

12th MAY | International day of Women in Mathematics




"The social barriers for girls who are interested in mathematical sciences might not be lower now than they were when I grew up. And balancing career and family remains a big challenge. It makes most women face difficult decisions which usually compromise their work"

The International Day of Women in Mathematics commemorates the birthdate of **Maryam Mirzakhani**, the first woman to win the **Fields Medal** in 2014, the most prestigious award in mathematics, for "outstanding contributions to the dynamics and geometry of Riemann surfaces and their moduli spaces"

Who is she?

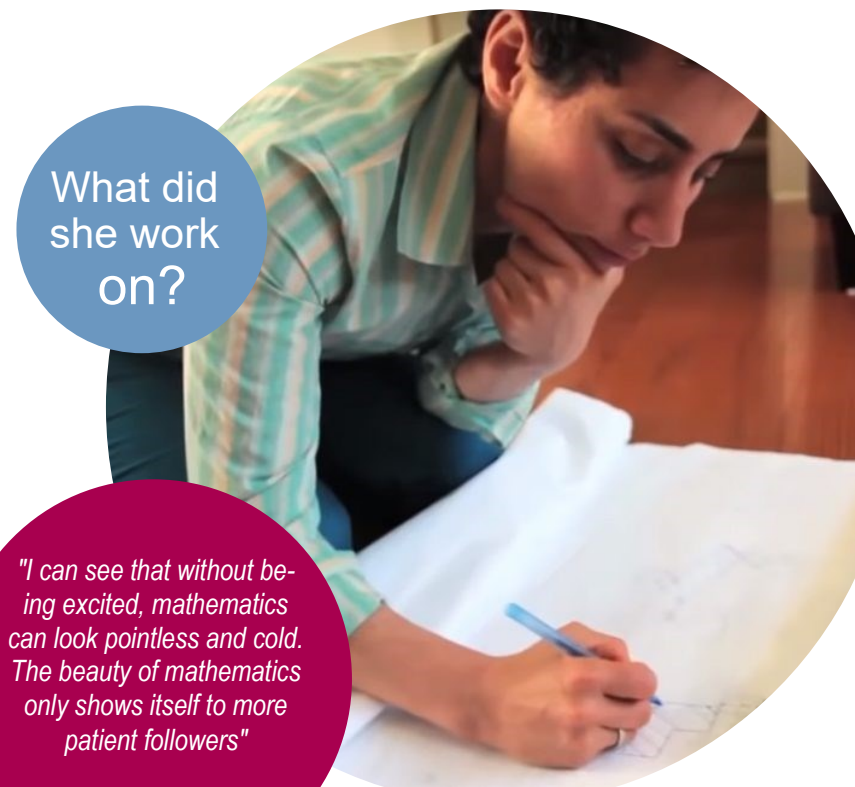
Maryam Mirzakhani مریم میرزاخانی

was born on the 12th May 1977 in Tehran (Iran). She wanted to be a writer but one of her brothers transmitted her the passion for science. As a teenager, she participated at the International Mathematical Olympiad, winning two gold medals. She obtained her BSc in mathematics in 1999 at Sharif University of Technology, and her PhD in 2004 at Harvard University. After, she worked at Princeton University and then moved to Stanford University as a professor in 2008.

She was married and had a daughter. Maryam died of breast cancer in 2017 at the age of 40. 

Maryam's work focused on **geometric structures on surfaces** and their **deformations**. She also worked on **dynamical systems**. Her work has implications in theoretical physics, in the study of prime numbers, and in cryptography.

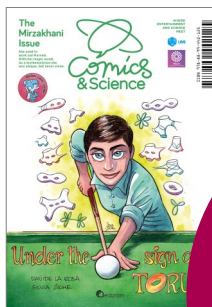
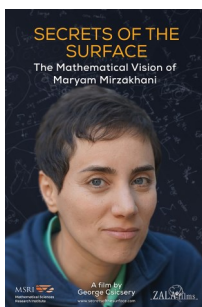
What did she work on?



"I can see that without being excited, mathematics can look pointless and cold. The beauty of mathematics only shows itself to more patient followers"



The Magic Wand Theorem
by A. Eskin and M. Mirzakhani



<https://may12.womeninmaths.org>



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