



## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

### ASIMOV PRIZE 2019 TO THE BEST SCIENCE OUTREACH BOOK AND TO STUDENTS' REVIEWS

Lamberto Maffei's book tells the story of science via a hymn to our species' greatest evolutionary advantage, the word: it is a heartfelt invite to recognise the value of the word, to use it, and to love it.

Entitled 'Elogio della parola' - In Praise of the Word (published by Il Mulino), the work won the fourth edition of the Asimov Prize, having been selected by a jury of thousands of secondary school students from 11 Italian regions. It was judged best cultural or popular scientific book published in the last two years in Italy. The award ceremony will take place on May 9<sup>th</sup> (at 4:30 p.m.), during an event organised at the Turin International Book Fair.

Established in 2015 by INFN and the Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI), the Asimov Prize for popular science publications is a competition that involves not just the authors of the works being judged but also the high school students who declare the winner in their reviews, which are then awarded prizes. The prize's scientific committee is composed of 250 members, half of which are high school teachers and half of which are university professors, researchers, PhD students, journalists, writers, and representatives of the cultural world. In recent months, these members selected the seven books to be submitted to the students' judgement. Other books that participated in the final competition, apart from Maffei's, included: Guido Barbujani and Andrea Brunelli's *Il giro del mondo in sei milioni di anni* (Around the world in six million years) (Il Mulino); James Gleick's *Time Travel* (Codice); Jerry Kaplan's *Intelligenza artificiale. Guida al futuro prossimo* (Artificial Intelligence: What Everyone Needs to Know) (Luiss Edizioni, Il Mulino); Giorgio Manzi's *Ultime notizie sull'evoluzione umana* (The Latest News on Human Evolution) (Il Mulino); Guido Saracco's *Chimica verde 2.0* (Green Chemistry 2.0) (Zanichelli); and Sara Sesti and Liliana Moro's *Scienziato nel tempo. 100 biografie* (Scientists Over Time: 100 Biographies) (Ledizioni). ■