



BRITISH SOCIETY
FOR THE HISTORY
OF MATHEMATICS

BSHM Council 2018 Nominees: Biographical Notes

Troy Kaighin Astarte is a late-stage PhD student in Computing at Newcastle University whose thesis topic concerns the history of formal descriptions of programming languages. Troy's research interests lie in the history of computing, particularly of formalism and theoretical computing. A further interest is the overlap between mathematics and computing and the way that ideas and interactions have occurred and continue to occur between those fields.

June Barrow-Green is Professor of History of Mathematics at the Open University. She is Chair of the Executive Committee of the International Commission on the History of Mathematics. She was President of the BSHM 2003-2005 and has represented BSHM on the Joint Mathematical Council since 2003. Her research focuses on late 19th and early 20th century mathematics, and she recently helped to curate the Sublime Symmetry Exhibition at the Guildhall Art Gallery. Current projects include the mathematical models of Olaus Henrici, the work of British women mathematicians during the First World War, and the development of the theory of dynamical systems.

Isobel Falconer is a part-time Reader in the History of Mathematics at the University of St Andrews, and a long-standing Associate Lecturer with the Open University, serving on OU Council 2010-2014. She is interested in the interfaces between mathematics and physics, particularly in the nineteenth century. She was, in the late 1970s, curator of the museum at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge, and much of her work has focused on Cambridge physicists, especially J J Thomson and Clerk Maxwell. She organised the 2016 BSHM Mathematical Biography conference, and is planning the joint BSHM-Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science meeting in 2020. She has recently been elected to the executive committee of the International Commission for the History of Mathematics.

Christopher Hollings is Departmental Lecturer in Mathematics and its History at the Oxford Mathematical Institute (where he teaches the undergraduate history of mathematics course), and a Senior Research Fellow of The Queen's College. His research interests include the development of abstract algebra, and various issues surrounding the communications (or lack thereof) between mathematicians on opposite sides of the Iron Curtain during the Cold War. He has also studied the mathematical papers of Ada Lovelace, and was involved in the recent digitisation and transcription of some of these for the Clay Mathematics Institute website.

Snezana Lawrence (Anglia Ruskin University, UK) is a mathematics educationalist and historian of mathematics who is involved with a number of national and international initiatives to examine the use of the history of mathematics in education. She has worked on the links between belief, theology, and mathematics. She also looks at how intellectual identity emerges in the learning of mathematics and its links with creativity. Snezana is always searching for new examples of this aspect of learning as can be exemplified from the cultural and historical contexts of mathematics and mathematics education.

Dorothy Leddy retired recently from her position as a Senior Project Manager for research and development information systems in a global agriculture company. Her early career involved research into symbiotic microflora of hill and upland pastoral systems leading to an MPhil degree in agricultural microbiology. She subsequently graduated in mathematics at the Open University and obtained a Master's degree in software engineering at Oxford University, both of which fueled her interest in logic and mathematical philosophy, as well as historical approaches to number theory.

Ken Lord has a PhD in mathematics and spent most of his working life as a design engineer in the defence industry. Now retired, he enjoys attending lectures in mathematics, especially those with a historical flavour.

Mark McCartney is Senior Lecturer in Mathematics at the University of Ulster and has previously served on Council as publicity secretary (2009-12). His current research interests lie in applied mathematics (nonlinear dynamics and mathematical modelling), and the history of nineteenth century mathematical physics. His most recent book, *Mathematicians and their Gods* (OUP, 2015) was co-edited with fellow Council nominee, Snezana Lawrence.

Klaas Sijbrandij is the Group Reserving Actuary for Direct Line and has previously held roles as Underwriter, Chief Actuary and Chief Risk Officer for an international (re-)insurance group. He studied pure mathematics at the TU Berlin, Magdalene College, Cambridge and Durham University where he did his PhD in Differential Geometry.

Fenny Smith retired a few years ago from a career in information security and software development. Her interests are in early number representation and use, and the part that commerce has played in the development and dissemination of our modern number system. Her PhD is a study of the arithmetic and algebra of the 15th century mathematical encyclopaedist Luca Pacioli, and in 2012 she co-edited a celebration of the Tudor polymath Robert Recorde. She has also taught a couple of courses on Numbers through the Ages for her local WEA (Workers' Educational Association) and given talks on related subjects.

Robin Wilson is an Emeritus Professor of Pure Mathematics at the Open University, Emeritus Professor of Geometry at Gresham College, London, and a former Fellow of Keble College, Oxford University. He is currently a Visiting Professor at LSE. A former BSHM President, he has written and edited over 40 books on mathematics and its history, including *Lewis Carroll in Numberland*, *Four Colours Suffice*, and *Combinatorics: Ancient and Modern*. Involved with the popularization and communication of mathematics and its history, he has been awarded prizes by the Mathematical Association of America for his 'outstanding expository writing', and the Stanton Medal for outreach activities in combinatorics by the Institute of Combinatorics and its Applications. He has Erdős Number 1.