



IN MEMORY OF MAREK ZAWADOWSKI (1960–2024)

This special volume of *Cahiers de Topologie et Géométrie Différentielle Catégoriques* is dedicated to the memory of Marek Zawadowski (1960–2024), whose untimely death deprived our community of a mathematician of rare depth and originality. Zawadowski’s work ranged widely across categorical logic, higher category theory, and the semantics of natural language, and it was marked throughout by a characteristic combination of technical mastery and conceptual clarity. This volume gathers two contributions that together reflect both his mathematics and the esteem in which he was held by those who knew and worked with him.

The volume opens with a scientific biography of Zawadowski, tracing his training, his research programs, and his lasting influence on the fields he helped shape. It was prepared collaboratively by a group of his colleagues, collaborators, and former students: Pierre-Louis Curien, Silvio Ghilardi, Martin Hyland, Chris Kapulkin, Jaap van Oosten, and Karol Szumiło. The authors are also glad to acknowledge Justyna Grudzińska, Zawadowski’s collaborator on the semantics of natural language, whose recollections and insight informed the biography.

The volume continues with Zawadowski’s paper “On positive opetopes, positive opetopic cardinals and positive opetopic sets,” published here posthumously. The manuscript was prepared for publication by Pierre-Louis Curien, who undertook its revision with great care. The paper is a fitting representative of Zawadowski’s mathematical voice, and we are grateful to be able to bring it before the community in this form.

It is our hope that this volume will serve both as a tribute to Marek Zawadowski and as a lasting record of work that he would have been glad to see in print.