

Carlo Ginzburg

Former Professor at the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa; Franklin D. Murphy Professor of Italian Renaissance Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles

2010 Balzan Prize for European History (1400-1700)

For the exceptional combination of imagination, scholarly precision and literary skill with which he has recovered and illuminated the beliefs of ordinary people in Early modern Europe.

Institution Administering Research Funds: Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa

Adviser for the Balzan General Prize Committee:

Quentin Skinner and Salvatore Veca

A Comparative Approach to Religions. A Historical Perspective - from the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Centuries

Carlo Ginzburg has dedicated the second half of his Balzan Prize to a three year research programme in which he intends to scrutinize the emergence of a comparative approach to religions. This will initially involve two young scholars.

The Research Project will go back to the 1500s, exploring the emergence of a comparative approach to religions, focusing on the connection between antiquarianism and early ethnology, in the framework of European colonial expansion. A series of analytical studies will emanate from this research.

The initial phase of the project is constituted by a number of works by Carlo Ginzburg which have just been or are shortly to be published: *Machiavelli e gli antiquari*; *Ancora sui riti cinesi: documenti vecchi e nuovi*; *Provincializing the World: Europeans, Indians, Jews (1704)*. Researchers will also take account of the questions raised in the following works: Guy Stroumsa, *A New Science. The Discovery of Religion in the Age of Reason*, Harvard University Press, 2010; Arnaldo Momigliano, "Ancient History and the Antiquarian", *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institute*, 1950; Arnaldo

Momigliano, "Prospettiva 1967 della storia greca", *Rivista Storica Italiana* 80 (1969). Positions for two researchers were advertised by the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa. The winners were awarded a scholarship of one year duration. Two workshops and an international conference will also be organized. It is expected that the papers from the international conference will later be published. One more researcher will be appointed for 2014.

An international workshop Comparing Religions – A Historical Approach (16th-18th Centuries) was organized by Professor Ginzburg at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa from 10-11 June 2013. The following papers were presented: Guy Stroumsa, Hebrew University, Jerusalem/University of Oxford, "Three Rings or Three Impostors? The Comparative Approach"; Marco Cavarzere, University of Pisa, "A Comparative Method for Sixteenth-Century Polemicists. Cults and Devotions in a Protestant History of Religions"; Giovanni Tarantino, University of Melbourne, "The Uses of 'conformité/conformity' in Bernard and Picart's Cérémonies"; Lucio Biasiori, Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, "The Child of Babylon: Itineraries of a Prophecy between East and West"; Silvia Berti, La Sapienza University, Rome, "From Dissimulation to Imposture"; Daniel Barbu, University of Geneva, "Idolatry and the History of Religions"; Anna Belgrado, University of Pisa, *Le belief chez Hobbes*"; Sanjay Subrahmanyam, UCLA, "The Puzzling Category of Religion: Perspectives from South Asia"; Jan Bremmer, University of Groningen/New York University, "Saecularis, the Secular and Secularisation: Notes towards a Genealogy".

A conference, *Norms and Exceptions. A Comparative Approach to Casuistry*, will be held in Pisa from 11-13 December 2014. The proceedings of the conference will later be submitted to Cambridge University Press for publication.

Researchers:

Angela Ballone
Lucio Biasiori
Giovanni Tarantino

Publications:

Ginzburg, Carlo. "Machiavelli e gli antiquari", in *L'Europa divisa e gli altri mondi. Per Adriano Prosperi*, vol. 2: 3–9. Pisa: Edizioni della Normale, 2011.

- Ginzburg, Carlo. "Provincializing the World: Europeans, Indians, Jews (1704)". *Post-colonial Studies*, Volume 14, Issue 2 (2011): 135-150.
- Tarantino, Giovanni. *Republicanism, Sinophilia and Historical Writing. Thomas Gordon (c. 1691 -1750) and his 'History of England.'* Turnhout: Brepols, 2012.