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National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) Appoints Rutgers Math Professor and Museum's Dean of Academic Content, Dr. Alex Kontorovich, Distinguished Visiting Professor for the Public Dissemination of Mathematics

Dr. Kontorovich will present exciting public programs, "Fall into History," tracing mathematical ideas over time, and "Spring into Sound," delving into the deep intersections between math and music

New York, NY (July 30, 2020)—The National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) announces the appointment of Rutgers Math Professor and MoMath Dean of Academic Content, Dr. Alex Kontorovich, as MoMath's Distinguished Visiting Professor for the Public Dissemination of Mathematics beginning September 1, 2020. During his one-year appointment, Dr. Kontorovich will present exciting public programs, "Fall into History," tracing mathematical ideas over time, and "Spring into Sound," delving into the deep intersections between math and music.

The previous MoMath Distinguished Visiting Professors for the Public Dissemination of Mathematics were research mathematician and puzzle master, Dr. Peter Winkler (2019-2020), and Fields Medalist and Princeton Professor, Dr. Manjul Bhargava (2018-2019).

In a joint statement, Marilyn and Jim Simons said, "We are thrilled that Alex Kontorovich has accepted this year-long role at MoMath, focused on sharing the joys and nuances of mathematics with the general public. He is an ideal torch-bearer to carry on the work of

engaging everyone with math and mathematical thinking, already so well-begun by his predecessors."

In Fall 2020, Dr. Kontorovich will lead a series of programs focusing on "The Arc of Math, Ancient to Modern," studying the twists and turns of mathematical ideas throughout history. In Spring 2021, Dr. Kontorovich will lead "The Surprising Intersections between Math and Music," exploring complex and fascinating interactions between mathematics and music from basic structures of melody, rhythm, harmony, and form, to Fourier analysis, digitization, and representation theory.

"We're honored to announce Dr. Kontorovich as MoMath's third Distinguished Visiting Professor for the Public Dissemination of Mathematics," said Cindy Lawrence, CEO and Executive Director of MoMath. "Dr. Kontorovich has a passion and desire to teach, and presents mathematics to the MoMath community in new and exciting ways. This upcoming year is going to be filled with inspiration, creativity, and surprising mathematics that presents the subject in a way that has broad popular appeal and connects with math lovers of all ages."

Dr. Kontorovich came to the US when he was eight as a refugee from the former Soviet Union. He received his BA in Mathematics from Princeton University, followed by a PhD in Mathematics at Columbia University. He is currently a Professor of Mathematics at Rutgers University, MoMath's Dean of Academic Content, and serves on MoMath's Advisory Council. His research interests include interactions between number theory, geometry, dynamics, and representation theory, which he will incorporate into his lectures, mini-courses, and series of MoMath events and initiatives.

"It is such an incredible honor and privilege for me to serve in this position, especially after the tremendous precedents set by the previous two Distinguished Visiting Professors," said Dr. Kontorovich. "I'm grateful to MoMath for this opportunity, and the Simons Foundation for their continued and dedicated support, allowing such programs to flourish. I'm most excited about interacting regularly with the public at all levels, from school children and their parents and teachers, to math-loving (or just math-curious!) adults. I hope to work to demystify some of the deeper concepts and modern ideas in mathematics, to help expose all to the joys and trials and tribulations of my beloved subject."

In 2017, Dr. Kontorovich became a Kavli Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences and was elected Fellow of the American Mathematical Society. He currently serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of Quanta Magazine and is the Editor-in-Chief of the journal Experimental Mathematics. He has received the American Mathematical Society's Levi

Conant Prize for mathematical exposition, an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship, a Simons Foundation Fellowship, and a von Neumann Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

MoMath's Distinguished Visiting Professor for the Public Dissemination of Mathematics is an annual program supported by the Simons Foundation.

For more information about MoMath, visit [momath.org.](http://momath.org)

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