

## **Philosophy and Mathematics in the Work of Bernard Bolzano**

**Prague, 15 – 18 April 2010**

Dear Invited Participant

If you have already sent me a response to the invitation to the above meeting – very many thanks! I am sorry I have not been able to reply to all responses individually yet.

This mail is to let everyone know (those who cannot attend, as well as those who can) that there is a website now for the meeting through which most communications will be made. I hope this will allow the content and themes of the meeting to evolve through online contributions and it may also be of interest to those who cannot attend the Prague meeting itself. The site is at:

[http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/dcs/people/steve\\_russ/pmb10/](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/dcs/people/steve_russ/pmb10/)

In future emails will not be sent to those who have indicated they are unable to attend next April. (Unless you request you do receive them, and unless we decide to put password protection on the website when there might one more!)

I am still awaiting replies from a few people by email, and from some further invitations sent by paper mail, but it looks likely that we shall be about 30 people. This is more than I was expecting but very welcome. I was participating in a lively workshop on Bolzano (organised by Arianna Betti in Amsterdam) a couple of weeks ago. It seems there is a resurgence of interest in Bolzano and several new research students are seriously and effectively engaged in Bolzano studies. We shall, I believe, benefit from this in Prague next April.

As you will see from the list of invited participants in two cases they are not (yet) invited because I do not know any address for them. Help on these, or email addresses where lacking, will be welcomed.

It's time that those offering a paper should send abstracts to help us prepare themes and a programme to reflect interests and issues. Some themes are already emerging strongly in emails I have received: for example, the influence of Kant and the analytic/synthetic distinction, the role of axiomatics in B's thinking about 'sciences', the meaning of the Abfolge (ground-consequence) relation and its connection with explanation, the influence of Bolzano on later thinkers (e.g. Hankel and Husserl), the mutual influences between philosophy and mathematics for Bolzano (and others). And there are many others. You may wish to try out ideas for topics of your paper on the Forum – we shall wait and see if it works for us.

I expect somewhere between 500 and 1000 words by the second half of November will be what is needed for the abstracts, but we shall make a specific call for abstracts on the website soon. There will also be emails alerting any such deadlines to those intending to attend.

We are working on plans for accommodation, and start and finish times. All such details will appear on the website when they are finalised. Please let me know of any problems you have with the website. I am of course just using facilities at my work for this and it is as subject to malfunction and problems as any system.

With best wishes

Steve

11<sup>th</sup> October 2009