NITheCS
National Institute for Theoretical and Computational Sciences

C O L L O Q U I U M

Islamic tilings and their symmetries: Mathematics meets Art

Prof Balázs Szendrői (University of Vienna, Austria)

DATE: Monday, 17 February 2025 | 16h00–17h00 SAST
VENUES:
- Neelsie Cinema, Stellenbosch University
- Online

--- A recording of the talk will be published on the NITheCS YouTube channel afterwards ---

ABSTRACT

Islamic art, the artistic output of Muslim cultures over the last 1300 years, shows some unique distinguishing features that set it apart from other artistic traditions. One of these features is the ingenious use of symmetry; another is the use of polygonal geometry. We will take an image-led tour across centuries of Islamic art viewed through the eyes of the mathematician, following a path that will lead us to some surprising modern conclusions.

BIOGRAPHY

Balázs Szendrői is a Professor in Algebraic Geometry at the University of Vienna, Austria. He obtained his BA and PhD degrees at Trinity College, University of Cambridge, and subsequently worked at the Universities of Warwick and Utrecht, and for many years at the University of Oxford and St Peter's College. He is a specialist in higher-dimensional, combinatorial and enumerative algebraic geometry.

His interests also include art, both ancient and modern. He has worked for 15 years on research development throughout Africa, with projects in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Nigeria and elsewhere. He is a Trustee of the London-based charity Supporting African Mathematics Initiatives, the current Chair of the Committee for Developing Countries of the European Mathematical Society, and a former Council member of AIMS South Africa.

REGISTER TO ATTEND
https://bit.ly/3PLh63S

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NITheCS MAILING LIST:

science, technology & innovation
Department: Science, Technology and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NRF National Research Foundation

Stellenbosch UNIVERSITY IYUNIVESITHI UNIVERSITEIT