"Human Solvency Historical Research Prize"
3rd Edition 2026-2028

The Prize is organized by the *Fondazione Istituto Internazionale di Storia Economica "F. Datini"* (Prato), based on an idea by Paolo Evangelisti and Angela Orlandi. It aims to enhance the research of scholars who focus their investigations on the issue of economic solvency considered in all its implications, including those of the languages, as well as the theological, philosophical, and legal lexicons that have structured key concepts and phenomena such as poverty, the common good, public debt, taxation, and monetary institutions. The idea is to foster a long-term approach, avoiding chronological partitions that risk fragmenting the depth and knowability of historical phenomena resulting from complex dynamics matured between the medieval age and the threshold of contemporaneity (11th–18th centuries). The Prize logo, also through the explicit citation of the Lullian *ars combinatoria*, reflects, synthesizes, and conveys the project and its underlying cultural premises.

In particular, it points in the plural to the interaction between economies, poverty, and theologies.

The term "economies" refers to diversified structures, factual forms, and patterns of thinking over the *longue durée*. The concept of "poverty" in the plural is intended to emphasize not only the historically covered semantic range, but also the fact that, in the period indicated, poverty has scales and units of measurement that define different and variously compounded, measurable, and denounceable equalities and inequalities. As for "theologies" (*theologies tout court* and economic theologies), the plural refers directly to the three main monotheisms at work in medieval Europe and their different legacies developed and settled in the centuries following the crucial 15th and 16th centuries. All this allows for an opening of the prize to the neighboring and bordering worlds of Western Europe.

The awarding of the biennial prize, with the conferment of 8,000 euros (gross of taxes, if due) to the winner, stands as a recognition of the commitment of the scholar who has completed that work of excavation and historical framing by proposing innovative methodological and epistemological approaches grounded on solid sources and data.

The judging Jury also undertakes to facilitate the online and/or print publication of the winning work if it is unpublished. Starting from the 2026-2028 edition, all contestants whose research is deemed eligible to compete for the prize are required to participate in a seminar of study and scientific discussion to be held in the semester following the awarding of the prize itself.

Only completed research, prepared in its final version in one of the official languages of the "F. Datini" Foundation (Italian, French, English, Spanish, German; if the language is other than English, the research must be accompanied by an exhaustive abstract in English) or already published by the date indicated in the call for proposals, may be submitted to the Jury. Only published or unpublished research having the characteristics of a monograph will be taken into consideration.

The financial structure supporting the initiative has set itself a minimum objective of a ten-year lifespan, based on already established private sponsorships and economic enterprises that share the aims of the prize in their very own entrepreneurial actions: to contribute to strengthening cultural, social, and economic awareness around the issue of the use of economic resources, and particularly financial resources, within a framework of compatibility that looks at the ecology of the system, therefore at the

humanity of the subjects and the living environment, both involved in the circuit that feeds private credit, taxation, and public debt. Within this framework is also the invitation to explore the role played by means of exchange/money in their institutional significance and in their most diverse meanings (see logo).

It is precisely research and historical criticism on these topics that can open up more robust horizons of understanding, showing fruitful interconnections and interweavings. It is enough to think, by way of mere example, of the decisive role for reflection on human economic action, market dynamics, and credit played by the interweaving of two historical phenomena characterizing the last three centuries of the medieval age. We are referring here to the rediscovery/reinterpretation of Aristotelian thought and the great season of development of the Mendicant Orders that gave rise to a true Franciscan School of economics. A piece of the history of economic thought and analysis that nurtured not only the Second Scholasticism but also the burgeoning of economic thought in 15th-century Italian humanism and the first affirmation of public banks, as also demonstrated by the historiographical fine-tuning proposed by the latest Treccani supplement to economic thought.

In their reverberations of the modern age, these well-structured and established economic lexicons, productive of institutions and concrete experiments, the result of an intense dialectic with the other monotheistic cultures in Europe of the time, starting with the Jewish one, connect with the texts of Konrad Summenharth (1455–1511) or Johannes Althusius (1563–1638), with the thought of the Scottish moralists, with the first great season of French and English political economy, but also with the civil economy (*economia civile*) proposed by Antonio Genovesi (1713–1769). This is a wide-ranging perspective that, in terms of legal history and legal languages, has also been intensively explored by Italian scholars of the caliber of Giovanni Tarello (1934–1987) or Paolo Grossi (1933–2022).

It is within this framework that the great, even older body of textual material, that of Greek and Latin patristics, of monastic norms, reveals itself in all its depth and richness, providing lexicons, taxonomies, and therefore interpretative and managerial frameworks that await further exploration.

Prize Jury

The Board of Directors of the Fondazione "F. Datini" appoints the selection Committee (Jury) for the Prize.

It is constitutively composed of the Jurors listed below and is coordinated by the General Secretary of the Prize, Paolo Evangelisti (University of Barcelona):

Guido Alfani (University of Milan), Francesco Ammannati (University of Florence), Philippe Bernardi (University of Paris), Bruno Callegher (University of Trieste), Hilario Casado Alonso (University of Valladolid), Markus A. Denzel (University of Leipzig), Maria Diez Yañez (Complutense University of Madrid), Miriam Davide (University of Trieste), Maria Teresa Dolso (University of Padua), Paolo Evangelisti (University of Barcelona), Luca Fantacci (University of Milan "La Statale"), Riccardo Finozzi (Bank of Italy), Antoni Furió (University of Valencia), Roberto Lambertini (University of Macerata), Clement Lenoble (CNRS-CIHAM Lyon–Avignon), Maryanne Kowaleski (Fordham University, New York), Angela Orlandi (University of Florence), Maria Clara Rossi (University of Verona), Maurizio Sangalli (University for Foreigners of Siena - Sangalli Institute), Petra Schulte (University of Trier), Alessandro Silvestri (University of Salerno), Michele Spadaccini (University of Pavia), Lorenzo Tanzini (University of Cagliari), Giacomo Todeschini (independent researcher).

The Jury shall remain in office for at least four years and shall be renewed by the Board of Directors of the Fondazione "F. Datini" upon the recommendation of the President of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Director, and the General Secretary of the Prize.

Schedule of editions and voting methods

The Prize is awarded biennially. The publication of each call and the corresponding opening of the submission period typically take place in June, with the deadline set for the beginning of the second year thereafter. When each edition is published, a provisional timetable for the upcoming steps in the process is also announced to ensure the continuity and timely scheduling of the Prize.

In line with this schedule, a third call is due to be published on 30 June 2026, with a deadline for submissions set for 1 February 2028. At the same time, the next edition (2028–2030) is announced, with a call for submissions to be published by 30 June 2028 and a deadline set for early 2030.

The presentation of the prize will be held in public, in accordance with the Foundation's usual practices, and will include a press conference to which the initiative's supporters and sponsors will also be invited.

The call must specify the timeframes within which the jury will examine the research works/manuscripts submitted and reach a decision on the award of the prize. This decision must be approved by **a two-thirds majority of the members of the Jury**, taking into account both the votes cast in real time by those present (at a face-to-face or online meeting) and any valid votes cast remotely via an official email sent to the Secretariat by members unable to attend, in accordance with the procedures and deadlines set out in the Regulations.

The Committee, following the same voting procedures requiring a two-thirds qualified majority, may award one or two special mentions from the shortlist for outstanding academic quality; these works shall not receive any cash prize.

RULES

Article 1

On 30 June 2026, with a call issued and published by the "F. Datini" International Institute of Economic History Foundation, the third edition of the biennial *Human Solvency – Historical Research Prize* was launched. The call for submissions will close on 1 February 2028 at 12:00 (CET), the deadline for submitting entries. The prize will be formally presented in May 2028 in the Main Hall of Prato Municipal Council, during the opening of the Foundation's 59th Week of Studies. The next biennial call will be published by 30 June 2028 with a deadline in early 2030.

Article 2

The prize aims to recognise the historical research of scholars whose work focuses on the topic of economic solvency and all its implications, including those relating to the theological, philosophical and legal languages and lexicons that have shaped key concepts and phenomena such as poverty, the common good, public debt, taxation and monetary institutions. The aim is to promote a long-term approach by evaluating historical research and analysis spanning the period from the Middle Ages to the dawn of the modern era (11th – 18th centuries). Further information on the research topics covered by the award can be found in the relevant section of the Foundation's website.

Article 3

The prize amounts to €8,000.00 (before tax, if applicable) and will be awarded in a single payment at the time of the public award ceremony.

Article 4 (Eligibility requirements and criteria for works)

1. Eligibility for the selection process is subject to the candidate having no more than ten years of academic experience, calculated from the date on which their PhD was awarded.
2. Only completed research works, presented in their final version or already published within the timeframe specified in this call, may be submitted for assessment by the Selection Committee, provided that they take the form of a scholarly monograph.

Article 5

The Prize Selection Committee is made up of its members and is coordinated by the Secretary-General who is an integral part of it. The Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors of the "F. Datini" Foundation, remains in office for at least four years and is reappointed in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Prize, the Chair of the Scientific Committee and the Scientific Director of the Foundation.

Article 6 (Preliminary stage and shortlist)

The assessment of the monographs takes place in two successive stages. In the First Stage, each juror examines the works received and assigns each one a score from 1 to 5 (with the use of decimals permitted). The sum of the individual scores determines a preliminary ranking. The top four candidates in the ranking enter the shortlist of finalists. In the event of a tie for fourth place, the shortlist is extended to include the candidates of equal merit. Once the shortlist has been defined, the Secretariat shall communicate the names to all members of the Jury at least one week before the date set for the deliberation meeting referred to in Article 8.

Article 7 (Remote voting and conditional voting methods)

Jury members unable to attend the deliberation meeting may cast their vote electronically by sending an official email to the Prize Secretariat by the strict deadline set for the deliberation meeting.

The email must have the subject line "HUMAN SOLVENCY PRIZE VOTE" and must explicitly indicate:

1. First Choice (for the first round of voting), indicating their first choice and one or two special mentions, if any, in order of preference.
2. Second Choice (conditional vote in the event of a run-off), again indicating their first choice and one or two special mentions, if any, in order of preference.

These votes will be counted by the Secretary-General at the time of the vote and will be treated in all respects as equivalent to the votes cast in real time by those present. Emails received after the start of the meeting will be considered null and void.

Article 8 (Deliberation stage and announcement)

In the Second Stage, the Committee meets to deliberate and proceeds to a formal vote on the shortlisted candidates. Any candidate who obtains a two-thirds majority of the members of the Jury, taking into account the provisions of Article 7, is declared the winner.

If no candidate obtains a two-thirds quorum in the first round, a run-off will be held between the top two candidates. In this second round, for absent jurors who cast their vote via email in accordance with Article 7, their "second choice" will be counted, provided that it relates to one of the two candidates who have reached the run-off (otherwise, the vote is counted as an "abstention").

The procedure for awarding any special mentions is the same, as outlined in the first two paragraphs of Article 8.

If a quorum is not reached after two rounds of voting, the Committee shall take note of the situation and, by a two-thirds majority of those present, resolve not to award the prize. In such a case, it shall automatically become impossible to award any mentions.

Article 9

If adopted unanimously, the resolution to award the prize is made public and is announced at the time the prize is awarded. At the Committee's sole discretion, and following a decision adopted by the same qualified majority voting procedures, a first and a second special mention may be awarded to one or two research projects on the shortlist deemed worthy of recognition. The work or works in question will not receive a cash prize. If the work or works are published or reprinted after the award of the mention, they are entitled to display the prize logo alongside the words "Special Mention of the Jury", followed by the publication date of the call.

Article 10 (Participation in the Seminar)

From the 2026–2028 edition onwards, entrants whose research has been deemed eligible to compete for the prize are invited to take part in a seminar for academic exchange and discussion. This seminar will be held in the six-month period following the award of the prize.

Article 11

The public call for submissions for the award, organised by the "F. Datini" Foundation, shall explicitly mention and display the logos of the supporting organisations and co-funding sponsors. New supporting organisations may join at any time, subject to the approval of the Secretary-General of the prize, the Chair of the Scientific Committee and the Foundation's Scientific Director.

Prato, 26 giugno 2026

Paolo Evangelisti Angela Orlandi