

November 27, 2019

EWN-NL Board
The Netherlands

Dear EWM-NL Board,

Please consider this as an application for one of the EWM-NL grants for the year 2019.

We are the organisers of the Lorentz Center workshop *Working groups for Women in Operator Theory*. This meeting shall consist of a workshop with a series of lectures and seminars on trends in operator theory, followed by special sessions for women in operator theory. This meeting focus on topics from operator theory and it is geared to the enrichment of graduate students, junior mathematicians with special focus on the advancement and participation of women in the field. It is also part of our plan to provide ample time for a free and informal sharing of mathematical ideas, discussion of research opportunities in operator theory, and team work to investigate concrete problems.

Operator theory is at the root of several branches of mathematics and offers a broad range of challenging and interesting research problems. While the field is extremely prolific, early-career mathematicians often feel at a loss with so many possible avenues to explore. Besides, a survey of recent conferences on related topics reveals that many have offered excellent talks on recent research advances in operator theory, but few have provided a visible component geared towards preparing a new generation of researchers from under-represented groups or a broad background on prominent research topics within operator theory. For example, at the last *International Workshop in Operator Theory and Applications (IWOTA)* held in Lisbon in July, only one of the 11 plenary lectures was delivered by women mathematicians, and 4 out of 16 semi-plenary lectures were given by women.

While women in operator theory and related areas make significant contributions to their fields, there continues to be low participation of women in these areas. Our workshop has been designed to counteract the under-representation of women in this classical area of mathematics.

Currently, our budget for the workshop is limited and only allow us to cover for the expenses of a selected number of participants. Moreover, it does not cover any form of outreach of networking activities.

With this in mind, we would like to apply for an EWM-NL grant to start setting up and maintaining a website for a local network of female operator theorists, similar in spirit to the recently established *Women In Numbers BeNeLux*.

With this measure, we aim to increase the involvement of the local community and to support the efforts of women operator theory and operator algebraists in the country. We would also like to use the platform to highlight their research achievements and to create a database of women operator theorists (in the broad sense) active in the region.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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