



## Leibniz Lecture

**Günter M. Ziegler**

*Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize 2001  
Communicator Award 2008*

Prof. Günter M. Ziegler

Professor of Mathematics at Freie Universität Berlin  
Head of the “Discrete Geometry” group



### **Cannons at Sparrows: Cutting Polygons via Configuration Spaces**

20 June 2013, 6.00 pm  
Hotel Balchug Kempinsky, “Library”, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ul. Balchug 1, 115035 Moscow

In cooperation with the German House of Science and Innovation Moscow

Günter M. Ziegler was born in München, Germany, in 1963. He earned his Ph.D. at M.I.T. with Anders Björner in 1987. In 1995 he was tenured as Professor of Mathematics at TU Berlin. In 2006 he became the founding chair of the Berlin Mathematical School, where he remains active as a board member. He has been a member of the DFG Research Center MATHEON - Mathematics for Key Technologies since its start in 2002. In 2011 he joined Freie Universität Berlin as a MATHEON Professor.

His interests connect discrete and computational geometry (especially polytopes), algebraic and topological methods in combinatorics, discrete mathematics and the theory of linear and integer programming. He is the author of *Lectures on Polytopes* (Springer 1995) and of *Proofs from THE BOOK* (with Martin Aigner, Springer-Verlag 1998), which has been printed in 14 languages. His latest book is *Darf ich Zahlen? Geschichten aus der Mathematik* (Do I count? Stories from Mathematics, Piper, Munich 2010).

His honors include a Leibniz Prize (2001) from the German Research Foundation DFG, the Chauvenet Prize (2004) from the Mathematical Association of America, and the 2008 Communicator Award from the DFG and the Stifterverband. He is a member of the executive board of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences. He also is a member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. From 2006 through 2008 he was the President of the German Mathematical Society (DMV). He initiated and co-organized the German National Science Year 2008 (Jahr der Mathematik 2008) and now directs the DMV Mathematics Media Office and the DMV Network Office Schools – Universities.

The **Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize** is the highest honor awarded in German research. Established in 1985, the prize provides an unparalleled degree of freedom to outstanding scientists and academics in which to pursue their research interests. Up to ten prizes are awarded annually with a maximum of €2.5 million per award.

Prize recipients are awarded the prize solely on the basis of the scientific quality of their work.

The Leibniz Prize honors the well-known scientist and humanist Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716), who was a leading figure in the fields of philosophy, mathematics, physics and theology.

The **Communicator Award** is a personal award worth 50.000 Euro meant for scientists who have been exceptionally successful in communicating their research to the public. The jury consists of science journalists, communications and PR professionals and is chaired by one of DFG's vice presidents. Günter M. Ziegler won this award in 2008.

The **German Research Foundation (DFG)** is the central, self-governing organization funding science and basic research in Germany. Serving all branches of science and the humanities, its members comprise German research universities, non-university research institutions, scientific associations and the Academies of Science and the Humanities.

The chief task of DFG is to fund the best research projects by scientists and academics at universities and research institutions, which are selected on the basis of a multi-layered peer review process. DFG is a cornerstone of Germany's strength as a research nation and it plays a key role in structuring the European research area.

Among its objectives, DFG also places special emphasis on young scientists and academics and has special programs for every stage of their qualifications with early research independence. It also promotes gender equality and has a broad representation of the scientific disciplines within the self-government of DFG, which ensures the diversity and originality required for outstanding research. DFG also advises governments and parliaments on scientific questions such as stem cell or animal research. It also fosters the relationship between scientists in Germany and abroad.

The DFG organizes Leibniz Lectures in different regions across the world in order to promote the prize, the research done by the prize holders and the high quality of German science in general.