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The Department of Mathematics and the Center of Advanced Studies in Mathematics announce the 2026 Miriam Cohen Mathematics Excellence Day

Honorary guest lecturer: Prof. Benjy Weiss, 2026 Mathematics Israel Prize recipient

Awards of the Noriko Sakurai prize and the Zabey- Harzfeld prize

Tuesday, June 30 at 13:00, at the Deichmann building for Mathematics (58), Seminar room -101

Program

13:00-14:00 Lunch buffet on site

14:05 Greetings by Prof. Gaby Lemcoff, Dean of Natural Sciences.

14:10 Opening remarks:

Prof. Michael Lin,
Director of the Center of Advanced Studies in Mathematics

Prof. Daniel Sternheimer,
Universities of Rikkyo (Japan) and Bourgogne (France)

14:20 Award of **Excellence certificates to Ph.D. students Guy Shtotland and Liran Ron by Prof. Orna Braun-Lewensohn, Dean of Kreitman school of advanced studies and Dean Lemcoff .**

14:30 **Honorary lecture:**

Prof. Benjy Weiss, (Hebrew University)
Title: *The isomorphism problem in ergodic theory*
Abstract: Ergodic theory is mainly the study of measure preserving transformations of a measure space.
The isomorphism problem is the problem of determining when two such transformations are isomorphic.
I will give some highlights of its history which goes back to a fundamental paper of J. von Neumann in 1932. Recent results, which show in a rigorous fashion why the problem is so difficult will also be described.

15:40 Prof. Yair Hartman will present the prizes for the 2026 Mathematics video competition to Itamar Har Even (first place) and Shahar Khudadadi (second place).

15:45 Presentation by Itamar Har Even of the winning video.

15:50 Prof. Tom Meyerovitch, Introducing **the recipient of the Noriko Sakurai prize for excellent Post-Doc**. Prize presented by Prof. Sternheimer.

15:55 Lecture by the **2026 Noriko Sakurai prize recipient Dr. Aidan Young**
Title: *Covering radii and games on graphs*
Abstract: The covering radius of a shift space is a quantity arising from the study of error-correcting codes in information theory. We will describe how these quantities can be computed by game-theoretic methods, translating the quantity into the payout of a two-player zero-sum game on graphs. Based on joint work with Tom Meyerovitch.

16:20 Prof. Gili Golan, introducing **Mr. Eitan Sapir, the recipient of the Zabey- Harzfeld Prize for excellent Master thesis**. Prize presented by Prof. Lin.

16:25 Professor Inna Entova- Eizenbod will **present recognition certificates by the department to the BGU team to the 2025 International Math**. Competition for students. Gilad Ofek (won third prize), Yarden Gur Arieh, Roei Sharifie and Iftah Nave (received a commendation).

16:30 Prof. Inna Entova- Eizenbod and Mrs. Adaya Cohen will present **the Mia Cohen prize for high-school student in the department to Yasmin Ifrah**

You are cordially invited

Professor Michael Lin and Professor Ariel Yadin