

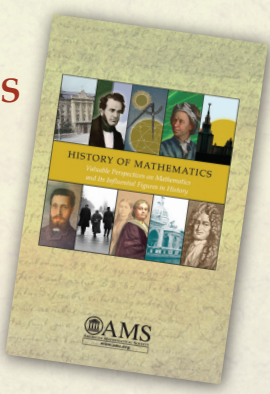
needs them. He doesn't promote redefining the tenure system, but he does suggest finding room for these people within the system and encouraging them to follow their ideas. He offers a novel criterion for evaluating such candidates: some people in the field should believe the candidate has great potential, and some people should think the candidate's ideas are nonsense. In this way no one group can control who is given a position of this sort.

By the final page I realized Smolin likes string theory; he thinks that it has as much potential as any other theory to generate new ideas that will promote our understanding of the universe, but as a final theory he feels it has failed. For this reason he feels that it should not dominate the field and that other theories should be given just as much consideration and the room in which to explore. Smolin's book leaves the reader thinking long after finishing the last page. And in my estimation, that is what a good book does.


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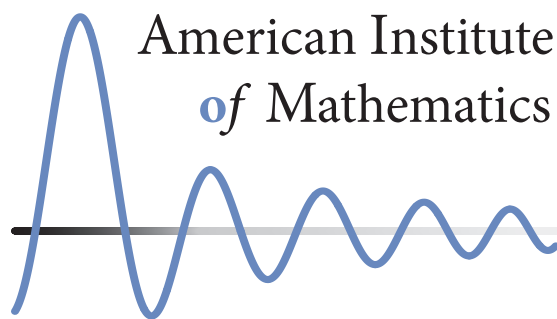
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Call for Proposals

Workshop Program

AIM invites proposals for its focused workshop program. AIM's workshops are distinguished by their specific mathematical goals. This may involve making progress on a significant unsolved problem or examining the convergence of two distinct areas of mathematics. Workshops are small in size, up to 32 people, to allow for close collaboration among the participants.

SQuaREs Program

AIM also invites proposals for a new program called SQuaREs, Structured Quartet Research Ensembles. More long-term in nature, this program brings together groups of four to eight researchers for 1-2 weeks of focused work on a specific research problem in consecutive years.

More details are available at:

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AIM seeks to promote diversity in the research mathematics community. We encourage proposals which include significant participation of women, underrepresented minorities, junior scientists, and researchers from primarily undergraduate institutions.