

**The International Mathematics Union, a servant or a ruler of the profession?  
Rolf Nevanlinna Prize: How a mistake of ignorance is becoming a stain of intent.**

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*It is my opinion that the tiniest moral matter is more important than all of science, and that one can only maintain the moral quality of the world by standing up to any immoral project.*

– Luitzen Egbertus Jan Brouwer

As Brouwer, I view moral principles of mathematics to be its fundamental part, and not something irrelevant, unimportant, or laying outside of mathematics.

A popular belief suggests, “By doing nothing, one does nothing wrong.” This advice is overrated. By doing nothing, the world’s mathematical community lost one of its brightest stars, Grigory Perelman, who on his way out of mathematics explained his departure as follows: “*Of course, there are many mathematicians who are more or less honest. But almost all of them are conformists. They are more or less honest but they tolerate those who are not honest.*”

In my 2015 Springer book “*The Scholar and the State: In Search of Van der Waerden*” I protested the name of the Rolf Nevanlinna Prize given to some of the best theoretical computer scientists at the International Congress of Mathematicians. In spite of the inaction and inappropriate secretiveness of the President and the Executive Committee of The International Mathematics Union, this protest is alive, and I will report on its state in this talk. Please, come and join me!