



Two New Italian ERC Winners at SISSA (Plus One)



New grants to add to the long list of ERCs

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When it comes to European Research Council (ERC) funding, SISSA has every reason to be proud, especially in recent months. Of the 13 ERC consolidator grants announced in Brussels last Friday for Italy, one is already at the school and another will arrive shortly. Adding to this rich "bounty" is another ERC starting grant which was awarded to a SISSA instructor last November for a total of 15 projects approved since 2008, making SISSA one of the European schools with the highest number of grants in relation to the number of instructors.



Gianluigi Rozza will study how to reconcile supercomputing and mobile devices (among them tablets and smartphones) while Domenica Bueti will address the neurophysiological mechanisms of time perception. Rozza has been at the School for a year and a half, having returned to Italy in 2012 through the SISSA Excellence Grants program after ten years abroad at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne and MIT. He became a Professor after passing the national scientific exam and winning the position. Bueti just recently won a position and is set to enter the School as an Associate Professor, bringing the ERC grant with her. To add to this success is Davide Crepaldi, Associate Professor since 2015, who received an ERC starting grant to study the cognitive processes of reading late last year. Each of these projects is worth more than a 1.5 million euros, all devoted to research.

SISSA, therefore, is a true "magnet" for attracting this type of funding as well as some of the world's most accomplished researchers, creating a reversal of the "brain drain" phenomenon. In Bueti's case, for example (having been first in London at University College, and then at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne), she chose to apply for the SISSA position and return to Italy because of the School's high standards, which are some of the highest of major European institutions.

To date, there has been a total of fifteen ERC grants at SISSA (including the one arriving with Bueti) since disbursement began in 2008. Five of these were awarded to the PhD program in Cognitive Neuroscience, five to Mathematics and the remaining five to Physics. The ERC recently awarded to Gianluigi Rozza is in the area of Mathematics for new and significant research at the applied level. "We study numerical methods for combining supercomputing on supercomputers like the one recently acquired by SISSA, with real-time applications on mobile devices," says Rozza. *Reduced order modeling* is the name of the specific research field, a sector that in addition to academic research has interesting implications for industrial and medical applications. Davide Crepaldi, SISSA Professor in Neuroscience since June 2015, received a grant to further pursue his linguistic studies, in particular the mechanisms related to comprehension of written language in the brain, seen as a "machine for statistical learning." All of the grants cover a term of five years.

SISSA is among the top European institutions for the number of ERC grants received per number of researchers, making it one of the most interesting institutions to work for at the national and international levels.

USEFUL LINKS:

- **ERC website:** <https://erc.europa.eu/>



IMAGE:

- Credits SISSA

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