



Fondazione
Internazionale Balzan
"Premio"



Akademien der Wissenschaften Schweiz
Académies suisses des sciences
Accademie svizzere delle scienze
Academias svizras da las ciencias
Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

The Balzan Prizewinners Interdisciplinary Forum 2009

Thursday, 19 November 2009, 14.15 – 18.45 h

**Swiss National Science Foundation, Assembly Room
Berne, Wildhainweg 21**

Meeting to be held in: English

Goals and issues

The International Balzan Foundation «Prize» and the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences organise in Switzerland for the first time a **Balzan Prizewinners Interdisciplinary Forum** on the occasion of the Awards ceremony of the International Balzan Prizes 2009.

The Forum – within an interdisciplinary framework – aims to focus on the implications of the prizewinners' achievements for science as a whole. We will do this by concentrating on the following three issues:

- How do the prizewinners' scientific contributions help to overcome the boundaries between the disciplines?
- How do the distinguished projects promote a dialogue between the disciplines?
- What consequences do the findings entail for the other disciplines?

Program

14.15h	<i>Opening</i>	Dieter Imboden, President of the Research Council SNSF
	<i>Welcome</i>	Salvatore Veca, Chairman of the Balzan Prize Committee
		Chair I: Peter Suter, President of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences
14.30h	<i>Presentation of Brenda Milner</i> «Cognitive Neurosciences»	Lord Krebs of Wytham Brenda Milner
14.50h	Comments, questions and first discussion	Dominique de Quervain
15.10h	<i>Presentation of Terence Cave</i> «Literature since 1500»	Karlheinz Stierle Terence Cave
15.30h	Comments, questions and first discussion	Frédéric Tinguely
15.50h	<i>Coffee break</i>	
		Chair II: René Dändliker, President of the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences
16.15h	<i>Presentation of Michael Grätzel</i> «Science of New Materials»	Nicola Cabibbo Michael Grätzel
16.35h	Comments, questions and first discussion	Frank Nüesch
16.55h	<i>Presentation of Paolo Rossi Monti</i> «History of Science»	M.E.H. Nicolette Mout Paolo Rossi Monti
17.15h	Comments, questions and first discussion	Raphael Scholl
17.35h	<i>Short break</i>	
17.45h	<i>Prizewinners Panel –</i> Interdisciplinary perspectives and Prizewinners conclusions	Moderator: Peter Suter, President of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences
18.40h	Closing remarks	Bruno Bottai, President of the International Balzan Foundation «Prize»
18.45h	<i>Aperitif</i> at the SNSF cafeteria	

Participants

- Bruno Bottai**, President of the International Balzan Foundation «Prize», Ambassador of Italy
- Nicola Cabibbo**, Member of the Balzan Prize Committee, Professor of Physics at the University La Sapienza, Rome
- Terence Cave**, Balzan Prizewinner 2009 «Literature since 1500», Emeritus Research Fellow at St John's College, Oxford
- René Dändliker**, President of the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences
- Dominique de Quervain**, Director of the Division of Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Basel
- Michael Grätzel**, Balzan Prizewinner 2009 «Science of New Materials», Director of the Laboratory of Photonics and Interfaces at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale, Lausanne
- Dieter Imboden**, President of the Swiss National Science Foundation Research Council
- Lord Krebs of Wytham**, Member of the Balzan Prize Committee, Principal of Jesus College, Oxford
- Brenda Milner**, Balzan Prizewinner 2009 «Cognitive Neurosciences», Professor of Psychology in the Montreal Neurological Institute, Professor in the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery at the McGill University
- M.E.H. Nicolette Mout**, Vice president of the Balzan Prize Committee, Professor of Modern History and Professor of Central European Studies at the University of Leiden
- Frank Nüesch**, Head Functional Polymers at the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research EMPA
- Paolo Rossi Monti**, Balzan Prizewinner 2009 «History of Science», Professor emeritus of the University of Florence
- Raphael Scholl**, Institute of Philosophy at the University of Berne
- Karlheinz Stierle**, Member of the Balzan Prize Committee, Professor emeritus of Romance literatures of the University of Constance
- Peter Suter**, President of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences and of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences
- Frédéric Tinguely**, Director of the Department of modern French language and literature at the University of Geneva
- Salvatore Veca**, Chairman of the Balzan Prize Committee, Professor of political Philosophy of the University of Pavia

Portrait

The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

The association of the «Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences» includes the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAHS), the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS), and the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW) as well as the two Centres for Excellence TA-SWISS and Science et Cité. Their collaboration is focused on early detection, ethic and the dialogue between science and society. With regard to the international competition, science and education are the most important resources of Switzerland. The necessary investments to the science system depend on the confidence people have towards scientific achievements and their benefits for the society. Scientific knowledge shall and must be for the common good of everybody; however, always with the critical analysis of society and politics and also with their agreement. It is the aim of the Swiss Scientific Academies to succeed in getting an equal dialogue between science and society and to advise politics and society in scientifically based, society-relevant questions. The academies stand for open and pluralistic understanding of science. Thus, they represent sciences comprehensively, inter-institutional as well as inter-departmental. Established in the scientific community, they have access to expertise and excellence and therefore can contribute special knowledge to important political questions. Within a long-term perspective, they mutually commit to transdisciplinary questions within the following fields:

- They offer foresight to society-relevant subjects in the fields of education, research and technology.
- They commit to the perception of ethical-based responsibility in gaining and applying scientific knowledge.
- They build bridges between science, politics and society.

The International Balzan Foundation

The International Balzan Foundation «Prize» aims to promote culture, the sciences and the most meritorious initiatives in the cause of humanity, peace and brotherhood 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 prizewinners must now destine half of their awards for research projects carried out preferably by young humanists and scientists. At intervals of not less than three years, the Balzan Foundation also awards a prize for Humanity, Peace and Brotherhood 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 makes the nominations. The «Fund» Foundation in Zurich administers Eugenio Balzan's estate.

Organisational details

Venue

Swiss National Science Foundation
Assembly Room
Wildhainweg 21
3001 Berne

We recommend journeying by train. The Swiss National Science Foundation can be reached from the station within a 10 minutes walk.

Registration

Please use the registration form attached to this booklet or go to www.sagw.ch/veranstaltungen and register by the **deadline mentioned**. Please note that the number of participants is limited; they will be registered on a **first come first served** basis.

Further information and organisation

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The Balzan Prizewinners Interdisciplinary Forum 2009

Registration Form

Last name

First name

Institution

Street

City

Email

Date

Signature

Deadline 6th November 2009

Rückseite des Anmeldetalons

Please affix stamp

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