The Klein Project

BARTON, BILL.

A century ago, in 1908, Felix Klein’s lectures on mathematics for secondary teachers were first published (in German). This comprehensive view of the field challenged both teachers and mathematicians to consider, from a perspective sensitive to both mathematical rigor and pedagogical practice, the relationship between mathematics as a school subject, and mathematics as a scientific discipline. IMU and ICMI have commissioned a project to revisit Klein’s intent, and produce a book and related materials that will help senior secondary teachers understand the links between what they teach and research mathematics. The intervening 100 years have witnessed many changes—the crises in Foundations, the advent of computing, emergence of new fields, and resolutions of some major mathematical challenges. It has become more and more difficult for teachers to have a sense of the divergent but linked discipline of mathematics in all its manifestations. The project seeks to produce a stimulating book that will challenge teachers to consider mathematics more deeply. This presentation will describe the design and process of the project, and will put up for discussion the initial ideas, both for the book and for supplementary materials. Feedback is welcomed.