

## André Lichnerowicz prize in Poisson geometry - 2014

The André Lichnerowicz prize was established in 2008 to be awarded for notable contributions to Poisson geometry. The prize is to be awarded every two years at the “International Conference on Poisson Geometry in Mathematics and Physics” to researchers who had 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. In 2014, it was awarded by a jury composed of the members of the scientific and advisory committees of the biennial Poisson Conference. The prize amount was 500 USD for each recipient and the funds were provided by the host institution of the Conference, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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The prize for the year 2014 was awarded to  
**David Li-Bland** and **Ioan Mărcuț**  
on August 4, 2014 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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David Li-Bland received a Ph.D. degree in Mathematics at the University of Toronto in 2012 under the direction of Eckhard Meinrenken. He is currently an NSF Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Berkeley. Li-Bland has made important contributions to Dirac and Poisson geometry. In his thesis, he introduced and studied the infinitesimal counterparts of Courant groupoids and Dirac groupoids. In collaboration with Severa, he developed a theory of moduli spaces of flat connections on “quilted surfaces”, with varying structure groups for different regions of the surface. They found that these moduli spaces have natural quasi-Poisson structures, and suggested a universal quantization scheme applicable in this setup. Other accomplishments of Li-Bland include an integration procedure for exact Courant algebroids (with Severa), a classification of Dirac Lie groups (with Meinrenken), and the linear “derived” symplectic category (with Weinstein).

Ioan Mărcuț received his Ph.D. degree in Mathematics from the University of Utrecht in 2013, under the supervision of Marius Crainic. He is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Mărcuț has made fundamental contributions to the global geometry of Poisson structures, most notably through his (semi-)local forms and rigidity results. Such results range from generalizations of Conn’s linearization theorem to explicit computations of moduli spaces of Poisson structures. First of all, he extended the geometric approach of Crainic-Fernandes, proving a generalization of Conn’s theorem around symplectic leaves. He also clarified and simplified the original analytic approach of Conn, making it available for the study of other geometric structures and allowing him to prove a much more general rigidity result (around Poisson submanifolds); as an application, he provided the first explicit computation of a non-trivial Poisson moduli space. Other accomplishments of Mărcuț include a direct geometric proof of the existence of symplectic realizations (with Crainic), the study of obstructions and deformations of log-symplectic structures (with Osorno Torres) and the study of transversals in Poisson Geometry (with Frejlich).