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**A. Malchiodi\*** (malchiod@sissa.it). *Prescribing  $Q$ -curvature on four manifolds and related issues.*

We consider the problem of prescribing the  $Q$ -curvature of a four manifold through a conformal transformation of the metric. The problem has variational structure, and we illustrate a topological method to find solutions. We show that the formal barycenters of the manifold play a central role. (Received August 06, 2007)