



International prize

“Tullio Levi-Civita” for the Mathematical and Mechanical Sciences

We are pleased to announce that the *2019 Levi-Civita Prize for the Mathematical and Mechanical Sciences* will be presented to

George F. R. Ellis

for his outstanding research and achievements in Relativistic Cosmology and General Relativity, which have been an exciting and challenging stimulus to a whole generation of scientists. George Ellis is a Fellow of the Royal Society, Emeritus distinguished professor of complex systems in the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, and McVittie Visiting Professor of Astronomy at Queen Mary College (London University). He is one of the world's leading theorists in Cosmology, co-author with Stephen Hawking of *The Large Scale Structure of Space-Time*, the landmark text in general relativity on which a whole generation of researchers has formed. He has served as President of the International Society on General Relativity and Gravitation. His deep analysis of whether or not there was a start to the Universe, if there is one Universe or many, the evolution of complexity, and the functioning of the human mind, as well as the intersection of these issues with areas beyond the boundary of science earned him the Templeton Prize in 2004. Topics such as aesthetics, ethics, metaphysics, and meaning are consistently among the focus of Ellis' research and also mark his involvement in South African politics as a strong vocal opponent of apartheid. For his contribution to peacefully transforming South Africa from apartheid to a multi-racial democracy, he was awarded the Order of the Star of South Africa by Nelson Mandela in 1999.

Prof. Ellis's work has had an extraordinarily high impact on Physics and beyond, and the Scientific Committee of the *Levi-Civita Prize in Mechanical and Mathematical Sciences* is honored to propose George Ellis as the recipient of the 2019 prize edition.