

## The XVIIIth International Congress on Mathematical Physics in Santiago de Chile

by RAFAEL BENGURIA (Convenor of ICMP2015, Santiago de Chile)

*At this moment, by an undeserved stroke of fortune,  
I am the direct voice of the poets of my race and the indirect  
voice for the noble Spanish and Portuguese tongues,*

**Gabriela Mistral** (Chilean Poet)

Nobel Banquet, Stockholm, Dec. 10, 1945.

The International Congress of Mathematical Physics (ICMP), on its three year cycle, is the most important event of the International Association of Mathematical Physics. The first time I participated in one of these meetings was in Lausanne, in August 1979, soon after I had obtained my Ph.D. It was the first time I had a chance to participate in a major international conference. It was a great experience, and since then, I have participated in most of the following ICMP's.

Following the statutes of the IAMP, the site of the next Congress, in this case ICMP 2015, was decided in the recent ICMP held in Aalborg. Thus, the XVIIIth ICMP will take place in Santiago de Chile, in August 3-8, 2015 and, as has been the tradition since ICMP 2000 (London), it will be preceded by the Young Researchers Symposium (YRS).

### Venue

We are planning to hold the meeting at the “Centro de Extensión” of the P. U. Católica de Chile, in downtown Santiago. This convention center is located near “Barrio Lastarria”, around the Santa Lucía Hill, where the city was founded in 1541. Nearby this Convention Center there are several hotels, as well as hostels, of many different prices. Along the narrow streets of Barrio Lastarria there are restaurants, coffee shops, museums and art galleries, and nearby there is the Santa Lucía park, and Parque Forestal. The Convention Center is conveniently located next to a subway station on Line 1.

### The Young Researchers Symposium

The YRS-2015 will take place on Friday, July 31st and Saturday, August 1st, at the Campus San Joaquín of the P. Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC). The Campus San Joaquín of PUC, is a nice university campus (of  $\approx 50$  Ha), located at approximately 15 minutes by subway from Plaza Baquedano (a central landmark in downtown Santiago). In fact, this campus is located immediately to the east of the San Joaquín subway station, on Line 5. It has a good infrastructure, with well equipped auditoriums, a mathematical

physics library (Biblioteca Gauss), and access to computer facilities and Wi-Fi connection. Both the Physics Department and the Mathematics Department at PUC (which are close in distance) have meeting rooms for discussions.



Park on the Santa Lucía Hill

## Congress Reception, “Museo de Arte Precolombino”

The Precolombian Museum, doubtless the city’s best museum, is located in the old palace of the “Real Aduana” (built in 1805), a block away from the main square (Plaza de Armas) in downtown Santiago. It exhibits an exquisite collection of pottery from major pre-Colombian cultures, intricately molded anthropomorphic vessels, a hefty Mayan stone stele, and a fascinating Andean textile display. The Museum has kindly agreed to offer its facilities to ICMP 2015, in order to hold the Official Reception and Cocktail on the evening of Monday, August 3, 2015.

## Local Organizing Committee

The Congress Chairs as well as the Scientific Committee are to be decided by Executive Committee of the IAMP. At present, the Local Organizing Committee consists of Rafael Benguria (Chair), Matías Coudurier, Alejandro Ramírez, Roberto Rodríguez, Mariel Saez

and Rafael Tiedra, from the P. Universidad Católica de Chile; Eduardo Friedman, Alejandro Jofré, and Axel Osses, from Universidad de Chile, Andrés Navas from Universidad de Santiago de Chile and Jorge Zanelli from CECS in Valdivia. This Local Organizing Committee has members of many different areas of mathematics (related to physics). Even though Gunther Uhlmann is not part of the local organizing committee (since he works in the US), he has agreed to collaborate with us in the organization of ICMP 2015.

## About Santiago de Chile

Santiago de Chile is the capital as well as the largest city of Chile. It is located in the country's central valley, at an elevation of 520 meters (in downtown Santiago) (i.e., approximately 1706 feet above sea level). Chile is very long (approximately 4,200 km from North to South) and very narrow (approximately 180 km in average from East to West). Hence, Santiago is close to both the Andes (less than one hour away to several ski resorts), and the Pacific Ocean (approximately one and a half hour away from Valparaíso). The highest mountain one can see from Santiago is Cerro El Plomo (5434 m, i.e., approximately 17,828 ft), with a permanent glacier on the top. Chile's steady economic growth has transformed Santiago into a modern metropolitan area, with extensive suburban development, dozens of shopping centers, and an impressive high-rise architecture. It has a modern transportation infrastructure, including the steadily-growing underground (METRO, with 5 existing lines and two more under construction). There are three main research universities in Santiago (Universidad de Chile, the oldest, was founded in 1842, P. U. Católica de Chile was founded in 1888, and U. de Santiago de Chile goes back to 1849), and several other research universities across the country. During the winter months there are ballet, concerts and opera in Santiago at the Municipal Theater (Teatro Municipal de Santiago), at the Teatro de la Universidad de Chile, at the Teatro Municipal de Las Condes, and others.

## Climate in Santiago in August

Recalling that Santiago is in the southern hemisphere (Latitude 33.45 degrees South, Longitude 70.67 degrees West), during August we are still in winter. The average high temperature in August is 16.7 C (62.1 F), and the average low is 4.8 C (40.6 F). The average precipitation in August is 51.8 mm (2.06 inches). On average there are approximately 140 hours of sunshine during that month.

## Connectivity

Santiago de Chile is well connected, with direct flights, to North America, Central and South America, Europe and Australia. Through Buenos Aires and Sao Paulo it is also well connected with Africa and the Middle East. Through Australia, the US or Europe, Santiago is well connected with the rest of Asia. Visas are not required for nationals



from most countries in Europe, South America, Japan and other countries in Asia. For nationals from other countries, getting visas is easy.



Zapallar, Chile. ©Michaël Lejeune, CC-BY-SA-2.5, Wikimedia Commons

## Activities for Accompanying Persons

Central Chile has many different attractions. Within an hour from Santiago there are world class ski resorts, like Valle Nevado, and others. Chile is famous for its wines, and near Santiago you can explore many vineyards in the Maipo Valley, in the Casablanca Valley, the Cachapoal Valley and many others, or you may want to visit the “Colchagua Museum” in Santa Cruz, on the Colchagua Valley. An hour and a half away from Santiago you can visit Valparaíso, Viña del Mar, as well as many resorts on the coast of the Pacific. You may also want to visit the house of the poet Pablo Neruda in Isla Negra.



Valle Nevado Ski Resort

## Invitation

Chile is a remote country, almost at the end of the world. In the distant past, coming from Europe to Valparaíso around Cape Horn was a traveler's dream. Non-fiction books, like the narrative of John Byron (the grandfather of the poet) written in 1746, or the "Journal of a Residence in Chile during the Year 1822" written by Mary Graham (1824), and others, inspired many. Also, famous fiction books like Daniel Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe" (1719) or Jules Verne's, "Les Enfants du Capitaine Grant" (1867), also served that purpose. The best known traveler's book about Chile, though, is Charles Darwin's "The voyage of the Beagle" (1837). Perhaps most people know Chile through its poets, its wine, its wonderful mediterranean climate, its diverse landscape, its many beautiful National Parks, or the large observatories in the north of the country. However, we would also like Chile to be known by the quality of its scientific research. On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee, we look forward to seeing you all in Chile in 2015 !



Torres del Paine, National Park