Reinhard Siegmund-Schultze
Agder University College, Norway

will speak on

Emigration of German-speaking mathematicians from Europe during the Nazi era

ABSTRACT: The emigration of mathematicians from Europe after 1933 and the ensuing move of the world center of mathematics from Europe to the United States is arguably one of the two most important results of Nazi rule for mathematics. The other one is the reorientation towards applied mathematics due to the war, which, in part, was also influenced by emigration.

The talk discusses details of the mechanisms of emigration – pull and push, earlier traditions of emigration, etc. Much of today’s hotly debated problems in American mathematics and in mathematics worldwide (such as the advantages and disadvantages of the various educational and school systems, the need for classical European background in analysis, communication systems in research) cannot be discussed without reference to that very important historical event of emigration.

Monday, November 14, 2005
Lecture at 4:00 PM (♯)
Coffee, tea, and refreshments from 3-5 PM
Room 617, Wachman Building
Department of Mathematics