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**פרופ' מרים כהן**  
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**The Department of Mathematics and the Center of Advanced Studies in Mathematics  
announce a special meeting to mark the award of  
the Noriko Sakurai fellowship and the Excellence day for the year 2016**

**Tuesday, June 7 at 14:00 at the Deichmann building for Mathematics (58), Seminar room -101**

**Program:**

**14:00** Gathering, light refreshments

**14:25** **Opening remarks:**

**Prof. Miriam Cohen,**

Director of the Center of Advanced Studies in Mathematics

**Prof. Daniel Sternheimer,**

Rikkyo (Japan) and Bourgogne (France) Universities

**14:35** **Honorary lecture:**

**Prof. Daniel Sternheimer,** Rikkyo University and Universite de Bourgogne

**Title:** The reasonable effectiveness of mathematical deformation theory in physics

**Abstract:** In 1960 Wigner marveled about "the unreasonable effectiveness of mathematics in the natural sciences." In 1963/64 appeared index theorems for pseudodifferential operators and Gerstenhaber's theory of deformations of algebras. In the mid-seventies the two "converged" to explain quantum mechanics as a deformation of classical mechanics, what is now called "deformation quantization". Quantum groups and noncommutative geometry can be considered as avatars of that framework. I shall explain these notions in general terms and describe some results, ending with a suggestion to use the framework to put on "non-clay feet" the "colossal" standard model.

**15:15** The 2016 Noriko Sakurai fellowship award ceremony and a lecture  
by **Dr. Chaya Keller**, recipient of the Noriko Sakurai fellowship  
**Title:** "Improved bounds on the Hadwiger-Debrunner numbers"

**15:30** The 2016 Friedman prize award for a doctoral work ceremony and a lecture  
by **Mr. Alexandre Rok**, recipient of the Friedman prize  
**Title:** "On an extension of the notion of a median in higher dimensions"

**15:40** **Excellence awards for undergraduate students:**

**Dean's prize for Excellency:** Mr. Yotam Dikstein

**Certificate of Recognition:** Mr. Tom Hess, Mr. Jonathan Volij