

INTERDISCIPLINARY SCHOOL 2023

FEEDBACK STATEMENTS

Onsite Attendants

I want to say that I am so very grateful for the memories of this week. To me it was the perfect balance of brain work and socials and I am more than grateful for everything I learned from all of you! This crowd consists of very inspiring minds and the sense of connection made this a very unique experience!

Merle Praum, 30/07/2023

This past week was a source of inspiration for me. The given talks and the people that I met triggered new thoughts in my mind and also introduced me to topics I want to learn more about. Feeling extremely grateful for this experience. I really hope to see you guys again soon!

Athina Kyriazi, 30/07/2023

Not sure I'm ready to return to non SEMF life, probably the most incredible week of my life to date. Miss you all already.

Lucy Spouncer, 29/07/2023

It was a precious experience. Thank you for creating such a beautiful environment! ❤️ See y'all next year and maybe some even sooner than that!

Pinar Temiz, 29/07/2023

Just settled back at home and realizing what a special ride this was. My biggest thanks to all of you. It was such a privilege to place our journal project in the context of SEMF and I really believe there were some very rare forms of value created right here and extending across the whole spectrum of ideas and people.

Mandus Ridefelt, 30/07/2023

It's day 3 of processing the overwhelming amount of information, interactions and events. It's been so lovely getting to know each of you.

Back in '17 I found this series of lectures by Feynman in which he teaches the basics of QM to a more diverse and eclectic audience. (A young Susskind may have been part of the group) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcpwnozMh2U>

It was so exciting to me! Accessible in a way I hadn't experienced before, a very inviting atmosphere. I knew I wanted to be a part of something like this, but I didn't know where to start. I wrote in my notes: "Live this, all of it."

And then, a few years later, SEMF23 happened. ✨

Just... Wow. Thank you! ❤️

Mar Zandvliet, 31/07/2023

I am buzzing with so many possible ideas to explore further. They are weakly and/or strongly associated with the many discussions and talks I eavesdropped, witnessed, got involved in the past days. It's a bit overwhelming lol, will need to marinate in them a while. Thank you so much for all the joy, hope and energy every single one of you, presenters and participants brought along with your curiosities. Can't be sure if I'll be able to follow any of the buzz to

fruition (not that it's the end goal for me) but so grateful to have felt like a child in wonder again.

Pinar Temiz, 30/07/2023

Agradeceros una vez más el increíble trabajo que habéis hecho organizando este evento. Sin duda una de las experiencias más enriquecedoras de toda mi vida!! [ENG: Thank you once again for the incredible work you have done organizing this event. Without a doubt one of the most enriching experiences of my life!!!]

Carlos Delicado-Gascón, 31/07/2023

Onsite Speakers

Apart from the wonderful experiences and connections I made with all those lovely people, I am still fascinated by how much energy and organization you put into this week which was an amazing experience for all of us.

Isabel Weissner, 30/07/2023

Filled with gratitude, what an amazing week we've had!

Johanna Hilla Maria Sopenan, 29/07/2023

I had an enormous intellectual pleasure teaching at the SEMF. The School brought together a wonderful band of students, scholars, speakers, and, most importantly, minds curious about science and knowledge and not satisfied with the strict disciplinary packaging under which science is often given. The talks and discussions at the School seamlessly transcended disciplinary – and all the other – barriers, setting up a high intellectual bar from the very first day. With my course on the epistemic role of emotions in science, I hope to think that I also

contributed to this. The participants of the school, students, young researchers, and artists, were wonderful listeners, curious inquirers, and passionate debaters.

Beyond that, I really enjoyed how the School was structured as a whole. It nicely combined intense intellectual content during the day with a social activities programme in the afternoon. With this, many discussions carried over from the auditorium to more informal settings. Besides, thanks to the organisers, we could also learn something about Valencian life and Valencian culture. I very much thank the organisers for letting me be a part of the School, and I hope they will have the possibility to arrange such a school again.

Anatolii Kozlov, 23/10/2023

As a theoretical physicist, I was very excited to attend the SEMF's interdisciplinary summer school as it was a great opportunity (and, at the same time, a bit of a challenge) to share my interest in quantum field theory with people from truly different fields of science. Would biologists, computer scientists or philosophers be interested in learning theoretical physics techniques, and would they find them useful?

It all went very well – friendly atmosphere, enough time to explain my topic, audience engaged. The whole week was extremely well organized. Lodging, eating, lectures – all in one place at a beautiful campus of the University of Valencia. And various social events in the evenings encouraged one to discover and enjoy the city, too. With all this setup it was very easy to discuss with other participants, even for extended periods of time.

I got exposed to a broad range of subjects from the speakers, but also from other participants during informal discussions. I often felt like discovering really interesting and far-reaching pieces of knowledge that I should have known before, but they were just too far away from my professional field of research. Aiming to broaden my horizons, this week was absolutely well invested.

Science is a complex system, and SEMF's mission is to focus on the edges (the interrelations) in the network rather than on the nodes (the individual disciplines). I find this very beneficial and wish the people of SEMF all the best for future events.

Václav Zatloukal, 27/10/2023

My recent discovery of SEMF, and my participation as a speaker in the 2023 Summer SEMF School, has been a great help in many areas of my research.

For one, it introduced me to a group of likeminded people who are also working towards the integration and deep analysis of computation and cognition at various dynamical scales, and who are doing it from angles that enrich the parameters of my trajectory as a philosopher and researcher in the cognitive sciences. I learned a lot at the conference, and the conversations that began there for me have continued.

I was especially impressed by the authentic desire of the organizers and participants to find new paths and connect old ones in new ways, and by their determination to find clarity in communicating about difficult subjects, models, and goals.

Data was an essential component, but so were discussion and debate. Rarely is one able to discuss math and philosophy or sociology in the same session, but this happened often at SEMF. There was a sense of inclusivity and openness that made participants feel they could discuss matters together without having to be an expert in the topic at hand. Likewise, experts could feel comfortable learning from new perspectives outside their field.

As I said in one of my talks, SEMF reminded me of the early Macy Conferences (1940s, New York), and I believe, like them, we are at a time where the prevailing worldview is assimilating towards an important trajectorial shift that requires deep communication between math, the life sciences, philosophy, and the cognitive sciences. SEMF brought these groups together, and I am grateful to have been there, and to continue this dialogue with participants.

Andrea Hiott, 01/11/2023

I am finally settling down back home and wanted to reach out to say thanks again for the opportunity to spend a week with each of you. I loved the experience as it was inspiring to meet so many awesome human beings together in one room. Looking forward to the next opportunity to spend time together but in the meantime I would love to stay in touch and learn more about you.

Esteban Montero, 02/08/2023

Online Speakers

I had a great time as both a speaker and a participant at the summer school. The participants were inquisitive, diverse, and precocious; remote participation went off without a hitch; and there is a lively online community still discussing the ideas. I highly recommend it to anyone looking to work technically at the intersection of scientific fields.

Ryan Wisnesky, 21/10/2023

Really appreciate the opportunity to talk to all of you, amazing interdisciplinary group here.

Michael Levin, 17/07/2023

It would have been fun to be there in person, but not something that's logistically possible right now.

Stephen Wolfram, 24/07/2023