

Prof. Joan Martínez Alier, advisory board member of the INSEE journal wins the Balzan Prize for Environmental Challenges



Economist Joan Martínez Alier from the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (ICTA-UAB) is one of the winners of the 2020 Balzan Prize in the category of "Environmental Challenges: Responses from the Social Sciences and Humanities".

The award, announced on Monday, September 14 in Milan, consists of a cash prize worth €695,000. Half of the amount must be destined by the winners to research projects, and will allow for the continuation of Prof. Dr. Martínez Alier's Environmental Justice Atlas (www.wjatlas.org) project, focused on collecting and mapping existing socio-environmental conflicts in the world.

The Balzan International Foundation highlighted how his work on the relations between the environment and the economy has made visible the unequal distribution of natural resources, and the need for Environmental Justice.

Born in Barcelona in 1939, Dr Martínez Alier is an Emeritus Professor of the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. His main line of research revolves around the relationship between ecology and economics, which has allowed him to investigate on agrarian history, environmental policies, and resource-based social conflicts.

Dr Martínez Alier expressed his appreciation for the award, which he considers a recognition of the causes he has defended for decades, such as ecological economy and political ecology. "It is also an aid to give continuity to our work on the Environmental Justice Atlas", he remarked.

Joan Martínez-Alier has a long-standing association with the Indian Society for Ecological Economics. He is also a member of the advisory board of the INSEE journal- *Ecology, Economy and Society* as well as being a scientific committee member for many of the past INSEE conferences. In 2019 he was awarded the Bina Agarwal Prize for Ecological Economics.