

Geometric issues in the foundation of science

St. John's College, Oxford, June 25-29 1996

(First announcement)

Geometric Issues '96

The Mathematical Institute

24-29 St Giles

Oxford, OX1 3LB

England

Fax: +44 1865 273583

e-mail: geom96@maths.ox.ac.uk

January 2, 1996

We are planning a symposium entitled "Geometric issues in the foundations of science" to celebrate, in the year of his 65th birthday, Professor Sir Roger Penrose's outstanding contributions to many different areas of mathematics and physics and the 23 years so far during which he has been enlivening and shaping Oxford mathematics. The conference will be broadly based and draw together the fields to which Roger has contributed. We attach a provisional programme with a list of those who have agreed to speak.

Applications to participate in the symposium may be made on the enclosed forms. Please address all correspondence, by post, fax or e-mail, to the addresses above. Completed application forms should be sent to the above address as soon as possible; we would like to have the list of applicants in a reasonably final form by 29th February. We welcome forms sent by e-mail also. We have to restrict the number of participants to about 150.

Up to date information will be posted on the website:

<http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/geom96/geom96.html>

where copies of these documents can be obtained also.

Location and accommodation: The symposium will be held at St John's College, Oxford, in the conference facilities in their new Garden Quad buildings.

Board and lodging can be obtained in St Johns. The prices (including VAT) are as follows:

One night's accommodation:	£26.50
Breakfast:	£4
Lunch:	£6
Dinner:	£16
Banquet:	£30.

We append some addresses of local bed and breakfasts and hotels in case you wish to make other arrangements.

Attendance and Registration: The number of participants that we can accommodate is limited. Although we shall do what we can to accommodate everyone who applies, we may not be able to.

There will be a registration fee of 50 UK pounds if submitted by May 1st which will increase to 75 UK pounds after that date. The registration will be half price for research students and the financially challenged.

Financial support: There may be some limited support for participants who will otherwise not be able to attend—we do not know how much, if anything, will be available at this stage, but let us know what you need in case we are able to do something.

Workshop submissions: There will be a limited number of slots for speakers in the parallel sessions. If you wish to speak, please submit an abstract by February 29th.

The local organizing committee:

Steve Huggett, Lionel Mason, Paul Tod, Tsou Sheung Tsun, Nick Woodhouse.

The scientific organizing committee:

Abhay Ashtekar, Gary Gibbons, Lionel Mason, Ted Newman, Paul Tod, and Nick Woodhouse

The honorary committee:

Sir Michael Atiyah, Sir Hermann Bondi, Martin Gardner, Dennis Sciama, John Wheeler.

Accommodation elsewhere:

Judith & John Goodwin, Tara, 10 Holywell St Oxford OX1 3SA
Tel: 01865 202953 or 244786

E.Tong, 54 St John St, Oxford OX1 2LQ
Tel: 01865 54894

Norham Guest House, 16 Norham Rd, Oxford OX2 6SF
Tel: 01865 515352

St Michael's Guest House, 26 St Michael's St, Oxford OX1 2EB
Tel: 01865 242101

More expensive accommodation

Bath Place Hotel, 4 & 5 Bath Place, Oxford OX1 3SU
Tel: 01865 791812

Even more expensive accommodation

The Old Parsonage Hotel, 1 Banbury Rd, OX2 6NN
Tel: 310210

Oxford Information Centre 01865 726871

The provisional program

Tuesday, 25th June:

Reception

Evening Lecture by Sir Michael Atiyah (Trinity Cambridge)

Wednesday, 26th:

9-10: N.J.Hitchin (University of Cambridge)

10-11: S.K.Donaldson (University of Oxford)

11.30-12.30: A.Connes (College de France)

Lunch

2-3: A.Ashtekar (Pennsylvania State University)

3.30-4.30: G.Veneziano (CERN)

Thursday, 27th:

9-10: H.Friedrich (Max Planck Institute, Potsdam)

10-11: R.S.Ward (University of Durham)

11.30-12.30: C.R.LeBrun (SUNY at Stonybrook)

Afternoon: Parallel sessions: 2-5

1. Mathematical aspects of Twistor Theory.

2. Fundamental questions in quantum mechanics.

Friday, 28th:

9-10: A.Ekert (The Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford)

10-11: S.Hameroff (Tucson, Arizona)

11.30-12.30: A.Shimony (Boston University)

Afternoon: Parallel sessions: 2-5

3. Approaches to Quantum Gravity.

4. Geometry and gravity.

Evening: Conference dinner

Saturday, 29th:

9-10: P.Steinhardt (University of Pennsylvania)

10-11: D.W.Sciama (S.I.S.S.A, Trieste)

11.30-12.30: S.W.Hawking (University of Cambridge)

Afternoon:

2-3: G.B.Segal (University of Cambridge)

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Application and accommodation reservation form

NAME: _____

DEPARTMENT: _____

INSTITUTION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: (office) _____ (home) _____ (FAX) _____

E-MAIL: _____

Please specify on which nights you would like accommodation in St John's College:

Arrival date: _____

Departure date: _____

Total number of nights: _____

Total cost of accommodation at £26.50 per night: £ _____

Please specify the meals you would like with an 'x' below:

Breakfast (£4 each): Wednesday (), Thursday (), Friday (), Saturday (), Sunday ().

Lunch (£6 each): Wednesday (), Thursday (), Friday (), Saturday ().

Dinner (£16 each): Wednesday (), Thursday (), Saturday ().

Conference dinner at £30: Friday()

Please state any special dietary requirements: _____

Total cost of meals: £

Registration fee: £

Total sum: £

We hope to be able to accommodate all who apply. If we can accommodate you, we will write and invoice you for the above sum and expect you to confirm by paying the registration fee and an accommodation deposit of 50 pounds by May 1st 1996. We will let you know as soon as possible if there are any difficulties.