

Circulating Mathematics via Journals: The Rise of Internationalisation 1850-1920

Conference at the Mittag-Leffler Institute

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All too often national approaches have framed research in history of mathematics of the modern period. A focus on circulation and on the internationalization process in mathematics, 1850-1920, has allowed the opening of new perspectives that transcend national closures and their pitfalls. An ever ongoing flux of mathematicians, students or publishers, of texts which vehicle ideas, techniques, and values, of material objects, of services, of organizational forms, and so on creates international or more often transnational spaces, spaces that not only cross national borders, but establish also connections at different scales (local, regional, national or international).

The discussion of the forms and operations of these circulation spaces organized itself around five themes:

- (1) The first focused on individual mathematicians and their publication strategies. Why do mathematicians of the 19th century look for international venues for publication? What are the reasons for their choices?
- (2) The second theme concerned the strategies of the journals for building international audiences, from local undertakings with a national or an international dimension to journals with an expressly international outlook. Mittag-Leffler's *Acta mathematica*, created in 1882, but also the *Rendiconti del Circolo matematico di Palermo* (1887) or the *Enseignement math ematique* (1899) were prominent here.
- (3) A third was devoted to the role of institutions in the circulation of mathematics, with a special mention of libraries.
- (4) The fourth focused on some practices induced by circulation among journals, like translating, reviewing, or answering mathematical questions published by journals.
- (5) Finally, we had a closer look at emerging mathematical disciplines and how they managed to find publication venues.

The principal outcome of the conference will be the publication of a special issue of *Historia mathematica*, scheduled for 2018, dedicated to the "Interplay Between Mathematical Journals at Various Scales" and putting together a selection of papers presented at the conference.