

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[View this email in your browser](#)**WFSJ**World Federation of
Science JournalistsTHE
ABEL
PRIZE

Mark a mathematical milestone

Each year Norway's Abel Prize honours the finest contributions to the sublime science of mathematics, and the WFSJ is honoured to participate in bringing this news to our global community. The recipient of this year's award will be announced on Wednesday 23 March and the following day, science journalist **Pakinam Amer** will conduct an in-depth interview with winner. You are invited to attend on-line.

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WHEN: 10 am EDT/ 3pm CET **Thursday 24 March 2022**

WHERE: Zoom address to be provided

REGISTRATION: send an e-mail request to office@wfsj.org

The Abel Prize's roots go back to 1899, when Norwegian mathematician **Sophus Lie** voiced his disappointment that the newly created Nobel Prizes did not include one for mathematics. The King of what was then a united Sweden and Norway was prepared to fund such an award, but those plans were thwarted when the two countries separated in 1905. Finally, in 2002 the Norwegian government established the prize, which is named after the country's pioneering 19th-century mathematician Niels Henrik Abel and includes a monetary award now worth around US\$1 million (NOK7,5). The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters administered the annual selection, which is conducted by a committee of the world's leading mathematicians.



Niels Henrik Abel (1802–1829) was a Norwegian mathematician who made pioneering contributions in a variety of fields. His most famous single result is the first complete proof demonstrating the impossibility of solving the general quintic equation in radicals. This question was one of the outstanding open problems of his day, and had been unresolved for over 250 years.

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Pakinam Amer is an Emmy-winning journalist, science writer, podcaster, experimental storyteller, and formerly, a Knight Science Journalism fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

She was the senior writer of *In Event of Moon Disaster*, an Emmy-winning interactive documentary and narrative project centered around deep fake technology and disinformation, and produced by the MIT Center for Advanced Virtuality where she is currently a research affiliate.

Her stories and podcasts have appeared in *Nature*, *Scientific American*, the *Boston Globe*, and elsewhere.

She was the former editor-in-chief of *Nature Middle East*, the regional edition of *Nature*. She also hosted and produced the region's first science podcast for English-speaking audiences.



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