FIM Lecture

Prof. János Kollár (Princeton)

Invisible singularities in complex algebraic geometry

2 November 2026, 16:15-17:30

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János Kollár studied in Budapest (where he was born), briefly in Moscow, and at Brandeis University where he obtain his PhD under the supervision of Matsusaka in 1984. After 12 years as Professor at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, János moved to Princeton in 1999 and has been there ever since. He has made many fundamental contributions to algebraic geometry: his work on birational geometry and moduli theory in higher dimensions has reshaped the field. I will not list all of his prizes here, but let me just mention that a few weeks ago he was awarded the Bolyai prize of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In Princeton, János and I were neighbors for most of a decade: our houses were a few hundred meters apart. He was in those days an avid cyclist -- I remember several long rides in the New Jersey countryside (together also with Andrei Okounkov), he has a great sense of humor, and he likes Hungarian goulash (who doesn't?). We are very happy to have him speak on his ghostly topic today.