

## Preface

Norbert A'Campo's 80th birthday was a pretext for me to offer him, together with colleagues and friends (many of them common friends), the present book, as a way of telling him that we love him, that we care for him and that we are grateful for the ideas (mathematical and non-mathematical) that he shared with us. Personally, I was inspired by his knowledge and the fact that he is interested in everything, but most of all, by his way of life: calm, solid, kind and generous.

Annette A'Campo is a friend and a collaborator, and she is Norbert's wife. I would like to thank her for her decisive help in several ways related to the present edition.

The project took a little bit more than two years and a half to materialize (I just checked that my first mail to EMS Press is dated February 1st, 2021). Apostolos Damialis, editorial director of the publishing house, supported the project since the moment I informed him about it. I would like to thank him for this, and to thank Gabriella Böhm, also from EMS Press, for her serious work on the book.

My relation with all the authors who wished to honor Norbert with a contribution was very pleasant, and I would like to thank them all for their participation in this project, for their valuable contribution, and for their patience.

I cannot end this Preface without a thought for Yuri Manin. A few days before he departed, he asked me when the book will appear. It is not inconceivable that from where he is now, he will see it.

Athanase Papadopoulos  
Strasbourg (café Brant)  
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