

The 15th General Meeting of EWM

**5th-9th September 2011.
Barcelona, Spain**

A short report by Sanja Rapajic

The 15th General Meeting of European Women in Mathematics, EWM 2011, took place during 5th-9th September at the Centre de Recerca Matemàtica in Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain. More than fifty women participated in the conference. The plenary lectures included many interesting and fascinating topics ranging from period numbers to hyperbolic geometry. Most of the invited speakers began their lectures with a short mathematical life story and their plenary lectures were filmed by a professional crew.

The invited speakers were:

Karen Vogtmann, Cornell University (2011 EMS lecturer), 'The topology and geometry of automorphism groups of free groups I, II, III'

Pilar Bayer, Universitat de Barcelona, 'Shimura curves as moduli spaces for fake elliptic curves'

Annette Huber-Klawitter, Freiburg Universität, 'Period numbers'

Laure Saint-Raymond, Université de Paris VI, 'The sixth problem of Hilbert - a century later'

Caroline Series, University of Warwick, 'Recent developments in hyperbolic geometry'

Susanna Terracini, Università di Milano Bicocca, 'Analytical aspects of spatial segregation'

Corinna Ulcigrai, University of Bristol, 'Dynamical properties of billiards and surface flows'

In addition Gina Rippon, Professor of Cognitive Neuro-imaging at Aston University, gave a general lecture on 'Sex, Maths and the Brain'.

The 2011 European Mathematical Society Lecturer, Professor Karen Vogtmann, gave three of her EMS lectures at the meeting. After a short review of her mathematical life story, she gave some remarkable lectures about the topology and geometry of automorphism groups of free groups. She explained modern techniques for studying automorphism groups of free groups, which include a mixture of topological, algebraic and geometric methods.

The conference participants had the opportunity to attend the EWM General Assembly, as well as a discussion forum and many various short talk sessions and poster presentations. During the General Assembly, some new members of the Standing Committee were elected for the next two years and the new EWM logo, proposed by the Standing Committee, was approved.

An informal discussion about the reports of local coordinators and the situation of EWM in various parts of Europe, tendencies, encouraging facts and problems, future coordinators and the use of social media and networks were the topics of the discussion forum.

Besides the plenary lectures, participants attended a general lecture about sex, maths and the brain by Gina Rippon. The 25th anniversary of EWM was followed by a reception and a very interesting presentation of participants.

The local organizers arranged a tour of Barcelona downtown, after which participants enjoyed a delicious dinner and friendly atmosphere at a restaurant. The hospitality of CRM and kindness of the organizers who looked after the participants at the venue contributed to the pleasant atmosphere during the conference. Nuria Fagella helped the organization greatly, with her thoughtfulness for every detail.

The next EWM general meeting is being planned to take place in Bonn, Germany, during 1st-6th September 2013.