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### The statistician Siegfried Koller

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Elaborating somewhat on [1] and [2], Siegfried Koller’s first career was sketched, which led him from a thesis under Felix Bernstein in Göttingen, via a second Ph.D. in Medicine at Gießen, and thanks to politically well-tuned publications, to a professorship at Berlin University and directorship of a newly founded biostatistical institute. But the Berlin appointment took place only shortly before the end of WW II. (After a number of years in prison, Koller’s second career then made him a very influential statistician of the Federal Republic of Germany.)

There were various reasons for recalling this career in the context of the mini-workshop: (1) It illustrates very well the general pattern of “science and politics as resources for one another” (to quote Mitchell Ash’s well-known and apposite formula). (2) It shows the complexity of a hybrid discipline: After the emigration of all experts of mathematical statistics in influential academic positions, Koller went through the medical network in order to consolidate his career, thus changing also, for instance, the journals in which he tried to publish. (3) Pauline Mazumdar’s thesis about different styles in genetic research in the 1930s (Mendelian algebra like in Felix Bernstein’s research on blood groups, vs. pedigree models as practised by Ernst Rüdin) remains open to further research; the works by Koller and Kranz are situated at the borderline of both models.

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**Lecture books, guest books and workshop reports: about sources  
documenting the early history of the MFO (Mathematisches  
Forschungsinstitut Oberwolfach), 1944-1962**

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In 1944 a “Reichsinstitut für Mathematik” was founded in Germany as a result of the administrative, organizational, and political skills of Wilhelm Süss (1895-1958). It was located in a black forrest hunting lodge named Lorenzenhof. After remarkably few years this “Reichsinstitut” became an international center for mathematical research, today wellknown by mathematicians all over the world as “Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut Oberwolfach” (MFO). This development is to a great extent documented by the following sources.

- 1) “Vortragsbücher” (lecture books): since September 1944 lecturers have been invited to document their talks by an abstract in the so called “Vortragsbuch”.
- 2) “Tagungsberichte”(workshop reports): for the years 1955-1962 there are some short workshop reports. But according to the lecture books a lot more workshops were held than documented by reports.
- 3) “Gästebücher” (guest books): these books contain helpful informations for reconstructing lists of participants of the workshops and interesting personal comments shedding a light on the special atmosphere at the Oberwolfach Institute.

In terms of a project granted by the DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft), the documents have been scanned. The image files are now being prepared for presenting them finally on a website called Oberwolfach Digital Archive (ODA). The talk showed in detail how the sources will be made accessible for potential users of ODA. First, it will be made possible to search for relevant data. Second, there will be provided biographical links and informations. Last but not least, commentary texts will integrate the activities at the MFO into a broader historical context. The Oberwolfach documents can be quite helpful to answer several questions related to the development and the social history of mathematics in Germany after WW II.

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