Geometry and Topology of Singular Spaces
In honour of David Trotman for his 60th birthday
October 29th - November 2nd, 2012
Centre International de Rencontres Mathématiques
Luminy - Marseille

Confirmed Speakers
J.-P. Brasselet
H. Brodersen
M. Coste
J. Damon
H. Hamm
S. Kohle
K. Kurdyka
Lê Dung Tráng
C. McCrory
A. Parusinski
A. du Plessis
M. Ruas
M. Shiota
B. Teissier
C.T.C. Wall
L. Wilson

Organizing Committee
K. Bekka, Université de Rennes I
N. Dutertre, Université d'Aix-Marseille
C. Murolo, Université d'Aix-Marseille
A. du Plessis, University of Aarhus
S. Simon, Université de Savoie
G. Valette, Polska Akademia Nauk

Scientific Committee
G. Comte, Université de Savoie,
J. Damon, University of North Carolina
P. Orro, Université de Savoie
A. Parusinski, Université de Nice
M. Ruas, Universidade de Saò Paolo
L. Wilson, University of Hawaiï
C.T.C. Wall, University of Liverpool
Good morning everyone!

We are here for the opening of "Geometry and Topology of Singular Spaces",

a conference to celebrate David Trotman's 60th birthday.

I am speaking to you on behalf of the organising committee - Karim Bekka, Nicolas Dutertre, Claudio Murolo, Andrew du Plessis, Stephane Simon and Guillaume Valette - who have entrusted me with this opening session.

We are happy to see so many of you here. We had expected perhaps 60 participants, but there are in fact nearly 80 of us. We congratulate ourselves, and we thank you - this impressive turnout also tells us how well-liked David is!

David, who was a student of René Thom and Christopher Zeeman (and who also studied with Clint McCrory and Terry Wall, who we are happy to see here today), has been, throughout his long career, a productive and enthusiastic mathematician - as he still is!
This has naturally led to his having many students and many mathematical descendents, to the extent that René Thom, in an article in the Bulletin of the AMS, could write of the work of "Trotman and his school" on the theory of stratifications.

Very many of these students and descendants will take part this week, and all of them have made contributions, often requiring both patience and tenacity, to the organisation of the conference. We thank them all, and particularly Georges Comte, Vincent Grandjean and Patrice Orro, for their involvement.

David has been - and still is - a very supportive mathematician, always open to new people and new ideas, and it has therefore been a great pleasure for his students, descendants and colleagues to work together to dedicate this conference to him.
An "Opening Session" also gives an opportunity to thank all those who have contributed:

We would like to thank all of our mathematician friends and colleagues who have helped us either by taking part in the work of the scientific committee, particularly Jim Damon, Adam Parusinski and Maria Ruas, or by agreeing to give a talk here - without you the conference could not take place! We hope you will also be willing to help us further - because we envisage publishing the proceedings of the conference!

A special thanks is due to Leslie Wilson, who has agreed to give a talk on David's work.

We thank the team at CIRM, in particular the director Patrick Foulon and all of the secretaries, particularly Olivia Barbaroux and Laure Stefanini, who have very carefully followed up on our organisational needs, and will, I am sure, continue to do so during this week as the conference unfolds.
We would also like to thank all the research bodies who have contributed to financing the conference:

the CIRM institution, unequalled for a meeting like this, the LATP of the University of Aix-Marseille, the LABEX Archimède, and the FRUMAM, the University of Rennes 1 and the ANR SIRE, the University of Savoy, the city of Marseilles, and the "Conseil Général des Bouches du Rhône", the University of Aix-Marseille (Fonds FIR). The Ministry of Education via the ACCES program, the Groupement de Recherche International (GDRI) "franco-japonais-vietnamien de singularités" and the GDR of the CNRS "Singularités et Applications".

Finally, we heartily thank all the participants of the conference - we hope that our efforts will result in an enjoyable week of valuable mathematical interaction.

Thank you again to all, in the name of the organising committee; I declare the conference

"Geometry & Topology of Singular Spaces"

open. Thank you!
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C.T.C. Wall, University of Liverpool
Some Practical informations :

1) Lunch is at 12:30 and Dinner is at 19:30. Please be on time!

2) Payment is on Tuesday.
   If you came with your wife/husband, please do not forget to pay her/his stay.
   If you have any question or doubt about this, ask Claudio or Nicolas.

3) Wednesday afternoon is free.
   If the weather is good, we will organize a walk in the Calanques.
   If you want to take part in the walk, please register on the poster.

4) If you intend to have dinner outside on Wednesday evening, please inform the organizers.

5) There is a special dinner on Thursday evening.
   If you want to participate but are not sure you have registered, contact the organizers as soon as possible.

6) There is a poster exhibition.
   Please have a look at the posters and contact the authors for discussions.

7) For lecturers:
   The conference room has a mac connected directly to the projector, there are powerpoint and adobe reader.
   Anyone who will make a presentation, could copy his file on the mac via a USB key or via ftp.
   This is to prevent plugging / unplugging the cable.
   But this is not a obligation.