

## Australian Travel Award for L'Aquila researchers

In April 2009 an earthquake destroyed much of the mediaeval town of L'Aquila, in Central Italy, killing almost 300 people, fifty-five of whom were from the University's 23,000-strong student body. Most of the University of L'Aquila buildings were damaged by the earthquake and only recently research staff and students have been allowed to access them again. Significant equipment and resources are still not available for the research activity.

The Association for Research between Italy and Australasia (ARIA) in Canberra on behalf of other Italian researchers based in Australia has engaged with the Australian academic community to support the University of L'Aquila.

To this aim the *Australian Travel Award for L'Aquila researchers* was established with the financial support of the Group of Eight, the Australian Academy of Science, and the "What if they never existed?" fund. The Travel Award is administered by ARIA-Canberra on behalf of the Italian research community in Australia.

Ten scholarships of \$5000 each were offered to early career researchers to travel to Australia and conduct research at Australian universities.

The recipients of the *Australian Travel Award for L'Aquila researchers* are:

Recipient	Area of research	Hosting Australian University
Sabrina Abeni	Philology and Literature	Macquarie University
Sara Amoroso	Engineering	University of Western Australia
Antonio Bonacaro	Nursing	University of Queensland
Linda Colecchi	Biomedical Technology	University of Sydney
Elvira Di Bona	Philosophy	University of Sydney
Fabiana Di Marco	Biomedical Technology	Australian National University & University of Sydney
Stefano Ercolino	Compared Cultures	University of Sydney
Valentina Martemucci	Philology and Literature	Monash University
Mirko Piersanti	Physics	University of Newcastle
Stefania Romeo	Biomedical Technology	University of Sydney

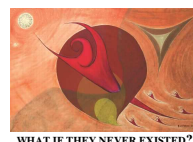
The ten awardees will travel to Australia during 2010 to spend from two to six months continuing their research in Australia while the University of L'Aquila facilities are rebuilt.



GROUP OF EIGHT



Australian Academy of Science



WHAT IF THEY NEVER EXISTED?

