## Papadima Volume

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Stefan Papadima was born in Bucharest, Romania on 7 March 1953, in a family of literary-oriented intellectuals. His father, Ovidiu, was a distinguished literary critic, while his mother, Stefania, was a high school Latin teacher. Stefan, on the other hand, decided to become a mathematician. He studied at the Faculty of Mathematics and Mechanics of the University of Bucharest from 1971 to 1976, after which he taught in a high school for several years before being allowed to enroll as a Ph.D. student. His initial advisor was Dan Burghelea, but after Burghelea left for the United States, Papadima completed in 1982 his thesis, titled *Rational homotopy types of smooth manifolds*, with Kostake Teleman as the official advisor.

From 1980 to 1990 Papadima was a researcher at the National Institute for Scientific and Technical Creation (INCREST), and from then on, senior re-

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searcher and Head of the Topology and Geometry Research Workgroup at the "Simion Stoilow" Institute of Mathematics of the Romanian Academy (IMAR), which he helped to reorganize after the 1989 Revolution. The Topology Seminar, which he started in 1978 and ran on Fridays, attracted over a period of 40 years a dedicated group of researchers, postdocs, and students. He loved traveling, and made extended stays at universities and research institutes in the United States, France, Italy, Germany, and Australia. In 1987 he received the Gheorghe Țițeica Prize of the Romanian Academy for contributions in Algebraic Topology, and in 2013 he received the Grigore Moisil Prize of the Romanian Academy.

Papadima had broad mathematical interests, ranging from algebraic and geometric topology to algebraic and differential geometry, and from group theory and discrete geometry to the representation theory of Lie groups and Lie algebras. In the beginning he was working almost exclusively by himself, but once things opened up after 1990, he started more and more working on joint projects, with a total of 16 collaborators. His research focussed mainly on rational homotopy theory, hyperplane arrangements, links and braid groups, fundamental groups of smooth algebraic varieties, and cohomology jump loci, as well as their interconnections with other branches of mathematics.

Besides mathematics, Stefan had a keen appreciation of literature and movies; when traveling, he never forgot to carry several books with him. He greatly enjoyed the outdoors, both the mountains and the sea, as well as visiting cultural landmarks. He was passionate about world history and held strong, carefully reasoned opinions on a wide range of issues. His many friends and collaborators remember him as a gifted story-teller, with a very special sense of humor.

Stefan died in Bucharest on 10 January 2018. He is survived by his wife Mihaela, his daughter Raluca, and granddaughter Mia.

In May 2018, a Topology and Geometry Conference dedicated to Stefan Papadima's memory was held at IMAR in Bucharest. The conference was organized by the editors of this volume, together with Marian Aprodu, Denis Ibadula, Anca Măcinic, Sergiu Moroianu, and Victor Vuletescu. This volume includes contributions from most of the speakers at the conference, and some of their collaborators. It touches upon a wide range of topics of current research, reflecting the extensive range of Papadima's interests and his taste for mathematics.

The volume is dedicated to the memory of Stefan Papadima.

## **Publications of Stefan Papadima**

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