



## Press Release

**Premio Lattes Grinzane, awards ceremony 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021, Alba (Teatro Sociale Busca)**

**Kader Abdolah (Iran), Bernardine Evaristo (UK),  
Maylis de Kerangal (France), Nicola Lagioia and Richard Russo (USA)  
are the Premio Lattes Grinzane 2021 finalists**

**All the way from Bolzano to Trapani, with a stop in Madrid, 400 students from  
25 School Juries read the finalist novels and vote to choose the winner on 2<sup>nd</sup> October in Alba**

***The Premio Speciale Lattes Grinzane 2021 goes to Margaret Atwood*  
The author will be awarded the prize on 2<sup>nd</sup> October in Alba,  
where she will hold a lectio magistralis.**

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**Kader Abdolah** (born in Iran and political refugee in the Netherlands) with *Il sentiero delle babbucce gialle* [Original Dutch Title: *Het pad van de gele slippers*] (Iperborea; translation into Italian by Elisabetta Svaluto Moreolo), **Bernardine Evaristo** (British writer of Nigerian origin) con *Ragazza, donna, altro* [Original British Title: *Girl, woman, other*] (Sur; Italian translation by Martina Testa), **Maylis de Kerangal** (French) with *Un mondo a portata di mano* [Original French Title: *Un monde à portée de main*] (Feltrinelli; Italian translation by Maria Baiocchi), **Nicola Lagioia** with *La città dei vivi* (Einaudi), **Richard Russo** (from the USA) with *Le conseguenze* [Original American Title: *Chances are...*] (Neri Pozza; Italian translation by Ada Arduini) are the **Premio Lattes Grinzane 2021 finalists**. The Literary Prize, an international award dedicated to the memory of Mario Lattes, open to Italian and international authors of the best fiction books being published in the previous year, is at its **11<sup>th</sup> edition** this year.

**Margaret Atwood** (Canada), whose books are usually published by Ponte alle Grazie in Italy (Italian translators: Guido Calza, Camillo Pennati, Elisa Banfi, Francesco Bruno, Margherita Crepax, Raffaella Belletti, Renata Morresi) is the winner of the **Premio Speciale Lattes Grinzane - Lattes Grinzane Special Prize**, which is awarded to a worldwide famous international author that has been highly successful with critics and audiences alike. Atwood is the author of famous novels such as *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Testaments*, *Alias Grace* and *The year of the flood*, a number of which has been adapted for television. Atwood's usual Italian publisher, Ponte delle Grazie, is going to come out with her latest collection of poetry *Moltissimo* [Original Canadian Title: *Dearly*], while Salani publisher has published a children's book whose title is *Tric Trac Trio* [Original Canadian Title: *A Trio of Tolerable Tales*].

The five finalist novels, as well as the Special Prize author, were all selected by scholars, intellectuals, critics and writers making part of the **Technical Jury**.

The five books that had been designated for the Prize were then read and assessed, by **400 students** from **School Juries** that were established in 25 high schools scattered all over Italy, from Bolzano in the North to Trapani in the South (throughout Turin, Alba, Bologna, Macerata, Matera, etc.), with one exception in Madrid-Spain. The young jury members' votes will determine the **winner** that is going to be proclaimed on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021** during the open-to-public **awards ceremony**, attended by all the finalists and held at Teatro sociale Busca in **Alba** at **5 pm**, where the Special Prize winner, **Margaret Atwood**, will hold a **lectio magistralis** – lecture, on a topic of her own choice, before receiving the prize. It is a **free entry event**, while seats last, that can be attended by Green Pass holders only, via prior booking from 14<sup>th</sup> September,



through the following link: <https://fondazionebottarilattes.it/premio-lattes-grinzane-2021/> (info: [book@fondazionebottarilattes.it](mailto:book@fondazionebottarilattes.it)).

The **finalists** will meet students from Cuneo's area at **Grinzane Cavour Castle, on 2<sup>nd</sup> October**, in the morning, at 10.30 am.

**The Bookshop** stand at the Teatro Sociale Busca is provided by Milton Book Shop in Alba.

The events of the Prize will be **live streamed** on the **Bottari Lattes Foundation** website and social medias, in order to reach for the most diverse and farthest audiences, a way for these people to enjoy crucial contents from great contemporary fiction.

The Prize events, generally taking place in Langa [a winemaking hilly area, inscribed on UNESCO'S World Heritage List], will be paired by other special events in Turin, such as the **preview** of the **International Book Fair of Turin**: where **Margaret Atwood, Kader Abdolah** and **Maylis de Kerangal** will give public speeches in open-to-public events on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** in **Turin**, organized by *Salone Internazionale del Libro di Torino* - the International Book Fair of Turin, in collaboration with the Fondazione Bottari Lattes (Lingotto Conference Centre, from 03.30 pm. Further information on [www.salonelibro.it](http://www.salonelibro.it), starting from 15<sup>th</sup> September).

### **The finalists and the Special Prize**

«This year's novels are so different and high quality – claims the Technical Jury – that the jury gave them credit also in consideration of the young jury members, who will read the books and eventually pick the winner. This is why the importance and quality of the historical, biographical or civil experiences that were presented hereto, were also taken in great account, as well as the fresh, lively, elegant and witty writing of these books.

The novel genre is as lively as ever, as it was proved by the proposals that the Premio Lattes Grinzane Jury received. Notwithstanding the quality and refined taste of many novels from the Western World, it is surely true that novels from far-away worlds are highly intriguing, since the combination of their peculiar narrative with other familiar and original forms of tale may provide fruitful outcomes. The charm of these books results from the story they tell, denounce, recall and their language weaving together multiple styles that are a little less squared and “written”, so to say, but definitely more straightforward and genuine than those of our Western production, where the novel genre is centuries old.»

***Il sentiero delle babbucce gialle*** (Iperborea) written by **Kader Abdolah** is inspired by the life of Said Sultanpur, a prominent poet of the Iranian revolution, executed in 1981. This is a coming-of-age story, an inner journey for the protagonist to find himself, his very roots as a man and an artist. A journey fusing together reality, mythology and eastern fairy tales, that recalls ancient Persia, its overwhelming historical changes and Iran's difficult modernisation process.

***Ragazza, donna, altro*** (Sur) written by **Bernardine Evaristo**, a novel with a multiplicity of voices with its twelve female protagonists, reinterpreting a century of British history and portraying a multicultural Britain throughout love or professional stories of a broad range of women: straight and gay, black and mixed, young and old, working in finance or in a cleaning business, artists or teachers, rural matriarchs or transgender activists.

***Un mondo a portata di mano*** (Feltrinelli) written by **Maylis de Kerangal**, a coming-of-age story set in the *trompe-l'œil* art scene, about a young girl trying to find herself, by embracing the intimacy of art, highly disciplined study, a tight working schedule, the total physical involvement that painting demands – all of these being growing up opportunities.

***La città dei vivi*** (Einaudi) written by **Nicola Lagioia**, the reconstruction of the crime committed by Manuel



Foffo and Marco Prato in Rome, back in March 2016, when the two tortured and ended up killing young Luca Varani. The work questions everybody's motives, with a gentle touch, any finger-pointing or love for excess elements are banned. What comes out is a time made of disappointed expectations, sexual confusion, hard time adulting, inequalities, dismay.

*Le conseguenze* (Neri Pozza) written by **Richard Russo**, a sort of *hard-boiled* story, where History with a capital H interweaves with regular stories about friendship, family ties, life discovery and wistful memoir, thanks to two long lost over 60 year-old friends meeting forty years after the girl they both loved suddenly dies. The two wonder who they have become, growing increasingly suspicious of each other.

**Margaret Atwood** (Ponte alle Grazie), a Canadian writer, born in Ottawa in 1939 and dwelling in Toronto. She truly is one of the most influential literary figure in Canada's cultural scene nowadays.

As the Technical Jury claims: «A poet, a writer, an explorer of myths, a staunch environmentalist from her young age, a keeper of historical memory for all humankind: Margaret Atwood, in her long career, has wielded writing in a variety of literary forms: short-stories, full-length novels, poetry, essays, children's stories. Atwood's voice has always been an ever-changing one, but she has managed to keep a sardonic and empathic vision over the big issues of our time: the much-needed protection of the environment; the strength, oppression and inner contradictions that women in positions of power bear with them; the dark wing of history, something she holds dearly, even in her works of fiction, and is based on true and often forgotten facts, as Atwood constantly claims.»

### The juries

The five finalist novels and the Special Prize winner have been selected by the **Technical Jury**: chairman **Gian Luigi Beccaria** (linguist, literary critic, essayist), **Valter Boggione** (Professor of Italian Literature at the University of Turin), **Vittorio Coletti** (linguist, scholar, advisor for Accademia della Crusca [the most important research institution of the Italian language]), **Giulio Ferroni** (literary critic, scholar, expert of Italian literature), **Loredana Lipperini** (writer, journalist, radio host), **Alessandro Mari** (writer, editor), **Laura Pariani** (writer), **Lara Ricci** (cultural journalist) and **Bruno Ventavoli** (journalist, literary critic).

The **25 schools** where the **School Juries 2021** were held are: Liceo Scientifico "L. Cocito", **Alba** (Cuneo); Liceo Classico, Artistico e Musicale of **Aosta**; Liceo Scientifico Statale "Augusto Righi" of **Bologna**; Liceo delle Scienze Umane e Artistico "Giovanni Pascoli" of **Bolzano**; Liceo Classico "Don Bosco" of **Borgomanero** (Novara); Licei "Giolitti-Gandino" of **Bra** (Cuneo); Liceo Classico "V. Lanza" of **Foggia**; Istituto di Istruzione Superiore "Mazzatinti" of **Gubbio** (Perugia); Liceo Classico Linguistico "Leopardi" of **Macerata**; Liceo Scientifico "Belfiore" of **Mantova**; Istituto di Istruzione Superiore "Duni-Levi" of **Matera**; Liceo Classico Statale "C. Beccaria" of **Milan**; Liceo Classico e Linguistico Statale "Carlo Alberto" of **Novara**; Liceo Classico "Antonio Gramsci" of **Olbia**; Liceo Statale "Guglielmo Marconi" of **Pescara**; Liceo Classico Statale "G. F. Porporato" of **Pinerolo** (Turin); Liceo Scientifico "Michelangelo Grigoletti" of **Pordenone**; Liceo Classico "Giacchino da Fiore" of **Rende** (Cosenza); Liceo Ginnasio Statale "Virgilio" of **Roma**; Liceo Artistico "Sabatini-Menna" of **Salerno**; Liceo Statale "G. D. Cassini" of **Sanremo** (Imperia); Convitto "Umberto I" of **Turin**; Istituto di Istruzione Superiore "Fardella-Ximenes" of **Trapani**; Liceo Classico Statale "Giosuè Carducci" of **Viareggio** (Lucca); Scuola Italiana Statale of **Madrid** - Spain.

### The Premio's sponsor

Premio Lattes Grinzane is organized by the Fondazione Bottari Lattes with the contribution of *Regione Piemonte* - Regional Council of Piedmont; with the support of Mic-Ministry of Culture, *Fondazione CRC* - CRC Foundation, *Fondazione CRT* - CRT Foundation, *Banca D'Alba* - Bank of Alba, *Comune di Monforte* - City of Monforte d'Alba, *Azienda Vitivinicola Conterno Giacomo* - Conterno Giacomo Wine-making Company, Banor; under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture-MiC City of Alba, *Comune di Grinzane Cavour* - City of Grinzane Cavour, *Città di Cuneo* - City of Cuneo, *Unione di Comuni Colline di Langa e del*



*Barolo* -Langa and Barolo Hills Association, *Casa editrice Lattes* – Lattes Publishing House; in collaboration with *Confindustria di Cuneo e Alba Capitale della Cultura d'Impresa 2021* - Cuneo and Alba (Capital City of Coporate Culture 2021) department of Confindustria, *Fiera Internazionale del Tartufo Bianco d'Alba* - International Alba White Truffle Fair, *Salone Internazionale del Libro di Torino* - the International Book Fair of Turin, *Associazione Paesaggi Vitivinicoli Di Langhe Roero e Monferrato-Unesco* - Langhe Roero and Monferrato-Unesco Wine-making landscapes Association, *Protezione civile di Alba-Proteggere Insieme* - Civil Protection Department of Alba-Proteggere Insieme, *Fondazione Radici* – Radici Foundation, *Azienda Agricola Conterno Fantino* - Conterno Fantino Farm, *Ceretto Azienda Vitivinicola* - Ceretto Wine-making Company, *Enoteca Regionale Piemontese Cavour* – Cavour Piedmont's Regional Wine Cellar, *Terre del Barolo*, *Arnaldo Rivera*, *Antica Torroneria Piemontese* – Old Torrone Making Factory of Piedmont, *Ristorante La Piola* – La Piola Restaurant, *Ristorante Albergo Felicin* – “Dimora Storica” - Felicin – “Dimora Storica” Hotel Restaurant, I Castelli Hotel, Enoclub-Caffè Umberto, Vincaffè, Audiosystem Srl; through the auspices of the *Centro per il libro e la lettura* - Books and Reading Hub.

### **The Fondazione Bottari Lattes**

The *Fondazione Bottari Lattes* – The Bottari Lattes Foundation, was born in 2009 in Monforte d’Alba (Cuneo), from the will of Caterina Bottari Lattes. The first goal of the Foundation is to promote art and culture, and spread awareness over the figure of Mario Lattes (1923-2001) and his multi-disciplinary work as a painter, a writer, a publisher and an organizer of cultural activities. The Foundation promotes research and study activities, on its own or in collaboration with other authorities or institutions, and organizes cultural events and projects. Some of its main activities are: *Premio letterario internazionale Lattes Grinzane* – International Lattes Grinzane Literary Prize, *Premio biennale Mario Lattes per la Traduzione* – Mario Lattes' Biennial Translation Prize, art and photo exhibitions, school projects such as Vivolibro, and conferences.

The new ***Centro Studi Mario Lattes*** – **Mario Lattes Study Hub** is housed in the headquarter of the Fondazione Bottari Lattes, via Marconi 16, Monforte d’Alba; a place to focus on and further research the many facets of Lattes's figure as an intellectual, writer, artist and publisher, and bringing together: la *Biblioteca Mario Lattes* – Mario Lattes Library, *Archivio delle carte di Mario Lattes* – Mario Lattes's letters and documents Archive, other collections owned by the Foundation and Mario Lattes's paintings. The Study Hub will collaborate closely with the Ministry of Culture, Universities and other Cultural Authorities that will gradually contribute to its agenda, a way to sow the seeds of a thriving ecosystem of high level cultural and scientific initiatives bulding networks all over Italy and reaching for International Institutions.

The ***I mondi di Mario Lattes #1- Mario Lattes's worlds #1 exhibition*** can now be visited online. This is the first stretch of an art voyage through Lattes's painting artworks, many of which are being displayed for the first time, and were recently purchased from private collectors to make the archive collection as comprehensive as possible.

The public garden in Piazza Maria Teresa, in Turin, was named after Mario Lattes by the *Città di Torino\_Presidenza del Consiglio Comunale* - City of Torino\_City Council Board, to acknowledge Lattes's contribution to the world of culture, considering the number of undertakings and initiatives he had carried out in Turin.

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