



# Conference Report

## International Seminar on History and Philosophy of Mathematics II : Pluralism in Mathematics (December 10-12, 2015)

This international seminar was sponsored by the Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi and was organized by the Asutosh Mookerjee Memorial Institute (AMMI), Kolkata. The venue of the two day seminar was the Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Gol Park, Kolkata.

The seminar had many eminent speakers both from India and abroad. Professor Mirna Dzamonja from the University of East Anglia, U. K., Dr. Jonas Reitz of New York City College of Technology, New York, USA, Professor Reuben Hersh, Emeritus Professor, The University of New Mexico, Mexico, Professor Douglas S. Bridges from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand and Dr. Michele Friend of the Columbian College of Arts and Science, Washington, USA were the participants from abroad.

Professor Amita Chatterjee, former Vice-Chancellor, Presidency University, Kolkata, Professor Shefali Moitra, formerly from the Jadavpur University, Kolkata, Professor C. K. Raju, Centre for Studies in Civilizations, New Delhi, Professor Sundar Sarukkai,

Director Manipal Centre for Philosophy & Humanities, Manipal University, Professor Amartya Kumar Dutta of Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, Dr. Satyabachi Sar, retired faculty of M. B. B. College, Agartala, Dr. Purabi Mukherji, retired faculty, Gokhale Memorial Girls' College, Kolkata, Sri Sourav Tarafdar, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata and doctoral students Debduitta Chakraborty and Purbita Jana of Calcutta University were the participants from India.

Professor Mihir Kumar Chakraborty, Director, Sivatosh Mookerjee Science Centre, Kolkata and former Professor of Pure Mathematics, University of Calcutta was the convener of the seminar.

After a formal inauguration on Thursday, the 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 and a routine tea break, the technical sessions started from 11-20 A. M. The Inaugural Session was attended by Honourable Justice Chittatosh Mookerjee, former Chief Justice of Bombay and Calcutta High Court and grandson of late Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, the holy saints of the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture and many other dignitaries.

For greater part of the three days, except for the routine tea and lunch breaks, the seminar was packed with illuminating talks, scholastic discussions, fruitful and interesting interactions and knowledgeable observations.

Professor M. Dzamonja, who also happens to be the President of the European Set Theory Society and Chair of the Logic in Europe Committee, delivered two lucid and memorable lectures on (1) Set Theory : Independence Results at the Successor of a Singular Cardinal and (2) Philosophy : Asymptotic Truth of the Axioms of ZFC. Dr. M. Friend delivered two informative talks on (1) Varieties of Pluralism and (2) Paradoxes of Pluralism. Dr. J. Reitz gave two lectures on (1) Building Universes: Independence Phenomena from Geometry to Set Theory and (2) Set-Theoretic Geology: First-order access to a neighborhood of the multiverse. Professor R. Hersh spoke at length on “Pluralism as Modeling and as Confusion”. Professor D. S. Bridges discussed some of his favourite theorems from the angle of functional analysis, topology and set theory.

Amongst the Indian speakers, Professor C. K. Raju gave an interesting lecture on “Ganita vs Mathematics : Ten myths underlying formal math. and the need to reject them”. Professor S. Sarukkai spoke on “Applicability of mathematics:

Implications for pluralism in mathematics”. Professor S. Moitra discussed “The many Faces of Vagueness”. Professor A. Chatterjee delivered an interesting talk on “Roads to Mathematical Pluralism : Some Pointers”. Professor A. K. Dutta discussed “The Decimal System in Indian Tradition” at length. Professor M. K. Chakraborty delivered an informative lecture on “Some Aspects of Mathematical Pluralism”. Dr. S. Sar delivered a talk entitled “ A Glance at the Contributions of Asutosh Mookerjee towards Mathematics”. Dr. P. Mukherji spoke and discussed about “Dwijendra Nath Tagore (1840-1926)- The Philosopher-Mathematician”. Miss D. Chakraborty talked on “Sir Asutosh – The Mathematician and the Visionary”. Sri S. Tarafdar presented a paper titled “A Paraconsistent Set Theory” and Ms P. Jana presented her paper entitled “Fuzzy Topology via Fuzzy Geometric Logic with Graded consequence”.

The International Seminar was dedicated as a tribute to the memory of the great educationist, mathematician and academic administrator Sir Asutosh Mookerjee. The seminar was quite well-attended and created a lot of interest particularly among the young researchers and the student community. (Photographs are on back inside cover).

*Reported by*  
**Purabi Mukherji, ISEC**  
(Invited speaker in the conference)

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