

The Giulio Preti Prize

Established in 2007 by the Regional Council of Tuscany, the Giulio Preti Prize is an integral part of *Pianeta Galileo*, founded by the Regional Council to link the world of research with the world of education, with the aim of promoting the diffusion of scientific culture and the bond that unites the spirit of knowledge with democratic values. For more information see: <http://www.consiglio.regione.toscana.it/news-ed-eventi/pianeta-galileo/default.asp> and <http://www.pianetagalileo.it/2008/>. The Prize is awarded annually to two scholars, one Italian and one from outside Italy, whose work has made a significant contribution to the dialogue between science and philosophy and to the growth of the civic consciousness.

The name of the Prize renders homage to Giulio Preti, one of the most important figures of twentieth century Italian philosophy. Preti, who was born in Pavia in 1911 and died prematurely at Djerba (Tunisia) in 1972, was one of the keenest intellects of Italy's cultural renaissance after the second world war, and yet at the same time one of the least well known to the general public. A leading member of the group of young intellectuals who gathered in Milan around Antonio Banfi, Preti opened Italian philosophic thought to the horizons of that research which in Europe and in America, since the beginning of the twentieth century, had been constructing a close, systematic and fertile relationship between science and philosophy. Without ever confusing the role of the one with that of the other, as can be seen in his numerous works of research on mathematical logic, the history of scientific thought, epistemology and ethics, Preti came to attribute a decisive weight to scientific thought in the process of building a democratic culture, in the framework of a rationality that would overcome the division between the values of knowledge and the values of a freer and more equal society.

The Prize has a value which is not just celebratory in that it favours the recognition of the work of Italian and foreign scholars who have made an original contribution through their research to the enhancement of a philosophical, critical and historical awareness of the sciences, thus providing evidence of that rigorous argumentation, clear exposition, civil and cultural commitment, and breadth of historical perspective which characterised the work of Giulio Preti.

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In 2007, the Prize was awarded to George Lakoff and Enrico Bellone. In 2008 to Ian Hacking and Paolo Parrini. In 2009 to Bas van Fraassen and Ettore Casari. The jury for awarding the Prize consists of the members of the Scientific Committee of Pianeta Galileo: Maurizio Bossi, Carlo Bernardini, Guido Chelazzi, Franco Pacini, Alberto Peruzzi, Sandro Rogari, Paolo Rossi, Gigliola Sbordoni Paoletti.

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