and Prof. Alberto Quadrio Curzio,
President of the International Balzan Foundation "Prize"

2021 Prizewinners

Microbiome in Health and Disease

Jeffrey Gordon (USA), Dr. Robert J. Glaser Distinguished University Professor and Director of the Center for Genome Sciences and Systems Biology at Washington University in St. Louis (USA). For founding the field of human microbiome research and revolutionizing our understanding of its roles in health and disease, including in our nutritional status.

Gravitation: Physical and Astrophysical Aspects

Alessandra Buonanno (Italy/USA), Director at Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics and Head of the division Astrophysical and Cosmological Relativity (Germany), and **Thibault Damour** (France), Permanent professor since 1989 of Theoretical Physics at the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques, Bures-sur-Yvette (France). 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.

Holocaust and Genocide Studies

Saul Friedländer (Israel/USA), Professor Emeritus at University of California, Los Angeles, UCLA (USA). 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.

Art and Archeology of the Ancient Near East

Giorgio Buccellati (Italy/USA), Professor Emeritus in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, UCLA (USA); Professor Emeritus in the Department of History, UCLA (USA); Research Professor in the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA, Urkesh, Terqa (USA/Syria); Director of the International Institute for Mesopotamian Area Studies IIMAS (Italy), and **Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati** (Italy/USA), Associated researcher in the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA (USA). 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.

Presenters

Alberto Quadrio Curzio

President of the International Balzan Foundation "Prize"; Professor Emeritus of Political Economy and Founder and President of the scientific Council of the Research Centre on Economic Analysis (Cranec) at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan; President Emeritus of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei.

Paolo de Bernardis

Member of the Balzan General Prize Committee; Full Professor at the Department of Physics, University of Rome "La Sapienza"; Italian Principal Investigator of the international stratospheric balloon experiment BOOMERanG; Fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei and of the Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze detta dei XL, Rome.

Peter Kuon

Vice-Chairman of the Balzan General Prize Committee; Professor Emeritus of Romance Philology at the University of Salzburg, Austria.

Christian Leumann

Rector of the University of Bern, Switzerland; Professor of Bioorganic Chemistry at the University of Bern, Switzerland.

Luciano Maiani

Chairman of the Balzan General Prize Committee; Professor Emeritus of Theoretical Physics at the University of Rome "La Sapienza"; Fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome, and of the American Physical Society.

Thomas Maissen

Director of the German Historical Institute in Paris; Chair in Early Modern History at the University of Heidelberg; Member of the Heidelberger Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Germany.

Christina Morina

Deputy Supervisor of Friedländer's Balzan Research Project; Professor of History at the Bielefeld University, Germany.

Peter Suter

Member of the Balzan General Prize Committee; Honorary Professor of Medicine at the University of Geneva; former President of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.

Marcel Tanner

President of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences; Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology and Medical Parasitology at the University of Basel, Switzerland; Emeritus Director of the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, Switzerland.

Quartet Inferno

The quartet inferno was founded in 2018 by four talented and passionate musicians. Following years filled with concerts and masterclasses, the quartet has grown and become an essential part in all of the four musicians' lives. The quartet has won multiple first prizes in competitions such as the "Schweizerischer Jugendmusikwettbewerb". They often play at jubilee actions and award ceremonies with great enthusiasm.

Quartet Inferno - Isabelle Hengartner (first violin), Vianne Kagerer (second violin), Caroline Hengartner (viola), Sophie Dangel (cello).

Profiles

The International Balzan Foundation “Prize”

The International Balzan Foundation “Prize” aims to promote culture, the sciences and the most meritorious initiatives in the cause of humanity, peace and fraternity among peoples throughout the world. 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 prize-winners must now destine half of their awards to research projects carried out by young humanists and scientists. At intervals of not less than three years, the Balzan Foundation also awards a Prize for Humanity, Peace and Fraternity among peoples. The Balzan Foundation acts jointly through two Foundations: one with headquarters in Milan and the other 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 and decides on the nominations. The “Fund” Foundation in Zurich administers Eugenio Balzan’s estate.

The International Balzan Foundation “Prize” has signed agreements with the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences and the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei to spread knowledge of studies of international breadth in the sciences and the humanities.

The protocol for collaboration upon which the agreements are based entails the periodical organization of forums and conferences on scientific themes and subjects that the Balzan Prize is concerned with, involving Balzan Prizewinners and members of the Academies, as well as the sharing of experience useful for the promotion of culture and science.

The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences is an association of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAHS), the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS), the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW), and the Swiss Young Academy (SYA). It further comprises the Centre for Technology Assessment (TA-SWISS) and the Foundation Science et Cité. The academies advocate for an equitable dialogue between science and society, in science-based issues. They represent sciences across institutions and disciplines. Established in the scientific community, they have access to expertise and excellence and can therefore contribute specific knowledge to important political issues.

The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei

The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei is the oldest scientific academy in the world. Its mission is “to promote, coordinate, integrate and disseminate scientific knowledge in its highest expression in the context of cultural unity and universality”. The Academy’s principle is to enrich academic knowledge and subsequently, disseminate the fruits. The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei organizes national and international conferences, meetings as well as seminars and encourages academic cooperation and exchange between scientists and scholars on a national and international level. The Academy provides advice to public institutions, drafts relevant reports when needed and advises the President of the Italian Republic in relation to scholarly and scientific matters.

The 2021 Balzan Prizewinners Interdisciplinary Forum

The day before the Awards Ceremony at the Federal Council Hall, the “Balzan Prizewinners Interdisciplinary Forum” will take place. The Forum is divided into four presentations by the 2021 Balzan Prizewinners. After a short introduction, the Prizewinners will present their research findings in 20-minute presentations, after which 10 minutes will be dedicated to questions and discussions.

Live streaming: www.balzan.org

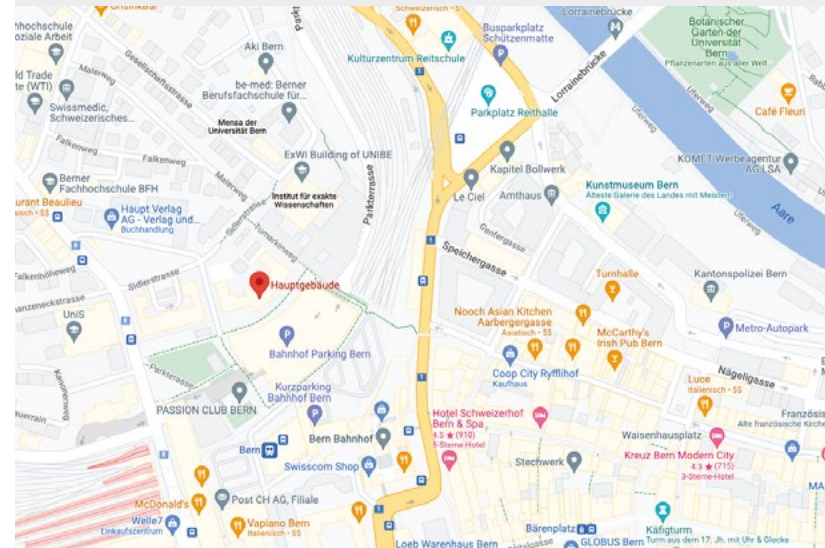
Organisation Details

Further Information

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