

CHAPTER FOUR

TOPICS AND PROTAGONISTS

The objective of this chapter is to review some of the main topics, presenters, participants, organizers, and directors that have made *the Inter-American Mathematics Education Conferences* possible.

SOME OF THE TOPICS

Throughout the development of the *Conferences* some topics have played a very important role and have been studied, repeatedly, from different perspectives. Below we present a brief summary of some of those topics.

COMPUTERS AND CALCULATORS

The topic of computers began appearing in the *Third Conference*. At that time five addresses and three short presentations related to that topic were given. In the beginning, given that the heyday of computers was just dawning, the discussions were on the appropriateness of teaching computing. Although in general there was agreement on the need to use computing as both a discipline in its own right as well as a tool, there was no clarity with respect to how to introduce computing in relation to mathematics. The topic was almost abandoned in the *Fourth Conference* (there was one related presentation), but it was reintroduced in the *Fifth* with one of the panels entitled "The Impact of Computers on Mathematics Education". By then the teaching of computing was not considered to be a problem with respect to mathematics, instead calculators and computers were treated as important tools in mathematics teaching. In the *Sixth Conference* the topic was still relevant, but the concern was on the changes that computers and calculators could or should generate in the mathematics curriculum. In the *Seventh Conference* there was also a panel dedicated to the topic: "Innovative Uses of Calculators and Computers in Mathematics Teaching". It was oriented to matters related to the possible use of such devices in teaching mathematics topics. Also, in the *Conferences in Miami and Santiago* there were panels with similar orientations. In summary, the topic of computers and calculators has been present in the discussion of these *Conferences* since the *Third* and has evolved from its beginnings, in which there was no certainty as to how to direct this innovation, into the last *Conferences* in which possibilities and ways of using them have been proposed, especially as very valuable elements in mathematics teaching.

TEACHING GEOMETRY

This has been one of the recurrent topics in the *Inter-American Conferences on Mathematics Education*. In the *First Conference* it appeared in the context of the reform of teaching mathematics. At that time the criteria were that the teaching of Euclidean Geometry should be reduced to a minimum and in its place Geometry from a point of view of Linear Algebra should be taught. In the *Second Conference* the topic was not discussed directly. The references to this matter were reduced to the description of some mathematics programs that were being carried out in some countries. Of course, those programs followed the guidelines of modern mathematics, including ideas related to Geometry. Neither was there much reference in the *Third Conference* to the topic of teaching Geometry.

It was in the *Fifth Conference* that the topic was treated in depth, in fact, one of the keynote addresses was on the topic: "Geometry in Teaching" by Emilio Lluís. Even a panel was dedicated to the topic: "The Situation in Geometry Teaching given the New Tendencies in Mathematics Education". There was a general feeling that it had been a mistake to banish, or almost banish, Euclidean Geometry from the mathematics curriculum. At that point it was proposed to revive the teaching of Euclidean Geometry, but using new methods and techniques. The topic has continued to be treated in the rest of the conferences. In short presentations methodologies have been proposed that can be used in teaching Geometry. Even one of the panels in the *Seventh Conference* was dedicated to the topic.

As can be seen, the topic has been very important in various conferences. The way it has been conceived has evolved from the idea of the almost total elimination of Euclidean Geometry to being considered in the most recent *Conferences* as mostly a methodological problem.

PROBLEM SOLVING

This topic, although indirectly present in most discussions related to mathematics teaching, appeared explicitly for the first time in the *Sixth Conference*. There was a panel related to problem solving: The Modeling Process in the Formulation and Solution of Problems (although it was oriented more to the mathematical modeling of real situations). In the *Seventh Conference* it was also treated in detail in a panel: How to Develop Student Problem Solving Abilities? We should emphasize the importance that the organizers gave to the topic. The panel stressed the importance of problem solving in learning mathematical concepts, and in the development of intuition and abstraction. In the *Eighth Conference* there were some short presentations dedicated to this topic.

THE PREPARATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS

This topic is, of course, of vital importance since it is through the individuals in charge of teaching that the teaching- learning process can be improved in any discipline, particularly in mathematics. This importance has been evidenced by the fact that this topic is

practically the only one that has been treated from various points since the *First Conference*.

Already in the *First Conference* there were two presentations that treated the topic of the preparation of mathematics teachers. Five of the presentations in the *Second Conference* were on this topic. Of course, in those first two *Conferences* the emphasis that was sought in preparing teachers was in the sense of the new concepts and new language that they wanted taught in schools.

In the *Third Conference* the emphasis began to change as there was by that time a felt need to have teachers also consider the psychological and pedagogical matters that would permit them to teach in accordance with the developmental level of their students. In the *Third Conference* the topic was treated particularly in the context of the delegate reports on the way in which in-service development of mathematics teachers was being done.

In the *Fourth Conference* this topic was one of four chosen for discussion groups. In the *Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Conferences* it was considered in some of the presentations in a more specific way with the description of local experiences in various countries.

In conclusion we can say that the *Third and Fourth Conferences* were still heavily influenced by the ideas of the first two by representatives from Europe and the USA. However, beginning in the *Fifth*, the Latin American participation in the presentation of ideas, problems and experiences has been greater. The emphasis in the latest has been mainly on methodological possibilities in mathematics teaching. The importance of the conferences is that they have been converted into discussion forums for these ideas and problems that are more or less common in all the countries.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

In this section we present in the form of tables a brief summary of the keynote speakers and invited panelists in the *Conferences*. In the first table there is a list of the keynote speakers, the corresponding *Conference*, and country of origin. The second table gives information on the panelists, beginning with the *Fifth Conference* when that modality was initiated.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Keynote speaker	Country	Conference
Alberto González	Argentina	Bogota, 1961
Luis Santaló	Argentina	Bogota, 1961, Lima, 1966
Renato Völker	Argentina	Lima, 1966
Róger Mascó	Argentina	Bahía Blanca, 1972
Elsa de Martino	Argentina	Bahía Blanca, 1972
Héctor Fattorini	Argentina	Bahía Blanca, 1972

Antonio Diego	Argentina	Bahía Blanca, 1972
Marta Moraschi	Argentina	Bahía Blanca, 1972
Beatriz de Palau	Argentina	Bahía Blanca, 1972
Georges Papy	Belgium	Lima, 1966
Frédérique Papy	Belgium	Bahía Blanca, 1972
W. Servais	Belgium	Caracas, 1975
Paul Dedecker	Belgium	Caracas, 1975
Omar Catunda	Brazil	Bogotá, 1961
Oswaldo Sangiorgi	Brazil	Lima, 1966
Martha M. de Souza	Brazil	Lima, 1966
Guilherme de la Penha	Brazil	Bahía Blanca, 1972
Ubiratan D'Ambrosio	Brazil	Caracas, 1975 Santiago, 1995
Leopoldo Nachbin	Brazil	Campinas, 1979
Terezinha Nunez	Brazil	Guadalajara, 1985
Claude Gaulin	Canada	Santiago, 1995
Enrique Cansado	Chile	Bogotá, 1961
César Abuaud	Chile	Lima, 1966
Víctor Sánchez	Chile	Bahía Blanca, 1972
Jaime Michelow	Chile	Bahía Blanca, 1972, Caracas, 1975
Ricardo Losada	Colombia	Bahía Blanca, 1972, Caracas, 1975
Angel Ruiz	Costa Rica	Miami, 1991
Sven Bundgaard	Denmark	Bogotá, 1961
Erik Kristensen	Denmark	Lima, 1966
Pedro Suárez	Dominican Republic	Santo Domingo, 1987
Eduardo Luna	Dominican Republic	Santiago, 1995
Alonso Viteri	Ecuador	Bahía Blanca, 1972
Elizabeth Williams	England	Bahía Blanca, 1972
Eugene Northrop	Ford Foundation	Lima, 1966
Gustave Choquet	France	Bogotá, 1961
Laurent Schwartz	France	Bogotá, 1961
André Revuz	France	Lima, 1966, Bahía Blanca, 1972
Maurice Glayman	France	Bahía Blanca, 1972
Colette Andrieu-Bui	France	Caracas, 1975
Bui-Trong-Lieu	France	Caracas, 1975
Jean Dieudonné	France	Caracas, 1975
Nicolás Balacheff	France	Santiago, 1995
Hans-Georg Steiner	Germany	Lima, 1966
Eduardo Suger	Guatemala	Lima, 1966
Emma Castelnuovo	Italy	Caracas, 1975
Guillermo Torres	Mexico	Bogotá, 1961
Carlos Imaz	Mexico	Lima, 1966

Emilio Lluis	Mexico	Campinas, 1979
César Rincón	Mexico	Guadalajara, 1985
Enrique Calderón	Mexico	Santo Domingo, 1987
Hans Freudenthal	Netherlands	Bahía Blanca, 1972
José Tola	Peru	Lima, 1966, Bahía Blanca, 1972
Mariano García	Puerto Rico	Lima, 1966
Pedro Abellanas	Spain	Lima, 1966
Miguel de Guzmán	Spain	Santiago, 1995
Laurent Pauli	Switzerland	Bogotá, 1961
André Delessert	Switzerland	Bahía Blanca, 1972
Rafael Laguardia	Uruguay	Bogotá, 1961; Lima, 1966
Andrés Valeiras	Uruguay, O.E.A.	Lima, 1966
Howard Fehr	USA	Bogotá, 1961, Lima, 1966, Bahía Blanca, 1972, Caracas, 1975
Marshall Stone	USA	Bogotá, 1961
E. J. McShane	USA	Bogotá, 1961
E. G. Begle	USA	Bogotá, 1961
Jean Paul Jacob	USA	Bahía Blanca, 1972
Conrad Wogrin	USA	Bahía Blanca, 1972
Lore Rasmussen	USA	Bahía Blanca, 1972
E. Glenadine Gibb	USA	Caracas, 1975
Richard Shumway	USA	Guadalajara, 1985
Peter Hilton	USA	Miami, 1991
Hassler Whitney	USA ICMI	Campinas, 1979
Ennodio Torres	Venezuela	Caracas, 1975
J. Jiménez Romero	Venezuela	Caracas, 1975
Eduardo Lima	Venezuela	Caracas, 1975
Daniel Crespín	Venezuela	Caracas, 1975
Mauricio Orellana	Venezuela	Caracas, 1975
Saulo Rada	Venezuela	Caracas, 1975
Lelis Páez	Venezuela	Santo Domingo, 1987

PANELISTS

Panelist	Country	Conference
Luis Santaló	Argentina	Campinas, 1979
Carlos Mancilla	Argentina	Sto. Domingo, 1987
Luis R. Dante	Brazil	Campinas, 1979, Sto. Domingo, 1987
José A. Valente	Brazil	Campinas, 1979
Oswaldo Sangiorgi	Brazil	Campinas, 1979
Geraldina Porto	Brazil	Campinas, 1979
Antonio Jose Lopes	Brazil	Guadalajara, 1985

Roberto Ribeiro	Brazil	Sto. Domingo, 1987
Rodney Bassanezi	Brazil	Sto. Domingo, 1987
Antonio Jose Lopes	Brazil	Sto. Domingo, 1987
Ubiratan D'Ambrosio	Brazil	Miami, 1991
Claude Gaulin	Canada	Campinas, 1979 Santiago, 1995
Richard Wolfe	Canada	Sto. Domingo, 1987 Santiago, 1995
Cristian Cox	Chile	Santiago, 1995
Pedro Hepp	Chile	Santiago, 1995
Jaime Michelow	Chile	Campinas, 1979
Fidel Oteiza	Chile	Sto. Domingo, 1987 Santiago, 1995
Patricio Montero	Chile	Miami, 1991 Santiago, 1995
Ricardo Losada	Colombia	Campinas, 1979
Víctor Albis	Colombia	Guadalajara, 1985
Luis C. Arboleda	Colombia	Sto. Domingo, 1987
Celia Castiblanco	Colombia	Miami, 1991
Carlos Mansilla	Colombia	Miami, 1991
Carlos Vasco	Colombia	Santiago, 1995
Pedro Gómez	Colombia	Santiago, 1995
Enrique Góngora	Costa Rica	Campinas, 1979
Angel Ruiz	Costa Rica	Guadalajara 1985, Sto. Domingo 1987
Francisco Quesada	Costa Rica	Miami, 1991
Eduardo Luna	Dominican Republic	Guadalajara, 1985
Sarah González	Dominican Republic	Miami, 1991
Francisco Figeac	El Salvador	Campinas, 1979
Bryan Wilson	England	Campinas, 1979
Guy Brousseau	France	Campinas, 1979
Friederich Zech	Germany	Campinas, 1979
Leonel Morales	Guatemala	Miami, 1991
Emma Castelnuovo	Italy	Sto. Domingo, 1987
Elfriede Wenzelburger	Mexico	Guadalajara, 1985, Miami, 1991
Luis Moreno	Mexico	Guadalajara, 1985
Octavio García	Mexico	Guadalajara, 1985
Carlos Velarde	Mexico	Guadalajara, 1985
Alfinio Flores	Mexico	Guadalajara, 1985
Jesús Alarcón	Mexico	Guadalajara, 1985
Edgar Becerra	Mexico	Guadalajara, 1985
Yolanda Campos	Mexico	Guadalajara, 1985
Lilia del Riego	Mexico	Guadalajara, 1985
Elisa Bonilla	Mexico	Miami, 1991
Jean de Lange	Netherlands	Guadalajara, 1985

Oscar Valdivia	Peru	Campinas, 1979
Martha Villavicencio	Peru	Sto. Domingo, 1987
Jorge López	Puerto Rico	Sto. Domingo, 1987
José Pascual	Spain	Campinas, 1979
Emiliano Fernández	Spain	Guadalajara, 1985
Manuel Fernández	Spain	Guadalajara, 1985
German Bernacer	UNESCO	Guadalajara, 1985
Alicia Villar	Uruguay	Guadalajara, 1985
Patrick Scott	USA	Guadalajara, 1985
Peter Hilton	USA	Guadalajara, 1985
Walter Taylor	USA	Guadalajara, 1985
Alan Hofer	USA	Sto. Domingo, 1987
Eileen Poiani	USA	Miami, 1991
Douglas Brumbaugh	USA	Miami, 1991
Alba Thompson	USA	Miami, 1991
Dan Fendel	USA	Santiago, 1995
Thomas Romberg	USA	Santiago, 1995
Geoge Dawson	USA	Santiago, 1995
Edward Jacobsen	USA	Santiago, 1995
Jeremy Kilpatrick	USA	Santiago, 1995
Saulo Rada	Venezuela	Campinas, 1979
Cipriano Cruz	Venezuela	Sto. Domingo, 1987
Freddy González	Venezuela	Santiago, 1995

From the above lists of keynote speakers and panelists we can reach some conclusions about the influence of certain groups of countries on these events. We can highlight, for instance, the enormous influence of Europe during the first four *Conferences*. In fact, Europeans gave 21 of 70 keynote addresses, that is 30%. This represents a very large proportion, particularly when we take into consideration that these events were interamerican. Another heavy influence in the first four *Conferences* was the USA. Of the 70 keynote speakers 11 (15%) were from that country. We should note the case of Howard Fehr who gave keynote addresses in each of the first four. The presence of participants from the USA and Europe in the first *Conferences* reached 45% in one of the most important aspects of these kinds of events: the contribution of ideas. The presence of the USA continued in the remaining five, although each time less than before, except in the *Ninth* in which various representatives from that country participated as panelists. Meanwhile, the European participation diminished considerably (except for the participation of Spaniards beginning with the *Guadalajara Conference*).

IACME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

It has been a custom, since the *First Conference* in Bogota, to designate, at the end of each conference, the *IACME Executive Committee* that will serve until the next conference.

In the *First Conference* a so-called *pro tempore* was elected until the *Commission of Mathematics Education* could be established. That committee was composed of:

Marshall Stone (USA), President
Bernardo Alfaro (Costa Rica)
Alberto González Domínguez (Argentina)
Alfredo Pereira Gómez (Brazil)
José Tola Pasquel (Peru)

In the Proceedings of the *Second Conference* the above committee is mentioned without the modifier *pro tempore* and Carlos Imaz of Mexico appears in the membership list. That first committee functioned from 1961 to 1966.

The second committee was elected at the end of the *Second Conference* (December of 1966) with the following members:

Marshall Stone (USA), President
César Abuaud (Chile)
Ricardo Losada (Colombia)
Manuel Meda (Mexico)
Leopoldo Nachbin (Brazil)
Luis Santaló (Argentina)
Juan Jorge Schaffer (Uruguay)
Edgardo Sevilla (Honduras)
José Tola Pasquel (Peru)

That committee was active from 1966 until 1972.

In the Conference of Bahía Blanca (1972) the following committee was elected:

Marshall Stone (USA), Honorary President
Luis Santaló (Argentina), President
Howard Fehr (USA), Vice President
Enrique Góngora (Costa Rica), Secretary

Official Voting Members

César Carranza (Peru), Carlos Imaz (Mexico), Rafael Laguardia (Uruguay), Leopoldo Nachbin (Brazil), Mauricio Orellana (Venezuela), and Jerko Valderrama (Chile).

Substitute Voting Members

Oscar Aguilar (Ecuador), José Benza (Paraguay), Roberto Carranza (Bolivia), Claude Gaulin (Canada), Ricardo Losada (Colombia), and Phyllis Macpherson (Jamaica).

At that time Professor Stone stated specifically that he did not want to be reelected

as President of the *Executive Committee*. The *Conference* named him Honorary President in recognition of his work.

In the *Conference* of Caracas (1975) a new *Executive Committee* was elected, with the following members:

Marshall Stone (USA), Honorary President
Luis Santaló (Argentina), President
Ubiratan D'Ambrosio (Brazil), First Vice President
Saulo Rada (Venezuela), Second Vice President
Enrique Góngora (Costa Rica), Secretary
Emilio Lluís (Mexico), First Voting Member
César Carranza (Peru), Second Voting Member
John Kelly (USA), Third Voting Member

Members

Soeradjpersad Badrising (Surinam), Claude Gaulin (Canada), Jesús Salvador (Venezuela), Richard Harms (Netherlands Antilles), Teodoro Jarufe (Chile), Jorge Lewowicz (Uruguay), Ricardo Losada (Colombia), Eduardo Luna (Dominican Republic), Edgar Muñoz (Guatemala), José Quinhoes (Brazil), José Velázquez (Ecuador), José von Lucken (Paraguay).

In Campinas (1979) the following *Executive Committee* was elected:

Marshall Stone (USA), Honorary President
Ubiratan D'Ambrosio (Brazil), President
Claude Gaulin (Canada), Vice President
Emilio Lluís (Mexico), Vice President
Luis Dante (Brazil), Secretary

Members

Enrique Góngora (Costa Rica), Freddy Lemmer (Surinam), Saulo Rada (Venezuela), Luis Santaló (Argentina)

National Members

Soeradjpersad Badrising (Surinam), César Carranza (Peru), Jesús Salvador (Venezuela), Richard Harms (Netherlands Antilles), Teodoro Jarufe (Chile), John Kelly (USA), Ricardo Losada (Colombia), José von Lucken (Paraguay), Eduardo Luna (Dominican Republic), Bernardo Morales (Guatemala), José Quinhoes (Brazil), José Velázquez (Ecuador).

At the *Conference* in Santo Domingo (1987), the following committee was elected:

Marshall Stone (USA), Honorary President
Eduardo Luna (Dominican Republic), President

Fidel Oteiza (Chile), Vice President
Patrick Scott (USA), Vice President
Angel Ruiz Zúñiga (Costa Rica), Secretary
Martha Villavicencio (Peru), Voting Member
Carlos Vasco (Colombia), Voting Member
Ubiratan D'Ambrosio (Brazil), ex officio, Past President
Luis Santaló (Argentina), ex officio, Past President
Emilio Lluís (Mexico), ex officio, ICMI Representative

At the *Conference* in Miami (1991) the committee was formed as follows:

Eduardo Luna (Dominican Republic), President
Fidel Oteiza (Chile), Vice President
Patrick Scott (USA), Vice President
Angel Ruiz Zúñiga (Costa Rica), Secretary
Martha Villavicencio (Peru), Voting Member
Carlos Vasco (Colombia), Voting Member
Elfriede Wenzelburger (Mexico), Voting Member

Other members:

Ubiratan D'Ambrosio (Brazil), Past President
Edward Jacobsen (France), UNESCO
Carlos Mansilla (Argentina), Claude Gaulin (Canada), Hernán León (Ecuador), Leonel Morales (Guatemala), Phillip Henry (Panamá), Carmen Ortiz (Puerto Rico), Alicia Villar (Uruguay), Inés Carrera (Venezuela).

The committee for the period 1995-1999 is the following:

Fidel Oteiza (Chile), President
Carlos Vasco (Colombia), Vice President
Edward Jacobsen (USA), Vice President
Patricio Montero (Chile), Secretary

Voting Members:

Eduardo Mancera (Mexico), Cipriano Cruz (Venezuela), Alicia Villar (Uruguay), Pedro Gómez (Colombia).

Past Presidents:

Eduardo Luna, Ubiratan D'Ambrosio, Luis Santaló

In the following table information on members of the IACME executive committees, by country and period, are summarized:

MEMBERS OF IACME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Name	Country	Years
Alberto González	Argentina	1961-1966
Luis Santaló	Argentina	1966-1979
Alfredo Pereira	Brazil	1961-1966
Leopoldo Nachbin	Brazil	1966-1972
Ubiratan D'Ambrosio	Brazil	1975-1987
Luis Dante	Brazil	1979-1987
Claude Gaulin	Canada	1979-1987
Ricardo Losada	Colombia	1966-1972
Carlos Vasco	Colombia	1987-1999
Bernardo Alfaro	Costa Rica	1961-1966
Enrique Góngora	Costa Rica	1972-1979
Angel Ruiz	Costa Rica	1987-1995
César Abuaud	Chile	1966-1972
Fidel Oteiza	Chile	1987-1999
Patricio Montero	Chile	1995-1999
Marshall Stone	USA	1961-1972
Howard Fehr	USA	1972-1975
John Kelly	USA	1975-1979
Patrick Scott	USA	1987-1995
Edward Jacobsen	USA	1995-1999
Edgardo Sevilla	Honduras	1966-1972
Carlos Imaz	Mexico	1961-1966
Manuel Meda	Mexico	1966-1972
Emilio Lluís	Mexico	1975-1987
Guillermina Waldegg	Mexico	1993-1995
Elfriede Wenzelberger	Mexico	1991-1993
José Tola	Peru	1961-1972
César Carranza	Peru	1975-1979
Martha Villavicencio	Peru	1987-1995
Eduardo Luna	Dominican Republic	1987-1995
Juan J. Schäfer	Uruguay	1966-1972
Saulo Rada	Venezuela	1975-1979

PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCES

The number of participants in the first two conferences was relatively small: 50 in the *First* and 84 in the *Second*. That is explained by the nature of those two *Conferences*. Basically they were conferences where delegates were invited from countries in order to try to achieve a very specific goal. Beginning with the *Third Conference*, where the topics were more open, the number of participants increased steadily reaching a total of 569 in the *Fifth Conference*. In the *Sixth Conference* the number of participants fell considerably,

there were even less than in the *Third*, and since then it has fluctuated, without reaching the number of the *Fifth* until the *Ninth* which had a record number of 1080 participants.

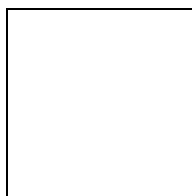
In the following table the number of participants and participating countries are indicated for each conference:

COUNTRIES AND PARTICIPANTS

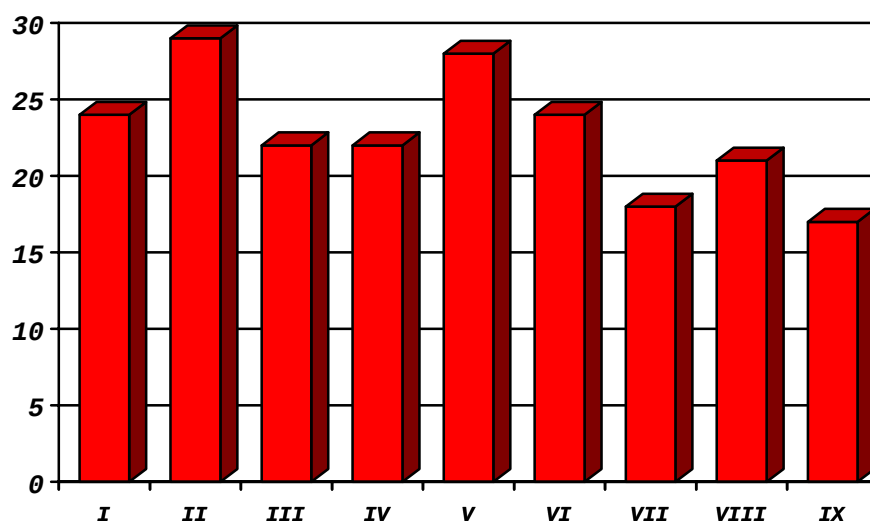
Conference	Countries	Participants
First	24	48
Second	29	84
Third	22	209
Fourth	22	281
Fifth	28	569
Sixth	24	180*
Seventh	18	316
Eighth	21	141
Ninth	17	1080

**Data taken from a conference given by Dr.
Lelis Páez, Venezuela.*

The next graph illustrates the evolution with respect to the number of participants in the conferences. Following that is a graph of the number of participating countries.



**Number of Countries Participating in the Interamerican
Conferences on Mathematics Education**



In the above graph we can see that the number of participating countries has been practically constant. The number was somewhat greater in the Lima Conference (29 countries) and in Campinas (28 countries). The least representation in terms of participating countries was in Santiago with only 17.

For most of the *Conferences* we have detailed information on the number of participants by their country of origin. The following table summarizes this information:

PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCES

Country	I	II	III	IV	VI	VII	VIII	IX
Germany		1			1			
Netherlands Antilles				4				
Argentina	3	2	121*		1	6	5	87
Barbados							1	
Belgium	1	1	1	3	1	1		
Bolivia	1	1	4	1		2		5
Brazil	3	7	19	25	11	24	11	27
Canada	1	2	1	2	3	2	2	2
Colombia	9*	2	8	14	2	2	3	9
Costa Rica	1	4	1	3	1	2	8	2
Chile	2	3	8	5	2	1	9	782*
Denmark	1	1						
Ecuador	1	2	1	9			2	
El Salvador	1	1						
Spain		2	2		5	15	11	7
USA	9	6	8	7	8	19	20 *	11
France	2	1	4	6	1		1	1
Guatemala	1	2	1	1			3	1
Haiti		1				2		
Netherlands			1		2			
Honduras	1	1						
Western Indies	1	2						
England			2					
Israel							1	
Italy				1	1	1		
Jamaica			1		1			
Japan				1				
Mexico	2	2	1	6	76*	11	16	5
Nicaragua	1	2						
Paraguay		2	6	4				58
Panama	1	2			1		2	
Peru	1	27 *	4	4		2	4	27
Puerto Rico	2	2		1	1	17	9	
Dominican Republic		1		3	1	202*	23	1
Switzerland	1		1					
Surinam				4	5			
Turkey		1					1	
Uruguay	1	2	1	1	3	3	2	43

Venezuela	1	1	13	177*	2	4	7	12
Total	48	84	209	281	129**	316	141	1080

* Host country

** We only have exact data on 129 of the 180 participants.

Some of these numbers indicate the importance that the organizers gave in the first two *Conferences*, and to a certain extent in the following two, at least to the transmitters of ideas, and to those who would receive those ideas and disseminate them. It is noteworthy that the number of countries from the Americas that participated in the first two *Conferences* was greater than in the others, even though the total number of individual participants was less. This assured that the new ideas on Mathematics Education had greater dissemination. In those *Conferences* delegates from 20 and 23 countries from the Americas participated. In the rest, at least for those for which we have precise data, the number of countries from the Americas oscillated between 16 and 18.

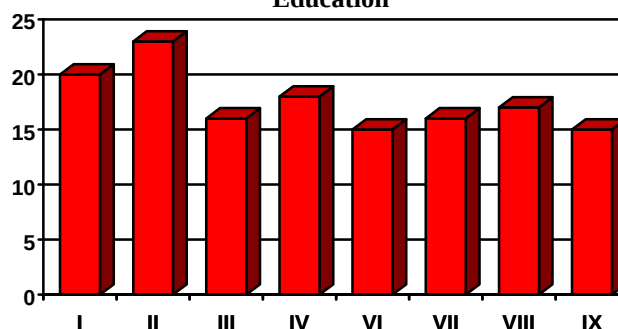
A breakdown of the number of participating countries from the Americas, Europe and elsewhere is given in the table below.

RELATION BETWEEN EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN THE CONFERENCES

Countries	I	II	III	IV	VI	VII	VIII	IX
American	20	23	16	18	15*	16	17	15
European	4	5	6	3	6	2	2	2
Other	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0

* We only have exact data on 21 countries.

Participation of Countries from the Americas in some of the Interamerican Conferences on Mathematics Education



European participation was greatest in the first conferences, not only in the number of participants, but also in the predominant role that Europeans, together with representatives

from the USA, played in the first three conferences. In the *First Conference* four individuals from three European countries participated, in the *Second* there were seven individuals from five European countries, and the *Third* there were eleven from six countries. In the 14 presentations in the *First Conference*, four were given by representatives from the USA and four by Europeans. This gives an idea of the role they played in those conferences.

In the *Second Conference* four of the six invited Europeans made presentations. They were all on the topic of reform of mathematics teaching, and the importance of carrying out such reform in all countries.

Still in the *Third Conference* Europeans played a quite important role, as six of the eleven participants made presentations.

In the rest of the conferences the European influence diminished considerably. By the *Fourth Conference* only three Europeans made presentations, but the ideas they expressed were already with a different focus.

In the following table the names of the invited Europeans who made presentations in the first four *Conferences* are given:

INVITED EUROPEANS

Conference	Country	Participants
First	Denmark France France Switzerland	Sven Bundgaard Gustave Choquet Laurent Schwartz Laurent Pauli
Second	Belgium Germany Denmark Belgium France Spain Spain	Paul Dedecker Hans-Georg Steiner Erick Kristensen Georges Papy André Revuz Pedro Abellanas Salvador Llopis
Third	Belgium Spain Spain Netherlands France France France France England England Switzerland	Frédérique Papy Pedro Abellanas Vidal Abascal Hans Freudenthal M. Glaymann Hacky Patras André Revuz Paul Subtil Arthur Edmonson Elizabeth Williams André Delessert

Fourth	Italy	Emma Castelnuovo
	Belgium	Paul Dedecker
	Belgium	Willy Servais
	Belgium	Renéé Servais
	France	Maurice Galymann
	France	Charles Roumieu
	France	Collete Andrieu-Bui
	France	Lieu Bui-Trong
	France	Artibano Micali
	France	Jean Dieudonné

IBEROAMERICAN CONGRESSES ON MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

Beginning with the *Sixth Conference* there has been a fairly substantial participation from Spain. The community of interests between Spain and the Latin American countries produced the following communiqué in the *Santo Domingo Conference*:

“Representatives of countries that are participating in the VII IACME have met and agreed unanimously to initiate the celebration of the *Ibero-American Congresses on Mathematics Education*.

These Congresses will take place alternately on the two continents every four years beginning in 1990.

They have as their objective to recognize the profound historical-cultural links that unite the Ibero-American countries with Spain and Portugal in recognizing the similarities in their education systems and in the problems affecting mathematics education.

It is also important to stress the common interests shared by our countries that justify a greater coordination and cooperation in our efforts that tend to promote a better scientific, technological and educational development.

This is a reflection of the need to create our own space in the present world in which to discuss specifically the problems that are typical to our cultural area.

By holding them on dates in between the years in which the International Congresses of Mathematical Education are held we are sure that we can guarantee that our community can have a more intense and effective participation.

I Ibero-American Congress on Mathematics Education

Year: 1990

Time: European Autumn (Dates to be confirmed)

Place: Seville, Spain

Languages: Spanish and Portuguese

Provisional Committee: Ubiratan D'Ambrosio (Brazil), Gonzalo Sánchez (Spain), Eduardo Luna (Dominican Republic), César Carranza (Peru), Alicia Villar (Uruguay).”

The *First Ibero-American Congress on Mathematics Education* was held successfully in Seville, Spain, in 1991, and the *Second* in Blumenau, Brazil, in 1994.

They are a new tradition that was born in the conferences of IACME.

THE ORGANIZERS AND SPONSORS OF THE CONFERENCES

The *First Inter-American Conference on Mathematics Education* (Bogotá, 1961) was proposed and organized by the *International Commission of Mathematical Instruction* (ICMI). As one of the recommendations of that *First Conference* the *Inter-American Committee on Mathematics Education* (IACME) was created. The *Committee* was in charge of the organization of the rest of the *Conferences*.

In all the *Conferences* there has been sponsorship by institutions and organizations in the countries in which they were held. Some international institutions or with other interests have been sponsors in some of the conferences. Thus, the *Rockefeller Foundation*, *Ford Foundation*, *U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF)*, the *Organization of American States (OAS)*, and *UNESCO* sponsored the *First Conference*.

The Ford Foundation, NSF, OAS, and UNESCO continued to support the *Second Conference*. The School Mathematics Study Group (SMSG) also sponsored it. Already by the *Third Conference* many of those organizations had lost interest, possibly because the objectives proposed in the first two had been achieved or were in process. Of the original organizations only OAS and UNESCO sponsored the *Third* and *Fourth Conferences*. Only UNESCO remained as a sponsor for the rest of the conferences through the *Eighth*. In fact UNESCO has published all the proceedings of the Inter-American Conferences on Mathematics Education, since the Third. Apparently the *Ninth Conference* awakened a greater interest, and OAS and NSF reappeared as sponsors.

Finally, it is convenient to mention something that is not usual, the names of the individuals that made these Conferences possible: the organizers of each one.

Organizing Committee for IACME III

Honorary Promotion Committee:

Gustavo Malec, Minister of Culture and Education of Argentina; Orlando Villamayor, President of the National Council of Scientific and Technological Research (Argentina); Roberto Etchepareborda, Rector of the National University del Sur; Osvaldo Zarini, Minister of Education of the Province of Buenos Aires.

Honorary Members:

José Babini, Juan Blaquier, Alberto González, Florencio Jaime, Antonio Monteiro.

Local Executive Committee:

Renato Völker, Angel Hernaiz, Luis Santaló, José María Arago, Raúl Chiappa, Margarita O, de Chouhy Aguirre.

Local Organizing Commission (Buenos Aires):

Manuel Balanzat, Juan Carlos Dalmasso, Roberto Hernández, Ana Gernompini, Lucrecia Iglesias, Beatriz S. de Palau, Atilio Piana.

Local Organizing Commission (Bahía Blanca):

Herminia Abat, Juan Carlos Castagnet, León Fischman, Roberto Padestá.

Organizing Committee for IACME IV

Venezuelan Mathematics Education Committee.

José Alejandro Rodríguez, Honorary President; Mauricio Orellana Chacón, President; Saulo Rada Aranda, Vice President; Tania Calderón de Guédez, Secretary.

Voting Members:

Félix Estacio, Gisela Marcano, Horacio Rivas Mijares, Pedro Antonio Tirado.

Institutional Delegates:

Carlos Andueza, Jesús Andonegui, Estrella Benaim, Pedro Colina, Jesús González, Francisco Marín.

Organizing Committee for IACME V

Honorary President: Omar Catunda

President: Ubiratan D'Ambrosio

International Program Commission:

Emilio Lluís (Mexico), Enrique Góngora (Costa Rica), Saulo Rada Aranda (Venezuela), Ubiratan D'Ambrosio (Brazil).

National Program Commission:

Eduardo Ferreira, Gilberto Queiroz, Graziela del Rosario Suárez, Henry G. Wetzler, Itala Loffredo D'Ottaviano, Jaures S. Mazzone, Kleber Cruz Marques, Luis Roberto Dante, María do Carmo Ville, María Elizabeth B. Prado, María Laura I. Lopes, Marineuza G. Soares, Osvaldo Sangiorgi, Palmeron Mendes, Renate Watanabe, Ubiratan D'Ambrosio.

Organizing Committee for IACME VI

Emilio Lluís Riera, Edmundo Ponce Adame, Alejandro Dueñas Durán, Gilberto García García.

Organizing Committee for IACME VII

President: Eduardo Luna

Members: Sarah González, Dulce Rodríguez, Belkis Guerrero, Xiomara Pimentel.

International Program Committee:

Ubiratan D'Ambrosio (Brazil), Claude Gaulin (Canada), Eduardo Luna (Dominican Republic).

Organizing Committee for IACME VIII

Program Committee:

Eduardo Luna (Dominican Republic), Ubiratan D'Ambrosio (Brazil), Patrick Scott (USA), Fidel Oteiza (Chile), Angel Ruiz (Costa Rica), Emilio Lluís (Mexico), Claude Gaulin (Canada).

Local Organizers:

Gilberto Cuevas, Robert Kelly, Angela Abramson, Piyush Agrawal.