



## Annual report (2020/2021)

### University of Reading Student Chapter



This year at the University of Reading SIAM-IMA Student chapter we have been keeping as busy as ever despite the challenges faced. To kick off the year we welcomed the new and returning PhD students to the department virtually, letting them know who we are and what we do. This was a great opportunity to tell everyone about student membership of SIAM and IMA. After we had all introduced ourselves, we networked over some online board games, in the process learning about each other's projects and getting to know one another.

To continue our aim to encourage the discussion of mathematical ideas we ran our regular PhD seminar series with speakers from within the university and further afield. Research shared was as diverse as forecasting jelly fish blooms with the potential to jam power stations to looking at the effect cities have on heating the local environment.

From the 7th to the 9th June we were delighted to be able to organise our second online conference to round off the year. Having learned from the experience of organising the 2020 virtual conference and using the results from our feedback poll, we were able to tailor our speakers to our likely audience. There was an exciting range of talks from both students and well-known academics. The prize for the Most Inspiring Application of Mathematics went to Arianna Salili-James. We really enjoyed hearing about her application of shape analysis to conservation of ground birds in New Zealand. She received the '50 Visions of Mathematics' book kindly donated by the IMA.

The conference was well received by the 49 delegates from eight different countries who attended. Next year we hope that a hybrid in-person and virtual conference is possible. This will help to ensure ease of accessibility by all, so that we can continue to include delegates from all over the world, but also can include a much-missed social aspect

To keep up to date with our upcoming events over the next year please look at our new website.

University of Reading Student Chapter  
<https://www.reading.ac.uk/math/siamstudentchapter/>  
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