

# Letter from ICM 2018 in Rio de Janeiro

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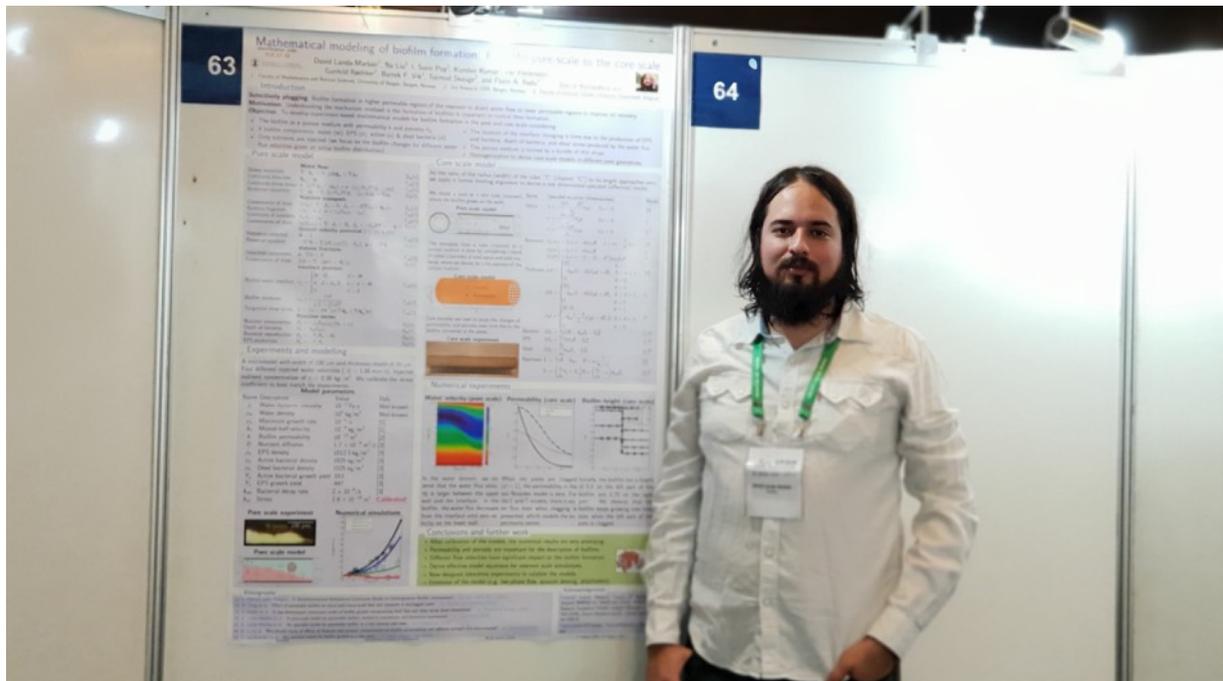
The International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM), the most important conference in mathematics, brings together people from around the world every four years to celebrate the study and field. More than 3,000 mathematicians from 114 countries participated in ICM 2018 which took place August 1st to 9th in Rio de Janeiro. I had the pleasure of attending the conference along with several other students from Norway.



Events organized throughout the conference included an opening ceremony welcoming participants, the World Meeting for Women in Mathematics, plenary lectures, invited lectures, short communications, poster presentations, a social dinner, and closing ceremony. The invited lectures, short communications, and the poster presentation were divided into nineteen sections according to subject matter. Such sections included algebra, geometry, mathematics in science and technology, and history of mathematics. In this way, the participants could easily decide which presentations to attend in accordance with individual research interests.

On Monday, August 6th, Sir Michael Atiyah gave the keynote speech at the Abel Lecture. He was awarded the Fields Medal in 1966 and the Abel Prize in 2004. The lecture, with title the Future of Mathematical Physics: New Ideas in Old Bottles, was an inspirational travel through time honoring brilliant mathematicians and physicist throughout history. Following the lecture, a reception took place on the rooftop of the Hotel Grand Mercure Rio de Janeiro Riocentro. Myself and the other participants from Norway had the fortune of being invited. It was a lovely night.

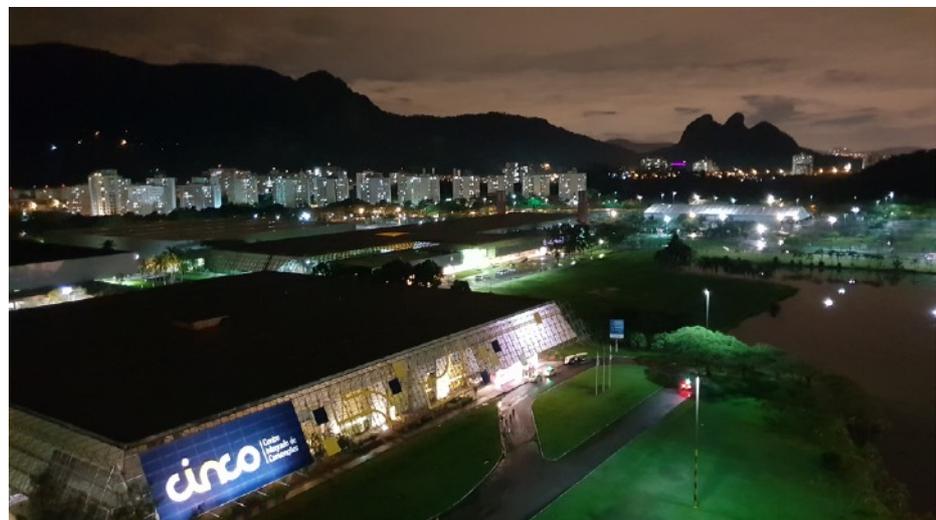
As mentioned, throughout the conference different posters were displayed. I had the honor of presenting my work on microbial enhanced oil recovery at this prestigious conference on Wednesday, August 8th. The title of my poster was Mathematical Modeling of Biofilm Formation: from the Pore-Scale to the Core-Scale.



### MY POSTER PRESENTATION

A major highlight of the conference was when Ali Nesin was awarded with the Leelavati Prize for his work in founding the Math Village in Turkey. This honored his perseverance in the face of adversity, which even included jail time due to illegal construction. Despite these obstacles, he succeeded in creating a space where children can explore mathematics.

The conference's setting in Rio de Janeiro offered much in the way of discovering world class food and sites. Brazilian cuisine is known for being delicious and I certainly enjoyed it, especially the acai ice cream! Public transportation in Rio is pretty efficient and allowed us to visit Pedra Bonita, Morro Dois Irmãos, and the famous Cristo Redentor statue.



In summary, it was a fascinating experience taking part in the ICM 2018 where I had the opportunity to present my work and to attend interesting talks about my personal interests, like mathematical modelling and partial differential equations. I would like to thank the Project Committee of the BFS project "Pure Mathematics in Norway" for the travel stipend that allowed me to take part of this amazing conference. For all mathematicians interested in participating in the ICM, the next conference will be held in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2022.