

Zeitschrift: L'Enseignement Mathématique
Herausgeber: Commission Internationale de l'Enseignement Mathématique
Band: 60 (2014)

Rubrik: The Klein Project

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COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE
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ON MATHEMATICAL INSTRUCTION)

The Klein Project

The Klein Project is a joint project of IMU and ICMI. It aims to produce material on contemporary mathematics for a secondary teacher readership. It takes its inspiration from Felix Klein's "Elementary mathematics from an advanced standpoint" first published over 100 years ago.

At present the materials, in the form of short "Vignettes", appear on a blog

<http://blog.kleinproject.org>

Most are translated into several languages, with Arabic, English, French, German, Italian, Mandarin, Portuguese, and Spanish represented. A Vignette is a particular form of writing developed for the Klein Project. It encompasses new mathematics at an appropriate level for secondary teachers, a style that will capture teachers' attention, and is of a length that teachers may read in their busy professional lives. A Vignette needs a "hook" that will keep teachers reading, and a "point" that illustrates an important aspect of the discipline of mathematics. Vignettes are not a popularization of mathematics – they contain substantial mathematical content at a level suitable for the target audience. Most Vignettes are produced by collaborations between mathematicians and teachers. Both groups have contributions to make to the content and style.

The Klein Project is also producing a Book to be a modern version of Klein's volumes. We are currently seeking chapter authors.

An unanticipated extension of the Klein Project has been the formation of national groups meeting under its umbrella. These groups are self-organized and self-funded, and involve mathematicians, mathematics educators, and secondary mathematics teachers coming together to talk about contemporary mathematical topics, and, sometimes, to work on Vignettes. The theme of the project seems to provide a space in which these groups can work together in a collaborative way without the divisions that appear when curriculum or assessment are discussed.

Anyone wishing to be further involved can contact Bill Barton, the convenor of the Design Team, (b.barton@auckland.ac.nz), or Michèle Artigue, a member of the Design Team from France (michele.artigue@univ-paris-diderot.fr).

