



For Immediate Release

**National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) Appoints
Cornell University's Jacob Gould Schurman Professor
of Applied Mathematics, Steven Strogatz,
Distinguished Visiting Professor for the Public
Dissemination of Mathematics**

Dr. Strogatz will present public programs that introduce audiences to math's surprising cross-disciplinary connections and encourage people to see the world in new ways

New York, NY—The [National Museum of Mathematics](#) (MoMath) announced the appointment of Cornell University's Jacob Gould Schulman Professor of Applied Mathematics and Steven H. Weiss Presidential Fellow, Dr. Steven Strogatz, as MoMath's Distinguished Visiting Professor for the Public Dissemination of Mathematics, beginning September 1, 2021. During his one-year appointment, through talks and programming, Dr. Strogatz will, among other things, illuminate the often-hidden mathematical underpinnings of work in New York City's iconic cultural and business sectors, including the arts, fashion, Wall Street stock trading, the nation's top medical institutions, and more.

Beginning this fall, Dr. Strogatz will lead a series of programs that strive to bring the fun and beauty of math to people of all ages and backgrounds. He will run two eight-week mini-courses, entitled *Math Explorations*, the first of which begins September 21. The fall *Math Explorations* will encourage participants of all mathematical abilities to use their imaginations to solve games and puzzles based on complex math principles. The second mini course will be held in the spring and will focus on *Math Gems*, the greatest 'hits' of calculus and the stories behind them.

“We’re honored to announce Dr. Steven Strogatz as MoMath’s fourth Distinguished Visiting Professor for the Public Dissemination of Mathematics,” said Cindy Lawrence, MoMath’s CEO and Executive Director. “A longtime friend and supporter of the Museum, he has a special talent for engaging the public with mathematics and unearthing whole worlds of amazing mathematical connections. We are excited to help Dr. Strogatz inspire a broad audience with his passion and highly regarded knowledge, as he sparks and deepens their appreciation of the subject.”

In addition to teaching at the Museum, Dr. Strogatz will curate guests for the MoMath’s *Meet a Mathematician* and *Ask a Mathematician* program series, which connect the public with some of today’s leading and most creative math minds. Guests will include Grant Sanderson, host of the popular YouTube channel 3blue1brown (3b1b) about discovery and creativity in math.

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

“Steven Strogatz’s enthusiasm and innovative thinking makes him an ideal public ambassador for math appreciation, and we are delighted that he has accepted this role at MoMath to bring the wonder and joy of the subject to the general public,” said Marilyn and James Simons in a joint statement. “We are confident that his work over the course of the coming year will help to further MoMath’s global mission of outreach and engagement with the beautiful and exciting world of mathematics.”

Dr. Strogatz currently teaches and works as an applied mathematician at Cornell University, where he has served on the faculty since 1994. He received his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Harvard University and did postdoctoral work at Harvard and Boston Universities, where he studied as a National Science Foundation fellow. His current area of focus is in nonlinear dynamics and complex systems, often with topics inspired by the curiosities of everyday life.

His research interests are wide ranging, generally revolving around dynamical systems as applied to the fields of physics, biology, and social sciences. Early in his career, he worked on a variety of problems in mathematical biology, eventually transitioning to focus on nonlinear dynamics and chaos applied to physics, engineering, and biology. Most recently, several of Dr. Strogatz’s projects have revolved around studying complex systems in the social sciences.

“Ever since I was young, I dreamed of sharing my love of math with others, which is why it is such an honor to be granted this global platform as MoMath’s Distinguished Visiting Professor,” said Dr. Strogatz. “MoMath is a hub for all who love or are curious about the subject, and no matter your aptitude, like tennis, just because you can’t play like a professional doesn’t mean you can’t still have fun at your own level. I see math everywhere in the world and am constantly inspired by it. Now, thanks to the generosity and continued support of the Simons Foundation, I am here to let everyone have that

‘a-ha’ moment and give the gift of math by illuminating its beautiful, amazing connections to all facets of life.”

The renowned applied mathematician has received numerous awards for his research, teaching, and public communication, including the Communications Award from the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics, a lifetime achievement award for the communication of mathematics to the general public; the AAAS Public Engagement with Science Award, whose previous winners include Carl Sagan, Neil DeGrasse Tyson, and E.O. Wilson; and Cornell's highest teaching prize, the Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellowship.

His research has been published widely, though he is most recognized for his 1998 paper in *Nature* on “small world” networks, co-written with his former student Duncan Watts, which is among the top 100 most cited research papers of all time. He has also published several books, including *The Joy of x* (2012), and most recently, *Infinite Powers* (2019), a *New York Times* Best Seller.

Dr. Strogatz has previously lectured at MoMath; served on the selection committee for the Museum’s Saul Rosenthal prize for teaching innovation in math since its inception; and currently sits on the MoMath’s Advisory Council. He is also the namesake of the Museum’s annual [Steven H. Strogatz Prize for Math Communication](#),” established in 2020, which recognizes U.S. and international high school students for outstanding projects that celebrate the universality of math using social media, art, writing, audio/video, and performance.

Past MoMath Distinguished Visiting Professors include Rutgers Professor Dr. Alex Kontorovich (2020-2021); Dartmouth Professor and puzzle master, Dr. Peter Winkler (2019-2020); and Fields Medalist and Princeton Professor, Dr. Manjul Bhargava (2018-2019).

About the National Museum of Mathematics

The National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) is the only math museum in North America. It is located at 11 East 26th Street on the northside of popular Madison Square Park in Manhattan and is open seven days a week, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Since opening in December 2012, MoMath has welcomed over 1.1 million visitors, including over 250,000 students and 8,400 school groups. When mandated by New York City to close in March 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic, MoMath transformed itself into a virtual Museum with an extensive global footprint. Since the public health crisis, MoMath has provided more than 3,200 online programs reaching more than 95,000 participants from all 64 U.S. States and Territories, as well as 110 countries, including Australia, Vietnam, Guatemala, Egypt, Argentina, Indonesia, China, Pakistan, Bhutan, Sweden, Chad, Zambia, and France.

For more information, visit momath.org.

About Dr. Steven Strogatz

Steven Strogatz is the Jacob Gould Schurman Professor of Applied Mathematics at Cornell University. He works on nonlinear dynamics and complex systems applied to physics, biology, and the social sciences. His 1998 *Nature* paper on "small-world" networks, co-authored with his former student Duncan Watts, has been cited more than 45,000 times according to Google Scholar, ranking it among the top 100 most-cited scientific papers of all time.

A renowned teacher and communicator, Strogatz has blogged about math for the *New York Times* and *The New Yorker* and has been a frequent guest on *Radiolab* and *Science Friday*. His latest book, *Infinite Powers*, was a *New York Times* bestseller and was shortlisted for the 2019 Royal Society Science Book Prize. For more information and Dr. Strogatz's full bio, [please visit his website](#).

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