



**Press release – 11 June 2009**

**The Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques  
is to receive  
the Marcel Grossmann Institutional Award.**

The Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques (IHÉS) will be the 2009 recipient of the Marcel Grossmann Institutional Award “for its outstanding contributions to mathematics and theoretical physics, and notably for having renewed basic geometrical concepts, and having developed new mathematical and physical aspects of spacetime.” The award will be presented to IHÉS Director Professor Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON during the 12<sup>th</sup> Marcel Grossmann meeting taking place July 12-18, 2009, in Paris, France.

**The Marcel Grossmann Awards**

The Marcel Grossmann Awards are made during the Marcel Grossmann meetings every three years, currently organised by ICRA Net in collaboration with UNESCO and the International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP). The meetings, founded in 1975 by Remo RUFFINI and Nobel laureate Abdus SALAM, the founder of ICTP, are organized in order to provide opportunities for discussing recent advances in gravitation, general relativity and relativistic field theories. The Awards recognise both institutions' and individuals' achievements in these fields.

[www.icra.it/MG/](http://www.icra.it/MG/)

**The Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques**

The mission of IHÉS is to foster and undertake fundamental research in mathematics, theoretical physics and any related discipline. Modelled after the Princeton-based Institute for Advanced Study, IHÉS hosts a small group of permanent professors, both mathematicians and physicists, and a few long term CNRS visitors as well as some 250 visitors annually, coming from all over the world for research periods averaging 2.5 months.

IHÉS is a place where there are no barriers between scientists of different disciplines, who know that they can meet and discuss in the most open way. The Institute has developed a tradition of intense exchanges between mathematicians and physicists, making it a sought after place for people from both disciplines who are interested in their interface.

Several of its permanent professors have indeed developed new conceptions of space and spacetime. Thibault DAMOUR is a specialist of gravitation. He has recently been especially involved in questions having to do with the structure of the early universe, and the role of cosmic strings. Alain CONNES, who also holds a position at the Collège de France, has been developing very successfully his programme of a non commutative geometry, providing new paradigms for the understanding of space, in particular in relation with the standard model of particle physics and the gravitational content of the universe. Mikhail GROMOV's contributions to geometry at large have revolutionized the discipline, offering a broad setting where one can deal on an equal basis with discrete and continuous spaces.

[www.ihes.fr](http://www.ihes.fr)

**INSTITUT DES HAUTES ÉTUDES SCIENTIFIQUES**

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