



Stadt Leipzig

UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG



Sächsische Akademie der Wissenschaften  
zu Leipzig

## Media information

Leipzig, 12 April, 2013

*Press release from the City of Leipzig, the University of Leipzig and the Saxon Academy of Sciences Leipzig:*

### Dan Diner receives the 2013 Leipzig Academic Prize

**Free press photographs available from approx. 2 p.m.:  
[www.saw-leipzig.de/presse/bildmaterial/wissenschaftspreis](http://www.saw-leipzig.de/presse/bildmaterial/wissenschaftspreis)**

The Leipzig Academic Prize was awarded today at a formal ceremony in Leipzig's Old City Hall. This year's award, together with the prize money of EUR 10,000, goes to Prof. Dr. Dan Diner, Director of the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture at the University of Leipzig, Professor of Modern History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Regular Member of the Saxon Academy of Sciences Leipzig.

Prof. Dr. Pirmin Stekeler-Weithofer, President of the Saxon Academy of Sciences Leipzig, speaking of the selection criteria for the Leipzig award, explained that "The prize is awarded regularly by the City of Leipzig, the University of Leipzig and the Saxon Academy of Sciences Leipzig for a piece of work of the highest academic standards which serves to strengthen Leipzig's reputation as a City of Science with a research and educational landscape that has great national and international standing". The conferral of the prize on Dan Diner marks their recognition of a scientist of international renown who has made Leipzig one of the most important centres of research into Jewish history in the world.

The Mayor of Leipzig, Burkhard Jung, said, "It gives me great pleasure that the City, the University and the Saxon Academy of Sciences have chosen to honour Prof. Dan Diner with this award in view of his central role in establishing the reputation of Leipzig as a city with a critical spirit. His publications which have been translated into all the major languages of the world have made Prof. Diner famous well beyond Leipzig. In particular I would like to mention the Encyclopaedia of Jewish Cultures - a great book both in terms of its size and content - to which he made the key contribution. The City of Leipzig is proud to confer the 2013 Leipzig Academic Prize on such an important scholar and academic".

In her laudatory speech, Prof. Dr. med. Beate A. Schücking, Rector of the University of Leipzig said: "This prize is being awarded to Professor Dan Diner for the Encyclopaedia of Jewish Cultures but I would like to add that he has shown exceptional commitment in promoting Leipzig as a centre of science and learning in other ways, too. The Simon Dubnow Institute, which he has established at the University of Leipzig, is without doubt a beacon. There is hardly any other scholarly institution elsewhere in Germany that has the same appeal and the same international level of networking. Thanks to his leadership, the institute has gained an excellent standing worldwide. Through his research and teaching, Dan Diner has made Leipzig a centre of communication for cutting edge academic research between Germany and Israel."

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## Background information

### Leipzig Academic Prize

Leipzig is a city of science and culture with a rich infrastructure of research, educational and scientific institutes of major national and international repute. The Leipzig Academic Prize aims to demonstrate this to the public by honouring a piece of work of the highest academic standards which serves to strengthen Leipzig's reputation as a City of Science. The works submitted to the jury may be habilitation theses or other works by distinguished academics. Great importance is attached to the interdisciplinary nature of the works.

The Leipzig Academic Prize is awarded by the City of Leipzig, the University of Leipzig and the Saxon Academy of Sciences Leipzig.

The prizewinner receives EUR 10,000.

A jury of nine scientists and scholars select the winner. The jury members work in an honorary capacity for a term of four years.

The jury members for the 2013 Leipzig Academic Prize were:

- Prof. Dr. Beate A. Schücking, Rector of the University of Leipzig
- Prof. Robert Ehrlich, Rector of the "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy" Academy of Music and Theatre Leipzig
- Prof. Dr. Svante Pääbo, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology
- Prof. Dr. Georg Teutsch, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ
- Prof. Dr. Pirmin Stekeler-Weithofer, President of the Saxon Academy of Sciences Leipzig
- Prof. Dr. Jörg Kärger, University of Leipzig
- Prof. Dr. Lothar Kreiser, Saxon Academy of Sciences Leipzig
- Prof. Dr. Ulrich Brieler, City of Leipzig
- Dr. Michael Schimansky, City of Leipzig

Previous winners of the Leipzig Academic Prize:

2001: National Atlas of the Federal Republic of Germany of the Institute for Regional Geography, today: Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography

2003: Prof. Dr. Svante Pääbo, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

2006: Prof. Dr. Jürgen Haase, Leibniz Institute for Solid State and Materials Research Dresden, today: University of Leipzig, Institute of Experimental Physics II

2009: Prof. Dr. Frank Zöllner, University of Leipzig, Institute of Art History

2011: Prof. Dr. Marius Grundmann, University of Leipzig, Institute of Experimental Physics II

## Prizewinner 2013

### Prof. Dr. Dan Diner



Director of the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture at the University of Leipzig and Professor in the Department of History;

Professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of History;

Regular Member of the Philological-Historical Class of the Saxon Academy of Sciences Leipzig

#### Curriculum Vitae

born in 1946

1973	Doctorate
1975–1977	Habilitation Fellowship of the German Research Foundation
1980	Habilitation
1984–1985	Assistant Professor, University of Southern Denmark (Syddansk Universitet)
1985–1999	Professor, Department of History, University of Essen
1987–1999	Professor, Department of History, Tel Aviv University
1994–1999	Institute for German History, Tel Aviv University
1997–1999	Holder of the Benyamin and Chaya Schapelski Chair of Holocaust Studies, Tel Aviv University
1999–2001	Professor, Department of History, Ben Gurion University of the Negev/Beer Sheva
since 1999	Director of the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture and Professor in the Department of History of the University of Leipzig
seit 2001	Professor of Modern European History, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

#### Prizes

2006	Ernst Bloch Prize of the city of Ludwigshafen am Rhein
2007	Premio Capalbio für Il tempo sospeso. Stasi e crisi nel mondo musulmano, Milano 2007
2009	"Geisteswissenschaften International – Preis zur Förderung der Übersetzung geisteswissenschaftlicher Literatur" awarded by the Börsenverein, the Fritz Thyssen Foundation and the Federal Foreign Office (for the essay: Gegenläufige Gedächtnisse. Über Geltung und Wirkung des Holocaust, Verlag Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen 2007)

#### Visiting Professorships

1978/79	Visiting Professor, Gesamthochschule Kassel
1981/82	Visiting Professor, Gesamthochschule Kassel
1997	Visiting Professor, Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich
1997/98	Guest Researcher, International Research Center for Cultural Studies, Vienna
2001	Research Fellow, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2003	Visiting Professor, Institute for Jewish-Christian Studies, University of Lucerne
2003	Visiting Professor, Mansfield College, Oxford University
2004/05	Member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
2008	Research Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University
2010	City of Vienna/IFK Fellow, International Research Center for Cultural Studies, Vienna
2011	Research Fellow, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (Carolina Center for Jewish Studies) und Wake Forest University Winston-Salem

## Memberships

- Project "Wissenschaftliche Stadtgeschichte Leipzigs 2015", Member of the Board of Trustees
- Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk e.V., Member of the Council
- Fritz Bauer Institute Frankfurt am Main, Member of the Scientific Council
- German Marshall Fund of the United States, Member of the Advisory Committee
- Hannah Arendt Institute for Research on Totalitarianism, Technical University Dresden, Member of the Friends Association of the Institute
- Herder Institute e. V. Marburg, Member
- Foundation Fund, The Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Member of the Board of Trustees
- The Richard Koebner Minerva Center for German History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Permanent Academic Member
- The Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center Jerusalem, Member of the Academic Board

## Publications

Editor – Manager of the Academy project "European Traditions – An Encyclopaedia of Jewish Cultures"

- Encyclopaedia of Jewish History and Cultures

Editor - publications of the Simon Dubnow Institute

- Bulletin
- Jahrbuch/Yearbook
- Leipzig articles on Jewish History and Culture
- Papers of the Simon Dubnow Institute
- Toldot – Essays on Jewish History and Culture

Monographies (selection):

- Zeitschwelle. Gegenwartsfragen an die Geschichte, Munich 2010.
- Aufklärungen. Über Variationen von Moderne, Zurich 2008.
- Gegenläufige Gedächtnisse. Über Geltung und Wirkung des Holocaust, Göttingen 2007.
- Versiegelte Zeit. Über den Stillstand in der islamischen Welt, Berlin 2005.
- Das Jahrhundert verstehen. Eine universalhistorische Deutung, Munich 1999.

His most important books have also been translated into Arabic, English, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, Russian, Czech and Turkish.

List of publications: <http://www.dubnow.de/Professor-Dr-Dan-Diner.40.0.html>