

The Institute of Mathematical Sciences
CIT Campus, Chennai 600113

Subhashis Nag Memorial Endowment Lecture

The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, welcomes you for the Nag Memorial Lecture to be held as per details given below:

Speaker: **Professor Robert C. Penner**
University of Southern California, Los Angeles
Title: **From punctured surfaces to punctured solenoid**
Date/time: **Wednesday, 2nd January, 2008 at 15:30 am**
Venue: **Ramanujan Auditorium, IMSc.**

Abstract: *The study of geometric structures on a fixed closed two-dimensional surface is rich, deep, and of ongoing interest. Dennis Sullivan introduced a universal object, called the solenoid, whose geometric structures at once capture and generalize those of any given surface, and in fact, this solenoid played a central role in Subhashis Nag's research. Recently in joint work with Dragomir Saric, we have considered an analogous solenoid corresponding to surfaces with punctures and have found a comparatively simple and essentially combinatorial description of its geometry. We shall explain the background of geometric structures on punctured surfaces and how it naturally extends to this punctured solenoid.*

About the speaker Professor Robert Penner received his Ph.D. in 1982 from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, where he wrote his thesis under the guidance of James R. Munkres. After his early work in the areas of low-dimensional topology and dynamical system, his interest turned to geometry. He developed the theory of decorated Teichmüller spaces and applied it to various problems in geometry and string theory.

He will be in residence at the Institute from 31st December 2007 till around 9th January, 2008.

About The Subhashis Nag Memorial Endowment Lectures Subhashis Nag Memorial Endowment Lectures was instituted in the year 2002

through the generous contribution of Mrs. Sutapa Nag, widow of Subhashis Nag. It aims to promote research in mathematical sciences by inviting to the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, an eminent mathematical scientist, one each year, to deliver a series of lectures. The first of these lectures is designated the Subhashis Nag Memorial Endowment Lecture.

About Prof. Subhashis Nag Professor Subhashis Nag was born on 14th August 1955. He obtained his Ph.D. from Cornell University, New York. He joined the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, in 1991. He worked in the area of complex analytic geometry, particularly, Teichmüller theory and its relations to string theory. He won the coveted S.S.Bhatnagar award but, unfortunately, he died, in December 1998, before the actual award ceremony was held.

List of Previous speaker:

Month & Year	Speaker	Title
December 2002	Dr. Dennis Sullivan CUNY Graduate Center New York, USA	String topology
December 2003	Dr. Ashoke Sen Harish-Chandra Research Inst. Allahabad, India	Search for a unified theory
January 2005	Dr. Clifford Earle Cornell University Ithaca, N.Y., USA.	Variation of conformal invariants under holomorphic motions
December 2005	Dr. Bernard de Wit University of Utrecht The Netherlands	Black hole entropy from M-theory and supergravity
January 2007	Dr. M. S. Narasimhan Indian Institute of Science Bangalore	Conformal Blocks and theta functions

Contact: Parameswaran Sankaran
Institute of Mathematical Sciences
Chennai 600113
email: sankaran@imsc.res.in