

## **CÉSAR HIDALGO WINS THE LAGRANGE PRIZE – CRT FOUNDATION 2018**

The winner of the eleventh edition of the Lagrange Prize – CRT Foundation, the award established by the **CRT Foundation – Cassa di Risparmio di Torino** and coordinated by the **ISI Foundation – Institute for Scientific Interchange of Turin**, is the Chilean born scientist, **César Hidalgo**, who is currently a Professor at MIT in Boston. The award ceremony will take place on **Thursday 15th November at 6.00 pm** in the elegant setting of the **Piccolo Teatro Regio in Turin**.

**César Hidalgo**, born in 1979, a Physics graduate from the Universidad Católica de Chile and PhD from Notre Dame (Indiana, USA) prior to doing a post-doctorate at Harvard, is an **Associate Professor in Media, Arts and Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston**, where he leads the **Collective Learning** research group. In 2014 he co-authored *The Atlas of Economic Complexity: Mapping Paths to Prosperity*. This book measures the economic performance of 128 countries and is presented in an innovative kit of data maps and visualizations (an online version is hosted on [atlas.media.mit.edu](http://atlas.media.mit.edu)). His last book *Why Information Grows: The Evolution of Order, from Atoms to Economies* (translated into Italian by Bollati Boringhieri, 2016) has been translated into more than ten languages. Hidalgo devised several popular data visualization platforms (The Observatory of Economic Complexity, DataViva, Pantheon, Immersion, DataUSA, DataAfrica, DataChile) that have been accessed over 100 million times and obtained numerous recognitions. This Chilean scientist is also one of the founders of Datawheel LLC, a company specialising in big data custom visualization engines with the goal of «making global information accessible and comprehensible to all».

Since 2008, the Lagrange Prize – CRT Foundation awards researchers that stand out for their excellence in studies of **complex systems science**, a dynamic and interdisciplinary sector in which the evolution of scientific research keeps abreast of technological innovation with an ever stronger influence on society (economics, finance, medicine and public health, communications and non-profit). In the 11<sup>TH</sup> edition of the Award which since 2010 has been restricted to young researchers, the panel of judges coordinated by the ISI Foundation has recognized the work of highly heterogeneous origin scientists both from a geographic point of view and in terms of the scientific discipline, before gradually drawing up a global map of the most brilliant contemporary complexity science.

In the Golden Album of the Awards, the name of César Hidalgo is added to those of **Yakov Grigorievich Sinai** (Mathematician, Russia, 2008), **William Brian Arthur** (Economist, UK, 2008), **Giorgio Parisi** (Physicist, Italy, 2009), **James J. Collins** (Biomedical Engineer, USA, 2010), **Albert-László Barabási** (Physicist, Hungary/USA, 2011), **Lada Adamic** (Social Network Scholar, USA, 2012), **Xavier Gabaix** (Economist, France, 2012), **Duncan J. Watts** (Sociologist and Social Network Scholar, Australia, 2013), **Mark Newman** (Physicist, UK, 2014), **Panos Ipeirotis** (Information Technology, Greece, 2015), **Jure Leskovec** (Computer Science, Slovenia, 2015), **John Brownstein** (Epidemiologist, Canada, 2016) and **Danielle S. Bassett** (Physicist and Neuroscientist, USA, 2017).

*“Complex systems science is inextricably linked to our futures”, says Mario Rasetti, President and Founder of the ISI Foundation. “The Lagrange Prize – CRT Foundation addresses young researchers from all over the world by opening up new avenues often pursuing a multi-disciplinary approach and developing innovative models. This recognition focuses on the future of science. For this reason, it has been decided that again this year a brief poetical and theatrical interlude should be included as a way of sharing the high points and the stress involved in research and science achievements. Not simply a way to disseminate but more to create the feeling of bringing those listening up to the bridge from which the scientists launch themselves towards the future. The performance namely The dance of the mind is targeted at entering into the processes and demonstrating the goals towards which we are advancing in our studies of the human brain”.*

*“With increasingly greater interest, institutional philanthropy has started to explore the opportunities offered by the application of data for social purposes so as to strengthen the transparency and effectiveness of its work and maximize the creation of value also from a redistributive point of view”, says the Secretary General of the CRT Foundation and President of the EFC, **Massimo Lapucci**. “César Hidalgo, with his original and pioneering work aimed particularly on achieving a better understanding of economic growth through the tools of complexity theory, has contributed in making IT heritage more accessible and user-friendly for everyone. An objective that is coherent with that of the CRT Foundation. Also for this reason the CRT Foundation will open a Data Science for Good hub at the OGR in Turin in 2019, in collaboration with the ISI Foundation. This will be an innovative research centre focused on providing new scientific tools for better identifying social needs, a clearer definition of the actions to be undertaken and a more precise measurement of the impact of the interventions”.*

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