

# The American University of Rome announces 2023 honorary degree recipients

*The American University of Rome (AUR) to award honorary doctorates to Jhumpa Lahiri, Pulitzer winner, and Carlo Petrini, founder of Slow Food International.*

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- [The American University of Rome](#) will confer honorary doctoral degrees on Jhumpa Lahiri, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, and Carlo Petrini, founder of the international Slow Food movement, during its [annual commencement ceremony](#) on May 25, 2023, at the [Villa Aurelia](#) in Rome. The two will receive AUR's highest honor in recognition of their extraordinary contributions to their fields.

JHUMPA LAHIRI was born in London and grew up in Rhode Island. Her debut collection of stories, *Interpreter of Maladies*, won the Pulitzer Prize, the PEN/Hemingway Award, and *The New Yorker* Debut of the Year. Her novel *The Namesake* was a *New York Times* Notable Book and a *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize finalist. It was also named one of the best books of the year by *USA Today* and *Entertainment Weekly*, among others.

In December 2015, Lahiri published a nonfiction essay, "Teach Yourself Italian," in *The New Yorker*, about her experience learning Italian. In the article, she declared that she would now only write in Italian. That same year, she published her first book in Italian, *In altre parole*, in which she wrote, "I waited a very long time to really go away from the world I knew. Rome has given me a sense of belonging." In 2018, she published her first novel in Italian, *Dove mi trovo*. In



Honorary doctorate recipients Jhumpa Lahiri and Carlo Petrini



Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jhumpa Lahiri

2019, she compiled, edited, and translated the Penguin Book of Italian Short Stories, consisting of 40 Italian short stories written by 40 Italian writers. She also recently published, to great acclaim, a volume of short stories entitled *Racconti romani*.

CARLO PETRINI is an Italian activist, writer, and founder of the international Slow Food movement.

Formerly a political activist in the communist Proletarian Unity Party (Partito di Unità Proletaria; PdUP), in 1977, he began contributing culinary articles to the communist daily newspapers *Il Manifesto* and *L'Unità*. In 1983, he helped create and develop the Italian non-profit food and wine association known as Arcigola. He founded Slow Food in 1986 and became the organization's president.

With the initial aim to “defend regional traditions, good food, gastronomic pleasure, and a slow pace of life,” in almost three decades of history, the movement has evolved to embrace a comprehensive approach to food that recognizes the strong connections between plate, planet, people, politics, and culture. Today Slow Food represents a global movement involving thousands of projects and millions of people in over 160 countries.

Petrini is an editor for multiple publications at the publishing house Slow Food Editore. He has written weekly columns for *La Stampa* and is a regular contributor to *La Repubblica*. In October 2004, he founded the University of Gastronomic Sciences, a university dedicated to new gastronomists and innovators of sustainable food systems.

Petrini has received numerous awards and acknowledgments, including Communicator of the Year at the International Wine and Spirit Competition in London, the Sicco Mansholt Prize in the



Activist, writer, and founder of Slow Food International, Carlo Petrini.



The American University of Rome

Netherlands, and the Eckart Witzigmann Science and Media Prize from Germany. In 2004 he was named one of Time magazine's Heroes of the Year.

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