FORUM DELLA MERITOCRAZIA

premio Valeria Solesin



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2023-2027 DIPARTIMENTO DI ECCELLENZA MIUR

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The Project

In 2016, in full agreement with the Solesin family, we decided to create an award to honour the memory of Valeria, an Italian researcher at the Sorbonne in Paris who tragically lost her life on 13 November 2015 in the attack on the Bataclan theatre.

The competition is inspired both by Valeria's studies - which examine the theme of the dual role of women, their time split between family and work - and other contemporary research that highlights the positive effects of a balanced female presence in companies.

We therefore selected the following theme:

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

The award is aimed at students who have completed a master's degree at an Italian public or private university or hold an equivalent degree obtained abroad in the areas of **Economics, Sociology, Law, Political Science, Psychology, Education Sciences, Engineering, Data Science, Demography and Statistics**.

First introduced in 2021, once again this year the award will be given for dissertations focusing on the importance of gender in STEM fields (*Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*), for which **three Special "Focus on STEM" Awards will be given**.

Also confirmed are the **Special Awards**

- "**Focus on Gender Equality Certification**", added in 2023 and dedicated specifically to dissertations that examine the issue of Gender Equality Certification as part of their focus on the theme of the call.
- **"Focus on the Inclusion of Migrant Women",** added in 2024 and dedicated specifically to dissertations that address the inclusion of migrant women in society and in the labour market.
- **"Focus on Population Studies"**, introduced in 2025 and dedicated specifically to dissertations examining demographic issues within the theme of the call.

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The Goal



Our target audience is students whose dissertations provide a labour market analysis focused on gender from a **socio-economic, demographic-statistical and legal perspective.**

We want to highlight dissertations that 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 stereotypes) 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.

With the Special Awards, we encourage in particular dissertations developing the following themes:

- the importance of the gender dimension applied **to the innovative areas of scientific and technological research and the digital economy**
- the **certification of gender equality in organisations**.
- **the inclusion of migrant women** in society and the labour market
- **demographic aspects related to the analysis of the labour market and society from a gender perspective**

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Universities and their involvement

The 10th Edition of the Valeria Solesin Award is launched with the publication of a new call for papers. The initiative will be promoted with a communication to students and the support of some of the most prestigious public and private universities across Italy:



University of Milan

University of Milan - Bicocca

Politecnico di Milano

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - Milan

Bocconi University

University of Trento

Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Sapienza University of Rome

LUISS

University of Insubria

University of Parma

University of Brescia

University of Padua

Federico II University of Naples

University of Catania

University of Cagliari

University of Siena

University of Palermo

University of Messina

University of Basilicata

University of Salerno

University of Udine

University of Turin

University of Bari

University of Bologna

University of Pavia

University of Florence

University of Pisa

University of Verona

"G. D'Annunzio" University of Chieti - Pescara

University of Sannio, Benevento

University of Calabria

University of Bergamo

University of Molise

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The Awards

Award	Sponsor	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 for the “Population Studies” Special Award, it 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.

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The Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee is made up of the people who designed and developed the project and important figures from the world of academia, experts in the areas of Economics, Sociology, Law, Political Science, Psychology, Education Sciences, Engineering, Data Science, Demography and Statistics.

Chairwoman: Renata Semenza - University of Milan
Coordinator: Silvia Fontana - University of Milan - Bicocca
Marzia Barbera - University of Brescia
Olivia Bonardi - University of Milan
Paola Corna Pellegrini - Forum della Meritocrazia
Maria De Paola - University of Calabria
Alessandra De Rose - Sapienza University of Rome
Silvia De Simone - University of Cagliari
Mariolina Garofalo - University of Salerno
Carmen Leccardi - University of Milan - Bicocca
Antonio Lo Faro - University of Catania
Isabella Loiodice - University of Foggia
Elena Mauro - Forum della Meritocrazia
Barbara Poggio - University of Trento
Paola Profeta - Bocconi University
Donatella Sciuto – Politecnico di Milano
Giuliana Scognamiglio - Sapienza University of Rome
Salvatore Strozza - Federico II University of Naples
Nicola Tedesco - University of Cagliari
Simonetta Ulivieri - University of Florence
Agnese Vitali – University of Trento

The Advisory Board

Paola Corna Pellegrini - Forum della Meritocrazia
Maria Cristina Origlia - Forum della Meritocrazia
Laura Bruno - Sanofi
Mirella Cerutti - SAS
Denis Dollaku - State Street
Claudia Infantino - FiberCop
Andrea Rubera - TIM
Odile Robotti - 30% Club
Marco Scippa - MM
Barbara Stefanelli - Corriere della Sera

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2025 Edition

Award ceremony – Palazzo Isimbardi, Milan.

Pictured are the winners of the 9th Edition, Valeria's mother, the supporters, and the Forum della Meritocrazia project team.



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