

Selberg and the Riemann Hypothesis

Thank you to **Graham Hoare** for his lovely article about Atle Selberg in the June issue of *Mathematics Today*. Despite using maths all the time in my working life, I am gobsmacked by the sort of mind that Atle (and everyone else mentioned in the article) obviously had – to have such insights and make such discoveries. It is inspiring to read about them! The article was beautifully clear.

And I enjoyed Selberg's comment on the Riemann Hypothesis.

Malcolm Macleod FIMA
QinetiQ

A Dr Writes on Climate Science

I despair at the poor understanding of climate science expressed in the 'Doctor Writes' column (*Mathematics Today*, April 2017). I have worked tirelessly within the IMA to raise the profile of the exciting mathematics of climate dynamics, including contributing to the IMA leaflet on *Mathematics Matters: Predicting Climate Change* (2010), chairing the organising committee for the *IMA Conference on Mathematics of the Climate System* (2011), and winning the IMA's fiftieth anniversary essay competition with an article that was published in the OUP book *50 Visions of Mathematics* (2014).

Imagine, then, my disappointment at seeing my subject rubbished by somebody who has no understanding of it, and my frustration at them being permitted to do so via generous column inches in the IMA's official magazine. The inclusion of a disclaimer at the end of the article, in which the editorial board distance themselves from it, does not help.

I would like to offer three suggestions for improvement. First, let there be no more anonymous opinion pieces: people expressing views should have their names published. Second, stop blurring the lines between opinion pieces and scientific articles:

there is no such thing as an 'opinion' on whether the climate is changing, as the evidence clearly shows that it is. And finally, if opinion pieces are going to stray into scientific territory, have them peer-reviewed for scientific accuracy: not one of the nine references cited in the offending article was from a peer-reviewed source, as even the most cursory of reviews would have detected.

Applied mathematics is crucial to our understanding of the climate system. Therefore, the IMA has an important role to play in the debate about climate change. I do hope that the editorial board of *Mathematics Today* will consider the above suggestions and work towards eradicating erroneous and misleading content.

Paul Williams FIMA
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The column 'A Doctor Writes...' is necessarily anonymous and deliberately presents personal opinions in order to encourage topical debate among mathematicians. It achieves this well, as evidenced by its considerable popularity in last year's readers' survey. Nevertheless, the *Mathematics Today* Editorial Board will consider Professor Williams's three suggestions at its next meeting.

David F. Percy CMath CSci FIMA
Chair, MT Editorial Board

Enigmaths 171: Solution

1	3	6	2	6	3	4	6	3
5	2	9	6	2	0	9		
7	1	8	8	1	9	9	6	
10	4	0	0	0	8	8	11	8