



ASSOCIATION FOR  
WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Vivette Girault Named AWM-SIAM Sonia Kovalevsky Lecturer

The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) have selected Vivette Girault, Professor Emeritus at Sorbonne Université, CNRS, Laboratoire Jacques-Louis Lions, Paris, France, to deliver the 2021 Sonia Kovalevsky Lecture. Her lecture "From linear poroelasticity to nonlinear implicit elastic and related models" will be delivered at the SIAM Annual Meeting in Spokane, WA, to be held in hybrid or virtual format in July.



**Brief Biography.** Girault was born in Nice, France, she attended high school in Caracas, Venezuela, and received her undergraduate degree from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. She then returned to France to study numerical analysis and was appointed Assistant Professor of Applied Mathematics at the Université de Paris (renamed the Université Pierre et Marie Curie (UPMC), and now known as Sorbonne Université). Except for

two years spent at the University of Houston (Texas), Girault's career was spent at UPMC.

Since retiring from UPMC in 2008, Girault has held visiting positions at the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, and Rice University. With the close connection to Texas, Girault's research that was originally on the theory and discretization of Navier-Stokes equations, veered mostly to the theory and numerics of problems of complex fluids, problems of poroelasticity, and now fascinating problems of nonlinear implicit models introduced by K.R. Rajagopal.

Girault was recommended for this award by a joint AWM-SIAM Kovalevsky Selection Committee (Linda Allen, Susanne Brenner, Malgorzata Peszynska (Chair), and Mayya Tokman).

**Citation.** Vivette Girault, Pierre and Marie Curie University, Paris, France, is an outstanding numerical analyst with a long and distinguished career, who continues to have both deep and broad impact on computational science. Her work in finite element methods, computational fluid dynamics and mechanics is widely known and has been highly cited. The letters in support of this nomination suggest that what sets Professor Girault apart from others is her "uncompromising attitude towards making sure that she fully understands the underlying physics of the problems she works on", and this assessment explains her broad influence within as well as outside numerical analysis. Professor Girault has also been a fantastic mentor and role model for many junior mathematicians, being "quick-witted, rigorous, and excellent, with a radiant and humble personality".

*The Kovalevsky Lecture honors Sonia Kovalevsky (1850–1891), the most widely known Russian mathematician of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1874, Kovalevsky received her Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Göttingen and was appointed lecturer at the University of Stockholm in 1883. Kovalevsky did her most important work in the theory of differential equations.*

Association for Women in Mathematics

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