

Forum della Meritocrazia
with the support of the Solesin family, announces the 10th edition of the

VALERIA SOLESIN AWARD

The Valeria Solesin Award, now in its 10th edition, aims to promote reflections on women's participation in society. It is through the remembrance of Valeria Solesin's studies and analyses that the initiative proposes a platform for solid, intergenerational dialogue on equal opportunities and gender issues in Italy and across the world. Thanks to the papers selected by the Award, the "Forum della Meritocrazia" (Meritocracy Forum) and the various civil society, academic and business players involved develop insights and good practices to share with companies and organisations on how to promote equal opportunities and gender equality, a sustainable goal of the 2030 Agenda.

This year, the Award will distribute cash prizes worth a total of **EUR 30,100**, thanks to the renewed support of companies, associations and institutions, as well as new organisations that have decided to join the 10th Edition: **State Street, MM, A&A – Albè e Associati Studio Legale, Suzuki, TRT Trasporti e Territorio, AIDDA Lombardia, the Department of Sociology and Social Research of the University of Trento, Associazione Italiana per gli Studi di Popolazione (the Italian Association for Population Studies – section of the Italian Statistical Society), FiberCop, SAS, TIM, Winning Women Institute and Sanofi, Mrs. Michela Conterno.**

To honour the memory of Valeria Solesin, an Italian researcher at the Sorbonne in Paris who tragically lost her life on 13 in the attack on the Bataclan theatre, this award is given to the best the best research dissertations submitted for a master's degree on the following theme:

"Female talent as a determining factor for the development of the economy, ethics and meritocracy in Italy."

It is inspired by Valeria's studies into women's dual roles at home and at work and other fields of study that demonstrate how improvements in women's employment are a resource for socio-economic development: they boost GDP, increase the birth rate, reduce the risk of poverty for the elderly and the young, expand demand for services, generate tax revenue and create new opportunities for business growth and innovation. By way of example, the properly balanced presence of women in organisations has been shown to have positive effects on profits, while reducing the average age and raising the level of education of board members.

REGULATIONS

The Award is intended for dissertations that address these issues, particularly those providing an in-depth labour market analysis focused on gender from a **socio-economic, demographic-statistical and legal perspective.** The dissertations should focus on the factors that prevent more women from joining the labour market (lack of services to support care work, insufficient demand for labour, unequal treatment and cultural biases) and discrimination, while also exploring the virtuous work/life balance policies and practices introduced by public institutions and companies in Italy or internationally to encourage a labour model that includes, champions and values women's careers, all the way up to the top. We particularly encourage the submission of dissertations that address:

- the importance of gender in STEM fields (*Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics*), in the **innovative fields of scientific and technological research and the digital economy** and, more generally, the presence of women in historically male-dominated industries, with respect to both post-secondary education and the various economic sectors;
- the **inclusion of migrant women in society and the labour market**;
- the **certification of gender equality**.

ART.1

The call for papers for the Valeria Solesin Award is open to students who have defended a dissertation for a **master's degree** at any Italian university. They must have obtained their degree by 15/08/2026 in one of the following subjects: **Economics, Sociology, Law, Political Science, Psychology, Education, Engineering, Data Science, Demography and Statistics**.

ART.2

The application and documentation must be sent via e-mail to the following address: premiovaleriasolesin@gmail.com.

Applications may be submitted starting **30/06/2026** and the deadline is **15/08/2026**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. The subject line of the e-mail must include ***"VALERIA SOLESIN AWARD - Candidate's name and surname"***.

ART.3

The application must be prepared using the form in attachment A and contain:

- the candidate's personal information and tax code
- permanent and (if applicable) temporary address and telephone number
- personal data processing consent form
- consent form for the public consultation of the dissertation
- statement of acceptance of the rules of this call for papers.

Attached to their application, candidates must send:

- a copy of a valid identity document
- a copy of their degree certificate issued by the university's administration office
- their curriculum vitae
- the electronic version of their dissertation in English or Italian
- a summary of the results of the dissertation in the form of an **abstract**. This document must start with the dissertation title and the applicant's name, and must be sent as a Word document (not pdf), in Times New Roman, font size 12 for the text and 10 for the footnotes. It may not exceed 2 standard pages (up to a total of 5,000 characters, including spaces), and it may be written in English or Italian. The name of the document must be: Abstract_Name Surname

- **a brief statement** justifying the dissertation's relevance to the study of the socio-economic impact of female representation and talent in the workplace. The letter must start with the dissertation title and the applicant's name, and be sent as a Word document (not pdf), in Times New Roman, font size 12 for the text and 10 for the footnotes. It may not exceed 1 standard page (up to a total of 2,500 characters, including spaces), and it may be written in English or Italian. The name of the document must be: Motivation_Name Surname.

ART.4

Only dissertations defended after 01/01/2024 will be accepted.

Incomplete applications and/or applications submitted using templates that differ from the template attached hereto and/or applications sent after the deadline are not eligible.

Applications with dissertations defended abroad with a foreign degree not corresponding to the Italian master's degree as assessed by the Award's Scientific Committee will be excluded from the competition.

Those who have already applied for the award in previous editions and were not selected may apply again for up to a total of two times (no one may participate in more than two editions), provided that they meet all the conditions set out in these rules regarding when they defended their dissertation, the fields of study and the procedure to be followed.

ART.5

The award will be given at the indisputable judgement of an assessment committee comprised of the Scientific Committee with the support of the Valeria Solesin Award Advisory Board.

The dissertations will be assessed on the basis of content with respect to: a) their relevance to the topics of the call, b) originality and c) scientific rigour.

University marks will only be considered if two or more dissertations are found to be equally deserving. In case of a tie between the dissertation assessment score and graduation marks, priority will be given based on the order of submission of the applications.

ART.6

The Scientific Committee consists of university professors specialised in the subjects listed in Article 1. The Advisory Board consists of representatives of the sponsor organisations and professionals in the private sector. The assessment committee reserves the right not to award the prizes in the event of an insufficient number of applications and/or if the dissertations are found to be of poor quality or irrelevant to the topics indicated. The committee's nomination and selection process is confidential and its decision is indisputable, unappealable and binding.

ART. 7

The value of the awards is detailed in the table below:

Awards	Supporters	Value (EURO)
1	State Street	3.000
2	MM	2.700
3	A&A – Albè e Associati Studio Legale	2.000
4	Suzuki	2.000
5	Dipartimento di Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale dell'Università di Trento	1.000
6	TRT Trasporti e Territorio	1.000
7	Michela Conterno	1.000
8	AIDDA Lombardia	900
Premio Speciale Focus Studi di Popolazione*	Associazione Italiana per gli Studi di Popolazione - sezione della Società Italiana di Statistica	500
Premio Speciale Focus STEM**	FiberCop	6.300
Premio Speciale Focus STEM**	SAS	3.000
Premio Speciale Focus STEM**	TIM	3.000
Premio Speciale Focus Certificazione Parità di Genere***	Winning Women Institute	1.000
Premio Special Focus Inclusione donne migranti******	Sanofi	2.700

The list of cash awards given here may change if other entities decide to take part in the initiative as supporters.

* As for the "Population Studies" Special Award, this award refers only to dissertations written on the theme of the call that address demography-related issues. If there are no dissertations with a demography-related subject and/or if they are judged to be of poor quality by the scientific committee, this award will be included in the list of cash awards above following the overall ranking.

** With regard to the "Focus on STEM" Special Award, it refers only to dissertations that deal with STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*) subjects written in line with the theme of the call. If there are no dissertations with a STEM subject and/or if the STEM work is judged to be of poor quality by the scientific committee, this award will be included in the list of cash awards above following the overall ranking.

*** As for the "Focus on Gender Equality Certification" Special Award, it refers only to dissertations written on the theme of the call that address the topic of Gender Certification. If there are no dissertations on Gender Certification and/or if the work in this field is judged to be of poor quality by the scientific committee, this award will be included in the list of cash awards above following the overall ranking.

**** As for the Special Award "Focus on the Inclusion of Migrant Women", it only refers to dissertations that address the inclusion of migrant women in society and in the labour market in line with the main theme of the call. If there are no dissertations with this focus and/or if the work in this field is judged to be of poor quality by the scientific committee, this award will be included in the list of cash awards above following the overall ranking.

ART.8

The winners will be informed individually at the end of the assessment process if, at the committee's sole discretion, their dissertations are considered the best at national level. During the special Awards Ceremony, the date of which will be announced in forthcoming months, the winners will publicly present their work.

Should they win, the participants authorise the transmission of their data to the organisations sponsoring this initiative in order to deliver the awards. The awards will be granted within 60 days of the event.

ART.9

For any additional information, please contact Forum della Meritocrazia via email at the following address: premiovaleriasolesin@gmail.com.

ART.10

Participants unconditionally accept all the conditions of this call for papers and hereby agree to not take any legal action against the committee and/or the companies and organisations sponsoring the initiative and to not join in any lawsuits commenced by third parties in relation to participation in the Valeria Solesin Award.

The currently applicable provisions of law shall apply to any matters not covered by this call for papers.

SUPPORTERS

Sponsors of the Valeria Solesin Award giving the awards:

SUPPORTERS		DESCRIPTION
STATE STREET.	**State Street**	State Street Corporation (NYSE: STT) is one of the world's largest providers of financial services. Its services for institutional investors include investment servicing, investment management, research and trading services. With $54.5 trillion in assets under custody and/or administration and $5.6 trillion in assets under management* as at 31 March 2026, State Street operates in more than 100 markets worldwide and has approximately 51,000 employees. For more information, visit www.statestreet.com. **Data as at 31 March 2026; includes approximately $184 billion in assets relating to SPDR® products for which State Street Global Advisors Funds Distributors, LLC (SSGA FD) acts solely as sales agent. SSGA FD and State Street Investment Management are affiliates.*
MM	MM	MM Spa is a joint-stock engineering company owned by the Municipality of Milan. It was founded in 1955 to design and build Milan's underground lines and has become an Italian leader in civil works and urban and suburban rail systems. In Milan, MM built the city's first three underground lines and actively collaborated to build the fourth and fifth. Since July 2003, MM has managed the Integrated Water Service of the City of Milan. The work in this sector involves water abstraction, drinking-water treatment, disposal and wastewater treatment. The service is provided throughout the whole of the city of Milan, meeting the needs of around 2,000,000 residents and commuters. On 1 December 2014, MM took over management of the Municipality of Milan's real estate assets, consisting of more than 38,000 properties. Since 2020, MM has also managed the routine maintenance of school buildings and sports facilities owned by the Municipality of Milan. Since 2024, MM has also managed the green assets of the Municipality of Milan. For more information, visit the www.mmspa.eu website

	A&A – Albè e Associati Studio Legale	With offices in Milan, Rome and Busto Arsizio, we advise companies across the board, with a particular focus on labour law, compliance and corporate law. We adhere to the Best Practice Code of Asla - Association of Associated Law Firms and have obtained the UNI 11871 certification: 2022 "Professional practices of lawyers and chartered accountants - organisational principles and management of risks associated with professional practice for the creation and protection of value". We have always been sensitive to the issue of inclusion and equal opportunities and have a D&I Manager who was rewarded as Lawyer of the Year 2023 for Equal Opportunities by the Equal Opportunities Committee of the Milan Bar Association, an award previously received as a firm. You can find more information at www.albeeassociati.it
	Suzuki	Suzuki was founded in 1909, following an entrepreneurial initiative by Michio Suzuki, who established a factory in the town of Hamamatsu, Japan, to manufacture textile looms. In 1920, Suzuki Loom Works became Suzuki Loom Manufacturing Co., and in 1952 the company introduced its first motorized bicycle, the Power Free. In 1954, the company became Suzuki Motor Corporation Ltd., and in 1955 it launched the Suzulight, its first automobile. This was followed in 1965 by the D55, its first outboard motor. In 1970, Suzuki introduced the Jimny LJ10, its first four-wheel-drive vehicle. In the same year, the Carry L40V, a 100% electric mini MPV, was also introduced. Since then, Suzuki's industrial activities across its various sectors have continued to grow steadily, driven by a commitment to technology, reliability, design, and innovation. For further information, please visit www.suzuki.it.
	Department of Sociology and Social Research of the University of Trento	The Department of Sociology and Social Research of the University of Trento builds on the legacy of Italy's first university institution dedicated to sociological studies. The Department regularly tops Italian ranking lists and belongs to numerous European and international research networks. It provides a place for scholars of different orientations and interests to meet and exchange ideas, united by the practice of theoretically oriented empirical research. The department includes scholars from sociology, political science and other disciplines whose contributions enable it to study borderline issues between the social disciplines in a more in-depth manner. For more information, visit the www.sociologia.unitn.it website
	TRT Trasporti e Territorio	TRT Trasporti e Territorio is an independent consultancy firm specialised in economics, transport planning and models with offices in Milan and Brussels. It provides services and conducts research in quantitative analysis, planning and economic evaluation of transport and land use policies. TRT cooperates closely with national and international, public and private entities and actively participates in European research projects on various issues related to innovation in transport policies in order to maintain an ongoing exchange between research and consultancy services. For more information, visit the website www.trt.it
	Aidda Lombardia	Since 1963, AIDDA Lombardia has been one of the 13 regional delegations of AIDDA (the Italian Association of Women Entrepreneurs and Business Executives), the first Italian association of its kind, founded in Turin in 1961 to promote and support female entrepreneurship and the role of women managers and professionals. With approximately 800 members nationwide, AIDDA serves as an authoritative point of reference for women holding positions of responsibility within the Italian economy, fostering connections and the exchange of expertise, experience, and perspectives from the female business and professional community. Among the key priorities of both AIDDA and its Lombardy Delegation is the education and development of younger generations, with the aim of supporting young women in their professional growth, skills development, and awareness of their role in society and the world of work. Since 2023, AIDDA has also acquired legal personality and the status of a Third Sector Entity (Ente del Terzo Settore). For further information, please visit www.aidda.org.

	**Italian Association for Population Studies - Italian Statistical Society section**	Founded in 2008 (previously Group for the Coordination of Demography, active since 1991), the Italian Association for Population Studies promotes studies on the population, the teaching of demography, publications and the organisation of meetings and conventions on socio-demographic topics. Currently there are around 330 members of the Italian Association for Population Studies in Italy and abroad, and it is a reference point for population academics from different disciplines. For more information, visit the website aisp-sis.com
	**FiberCop**	FiberCop manages one of the most advanced, extensive and far-reaching digital network infrastructures in Italy. With approximately 28 million kilometres of optical fibre laid and ultra-broadband coverage exceeding 96% of active lines, it provides high-performance connectivity to citizens, businesses and public administrations. Its FTTH network reaches approximately 46% of premises nationwide, ensuring speed, reliability and service quality. FiberCop is the first example in the European Union of the separation of infrastructure ownership from the incumbent telecommunications operator. With 13.7 million active lines, it is the market leader in fixed broadband access and continues to invest in the development of innovative and sustainable networks. The company reaches more than 6,200 Italian municipalities, over 3,200 of which have FTTH coverage, representing a total of approximately 14.3 million premises. The infrastructure is supported by more than 18,300 professionals across Italy, who are working to help achieve the objectives of the European Digital Agenda and foster the country's economic growth, innovation and digital inclusion. Learn more at www.fibercop.it.
	**SAS**	SAS is among the world leaders in artificial intelligence and data. With SAS software and industry-specific solutions, every company can quickly turn data into reliable decisions. With SAS, you have THE POWER TO KNOW®. For more information, visit the www.sas.com
	**The TIM Group**	Through innovative technologies and services, we are driving the digital transition in Italy and Brazil, contributing to the sustainable growth of the economy and society. Our goal is to create value and well-being for individuals, businesses and institutions. We offer a wide range of solutions that integrate digitalisation, climate strategy and the circular economy. To private individuals and households we offer fixed-line and mobile telephone services, communication and entertainment. To SMEs, we offer bespoke solutions to support them in their digital transformation. With TIM Enterprise, we deliver end-to-end solutions for businesses and the public administration, built on Cloud, IoT and Cybersecurity. We rely on Italy's largest network of data centres, the expertise of Noovle, Olivetti and Telsy, and solid partnerships. Through Sparkle, we develop fixed and mobile networks (4G and 5G) at an international level. In Brazil, TIM Brasil is a leader in 4G and 5G coverage and a major player in the communications sector. We support high social impact projects with Fondazione TIM in Italy and Instituto TIM in Brazil. Our values are passion, courage, inclusiveness and integrity: this is what inspires us every day in meeting the challenges of the future. Learn more on: www.gruppotim.it.

	**Winning Women Institute**	Founded in 2017, the Winning Women Institute, a Benefit Corporation, is committed to spreading the principle of gender equality to institutions, businesses and the public. It was the first organisation in Italy to introduce a Gender Equality Certification in the workplace, developed through the expertise of its Scientific Committee. This team of experts, drawn from academic and corporate backgrounds, created an innovative assessment model based on the Dynamic Model Gender Rating methodology. Thanks to its experience, the Winning Women Institute contributed to drafting the UNI/PDR 125:2022 reference practice, which came into force in May 2022. Today, it offers consultancy services to companies of all sectors and sizes, supporting them along the certification process for: • National Gender Equality Certification | UNI/PDR 125:2022 • ISO 30415 | DE&I Certification • ISO 53800 | International standard on gender equality • UNI/PDR 159:2024 Certification | Recognition for inclusive employment of persons with disabilities • DE&I training and consultancy • Consultancy on the implementation of the EU Pay Transparency Directive For more information, visit www.winningwomeninstitute.org.
	**Sanofi**	Sanofi is a research and development-driven, AI-powered biopharmaceutical company committed to improving people's lives and delivering value growth. We apply our deep understanding of the immune system to develop medicines and vaccines that treat and protect millions of people worldwide, supported by an innovative pipeline that could potentially benefit millions more. We are guided by one purpose: we chase the miracles of science to improve people's lives. This drives us to lead progress and make a positive impact for our people and the communities we serve, addressing the most urgent health, environmental and societal challenges of our time. You can also read our Country Impact Study on www.sanofi.it.