

André Lichnerowicz prize in Poisson geometry

The André Lichnerowicz prize in Poisson geometry was established in 2008. It will be awarded for notable contributions to Poisson geometry, every two years at the “International Conference on Poisson Geometry in Mathematics and Physics”, to researchers who completed their doctorates at most eight years before the year of the Conference.

The prize was named in memory of André Lichnerowicz (1915-1998) whose work was fundamental in establishing Poisson geometry as a branch of mathematics. It is awarded by a jury composed of the members of the scientific committee of the Conference, who may invite members of the organizing committee to participate in their deliberation and vote. In 2008, the prize amount was 500 euros for each recipient and the funds have been provided by the host institution of the Conference, the Centre Interfacultaire Bernoulli at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne.

The prize for the year 2008 was awarded to
Henrique Bursztyn and **Marius Crainic**
on July 7, 2008 at the EPFL in Lausanne.

Henrique Bursztyn holds a Ph. D. in mathematics which he completed in 2001 at the University of California at Berkeley under the direction of Alan Weinstein. After post-doctoral positions at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) in Berkeley, the University of Toronto and the Fields Institute, he was appointed associate researcher in the Arminio Fraga chair at the Instituto Nacional de Matematica Pura e Aplicada (IMPA) in Rio de Janeiro in 2005. His numerous publications range from the theory of deformation quantization to Morita equivalence in the categories of Poisson manifolds and symplectic groupoids. His work in Dirac geometry not only advanced the subject, it also was the source of inspiration for many further developments.

Marius Crainic completed his Ph. D. in mathematics in 2000 at the University of Utrecht under the direction of Ieke Moerdijk. Since then he has held prestigious research fellowships at the University of California at Berkeley and at the University of Utrecht, where he is presently teaching. His work is an important contribution to the theory of Lie groupoids with applications to non-commutative geometry, to foliation theory, Lie algebroid cohomology, momentum map theories and questions of rigidity and stability in Poisson geometry. Together with Rui Loja Fernandes he solved the deep question of generalizing Sophus Lie’s third theorem from the setting of Lie groups to that of Lie groupoids and he developed applications of this result to Poisson geometry.