Topology Ecuador 2017

Short report:
The conference Topology Ecuador 2017 took place on the campus of Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno from August 14 to August 18. It provided a meeting point for over 60 topologists from Latin America, North America and around the world.

The scope was broad, ranging from homotopy theory to noncommutative geometry, with the goal of establishing collaborations and boundary crossings both geographically and between areas of expertise.

The conference featured invited lectures by Sara Azzali (Universität Potsdam), Bob Bruner (Wayne State University), Moira Chas (Stony Brook University), Soren Galatius, (Stanford University, University of Copenhagen), José Manuel Gómez (Universidad Nacional de Colombia Sede Medellín), John Greenlees (University of Sheffield), Kathryn Hess (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne), Peter May (University of Chicago), Claudia Scheimbauer, Oxford University, and Dennis Sullivan (Stony Brook University). During parallel sessions, 15 contributed talks were given in stable and general homotopy theory, manifold theory, noncommutative geometry, operad theory, applications of infinity-categorical methods, and about group actions. The conference participants got to glimpse into new subjects and learnt about recent results and future directions in their fields of expertise.

In addition to the worldwide perspective of the conference, the meeting was part of a larger project consisting of an EMALCA, i.e., a summer school organized in close collaboration with the continental mathematical union UMALCA, that took place the week before the conference, and an introductory summer school the previous year. The goal of this project is to strengthen the topology community in the Latin American region and to serve as a springboard for the community of Ecuadorian mathematicians working in the areas of algebra, topology and geometry.

Through the funding of the IMU, four participants from Latin America received partial support for their travel and accommodation, including one speaker and two students.

The conference created an inviting atmosphere for informal interactions going beyond sharing mathematical work. The talk "Diversity and Inclusivity in Mathematics" by Moira Chas initiated discussions about the mathematical community and raised awareness. Students got to know potential PhD supervisors and vice-versa. Moreover, Andrea Moreira, the chair of the mathematics department at USFQ, who is also a member of the organizing committee, and Bob Bruner, invited speaker from Wayne State University, discussed the creation of an exchange program for students of their corresponding institutions.

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