

ESF RESEARCH CONFERENCES

Rapporteur Report

Partnership:	ESF EMS ERCOM
Conference Title:	Teichmüller Theory and its Interactions in Mathematics and Physics
Dates:	28 June – 3 July 2010
Chair:	Prof. Papadopoulos
Rapporteur:	Prof. de Leon

General Comments

Any general comments you might have concerning the conference, your role, the scientific area covered by this conference, etc.

This conference aims to highlight some of the most important advances in Teichmüller theory. This theory has two different points of view: geometric and analytic, so the subject is a meeting point for mathematicians from different areas of expertise. The subject also has relevant applications to Physics.

Quality of Scientific Programme, Presentations and Discussion

Comments on the balance and scope of the scientific programme, the scientific quality of the presentations and discussions.

The scientific quality of the presentations and discussions were very high; indeed, the three chairs (Shigeyuki Morita, Athanase Papadopoulos and Robert C. Penner) did an excellent work.

Informal Networking and Exchange; Atmosphere

Was the schedule and the atmosphere conducive to an easy exchange of information? Was there time and space for an informal discussion? Were younger researchers integrated?

The premises of the CRM helped very much to create a nice atmosphere that has permitted the interaction between the participants, especially in the case of the young researchers (the survey talks were particularly useful).

Balance of Participants

Was there an appropriate balance between young and senior participants? Was a balance of national groups and researchers from different (sub)fields achieved?

The conference was attended by almost one hundred participants, with a good balance between nations, young and senior researchers, and fields of research.

Outlook and Future Developments

Will new collaborations emerge from this conference? (How) could the conference outcomes be utilized further? Are there suitable (ESF) programmes or instruments to further the work of the conference?

This conference should be continued by a Research Networking Program.

Follow-up

What immediate and long term follow-up would benefit collaborations and dialogues that may have begun at the conference?

A Google group entitled *Teichmüller Theory and its Interactions in Mathematics and Physics* has been created to permit the discussion between its members. A Research Networking Program should be presented in the new ESF Callfor RNPs.

Organisation and Infrastructure

Were venue, catering and accommodation appropriate for this conference? Were participants satisfied with the on-site administration and support?

The venue (CRM) is appropriate for this kind of conferences. The accommodation was very nice as well as the catering services. The CRM has a long tradition in the organization of such meetings.

Summary & Overall Assessment

Was the conference successful; were its aims achieved?

In my opinion, the conference was very well organized and its aims were achieved. The lectures had a high scientific quality and it was a useful interaction between the senior and young participants. The venue (CRM) has a long tradition in the organization of conferences. It would be desirable that this conference will have a follow-up using other ESF instruments (like a Research Networking Program).

About ESF Research Conferences

The Scheme

This conference is part of the European Science Foundation's (ESF) Research Conferences Scheme. The Scheme aims to promote scientific excellence and frontier level research throughout Europe and the rest of the world. Conferences aim to provide leading scientists and other participants, including young researchers, with a platform to present their work, to discuss the most recent developments in their fields of research and to network.

Conference Format

The core activities should be based on lectures by invited speakers, who are leaders in their respective fields, followed by extensive discussion periods. An informal exchange of ideas, both inside and outside the lecture room, should be encouraged, and the number of sessions in the daily timetable should be limited in order to allow sufficient time for interaction between the participants. Time should be reserved for a 'Forward Look Plenary Discussion' about future developments in the field.

Participants can take all their meals together to encourage further contact and networking, which can be particularly beneficial to younger researchers who may be less outspoken in the formal lecture room setting. In order to gain optimum benefit from the conference, both the speakers and the participants are asked to stay for the whole duration.

Division of Tasks

The Conference Chair is responsible for ensuring the quality of the scientific programme through the selection and invitation of speakers, and through the selection of participants.

The ESF Conferences Unit is responsible for managing all the logistical aspects of the conference organisation, including the provision of an on-site secretariat.

Further information: www.esf.org/conferences