

Interdisciplinary education of junior historians of mathematics



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6th Winter Workshop on History of Mathematics

Mathematics and society:

How mathematics contributes to the quality of life

When: 21 – 24 January 2016

Where: Hotel U Loubů, Tři Studně, <http://www.halva.org/hotel/>

WWW: <http://historiematematiky.webnode.cz/>

Conference fee: 600 CZK / 25 EUR payable during the workshop

To **register**, send an e-mail to jan.kotulek@vsb.cz by **30 November 2015**, stating your arrival and departure time and your **full name** and (institutional) **address**, and preferably including also the **title** and **abstract** of your talk. Abstracts received by 15 January 2016 will be included in the pre-conference booklet.

Meals and accommodation: please specify your preferences (sharing room, dietary requirements, etc.) when registering. The rooms will be booked by the organisers and paid individually by the participants before their departure.

A limited number of **grants** will be awarded to junior scholars presenting a paper at the workshop. Each grant will cover full board and conference fee. In order to apply, send a brief motivation letter, stating your future plans in history of mathematics and a CV containing also your full address.

This annual meeting series traditionally strives to support interdisciplinary debate and explore various approaches to history of mathematics. In our effort to show mathematics as an indispensable part of our culture, this time we are focusing on how mathematics can improve the daily life of people. Rather than simply juxtaposing two contradictory claims, namely that “mathematics is all around us” or that “*real* mathematics is almost wholly useless” (G.H. Hardy), we propose to explore how mathematics influences people’s lives both directly and indirectly.

Mathematics is frequently said to have contributed to developments in technology, notably in fields like aerodynamics and computing. On another level, doing well in mathematics was, since the industrial revolution, thought to imply the possibility of getting a better job, earning one’s bread in a less mundane way, for example as a civil engineer as opposed to a bricklayer. On yet another level, actuarial mathematics allowed people financial security even during times of bad luck. More recently, mathematics and statistics have permeated economics as well as a wide range of scientific fields from biology through medicine to psychology and sociology.

In the interdisciplinary tradition of the winter workshops in the history of mathematics, we invite contributions approaching the theme from the inside (mathematics) as well as from the outside (society), depending on the background of the researcher.

Invited speakers

Danny Beckers (Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Jakub Rákosník (Department of Social History, Charles University in Prague)

General outline of the programme:

- **Thursday:** arrival and informal introductory meeting in the evening
- **Friday and Saturday:** regular conference days, with prolonged lunch break to allow for hiking or cross-country skiing, including light evening session
- **Sunday:** departure after breakfast

Looking forward to seeing you

Jan Kotůlek, VSB-TU Ostrava
Helena Durnová, MU Brno
Rolf Nossun, UiA Kristiansand