



Budapest: The Golden Years



Early 20th century
mathematics education
in Budapest and lessons
for today

A panel discussion of John von Neumann's life and work, Hungarian education, and early twentieth century mathematics, *Budapest: The Golden Years*, is the first of two public events that comprise the von Neumann Memorial Lectures.

Von Neumann's influence on mathematics and computer science, involvement in the development of game theory, and work in nuclear physics as a member of the Manhattan Project make him one of the most important figures in the fields of mathematics and science. Von Neumann was a member of Princeton's faculty in the early 1930s, and in 1933, with Albert Einstein, became one of the original six mathematics professors at the Institute for Advanced Study.

Agenda

Moderator

Paul D. Humke professor of mathematics at St. Olaf College, Distinguished Visiting Professor of Mathematics at Washington and Lee University, and North American director of the Budapest Semester in Mathematics program.

The Social Construction of Hungarian Genius 1867–1930, paper by Tibor Frank, commissioned for Budapest: The Golden Years.

- 3:00** Talk by **Tibor Frank**, professor of history and director of the School of English and American Studies, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, and István Deák, Seth Low Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University.
- 4:00** Break
- 4:15** Panel discussion begins
- 6:00** Conclusion

Historians

István Deák is the Seth Low Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University. He specializes in central and east central European history. Born in Hungary, Dr. Deák immigrated to the United States in 1956.

Tibor Frank is director of the School of English and American Studies at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, where he is also a professor of history. His research focuses on transatlantic relations and includes international migrations and perceptions and diplomatic and cultural connections.

Panelists

Ronald L. Graham is the Irwin and Joan Jacobs Professor of Computer and Information Science in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of California, San Diego, and the chief scientist of the California Institute of Telecommunications and Information Technology. His mathematical interests include combinatorics, number theory, graph theory, geometry, and algorithms.

Peter D. Lax is professor emeritus at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences of New York University. His areas of interest include differential equations, fluid dynamics, shock waves, numerical methods, and completely integrable systems.

Laszlo Lovász is director of the Institute of Mathematics at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. His field of research is discrete mathematics, in particular its applications to the theory of algorithms and the theory of computing, and its interactions with classical mathematics.

Vera T. Sós is a professor at the Alfréd Rényi Institute of Mathematics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Her areas of interest include combinatorics and number theory.

Marina von Neumann Whitman is a professor of business administration and public policy, Stephen M. Ross School of Business, University of Michigan.