

**SCIENCE WRITING WORKSHOP
With Writer-in-Residence Siobhan Roberts**

**JULY 16-17, 2014
HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN,
INSTITUT FÜR MATHEMATIK, Rudower Chaussee 25, 12489 Berlin (Adlershof),
Room 1.410 (House 1, 4th floor)**

FREE!

SIGN-UP BY JULY 10!

Contact Siobhan at robertssiobhan@hotmail.com

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AIM:

Introduce students to writing about math and science for a general audience.

ITINERARY:

Wednesday, July 16, 1pm-5pm

★General introduction...

Siobhan recounts how and why she became a science writer.

★What makes for good and bad science writing...

Discussion based on short readings assigned beforehand.

Thursday, July 17, 10am-5pm

★How to find an idea and shape it into an article or essay...

Siobhan analyses some of her articles.

★Question & Answer with Siobhan regarding process and current projects.

With her co-author Helmut Hofer, Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study, School of Mathematics in Princeton.

-LUNCH BREAK-

★Appraisal of participants' work...

Students discuss how they might write an article for the general reader about a recent scientific finding (an idea of particular interest to them, or one idea provided to the class by Siobhan). After the workshop students write a 400-500 word article, followed by evaluation in private consultation with Siobhan in August. (Note: there will be consultations only for the first 20 students who register)

MORE DETAILS UPON REGISTRATION!

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SIOBHAN ROBERTS is a Toronto journalist and author whose work focuses on mathematics and science. She is visiting for the summer term as Writer-in-Residence at Humboldt-Universität's Institut für Mathematik and the Berlin School of Mathematics.

Siobhan's latest book, *Genius at Play, The Curious Mathematical Mind of John Horton Conway*, is forthcoming with Bloomsbury in spring 2015.

During her stay in Berlin, Siobhan is researching her next book, about the late German mathematician Andreas Floer, who invented Floer homology and made seminal contributions to the areas of geometry, topology, and mathematical physics (the book is co-authored with Helmut Hofer, of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton).

Also, together with Jochen Brüning, Siobhan organized the panel on "The Art of Explaining," a conversation about communicating mathematics and science to the lay audience that featured Princeton physicist Freeman Dyson, Berlin filmmaker Ekaterina Eremenko, and London writer Graham Farmelo.

Siobhan's previous books include *Wind Wizard: Alan G. Davenport and the Art of Wind Engineering* (Princeton University Press, 2012), and *King of Infinite Space: Donald Coxeter, The Man Who Saved Geometry* (Bloomsbury, 2006). *King of Infinite Space* won the Mathematical Association of America's Euler Prize for expanding the public's view of mathematics. She also wrote and produced a documentary film about Coxeter, *The Man Who Saved Geometry*, which aired in September 2009 on TVOntario's *The View From Here*.

Over the past two years, while finishing the Conway biography, she was a Director's Visitor at the Institute for Advanced Study, in Princeton, and a Fellow at the Leon Levy Center for Biography, based at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York City.

As a freelancer Siobhan contributes to a number of publications, including *The Globe and Mail*, Canada's national newspaper, as well as *The Walrus*, *Canadian Geographic*, *The Mathematical Intelligencer*, and *The New York Times* "Science Times."