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German refugee-mathematicians in Canada

The talk will look at the role of Canada in accommodating refugees from the Nazi purge. This concerns on the one hand the mechanisms of emigration where Canada had a particular function, for example in securing re-entry visa to the United States. On the other hand, and to a much smaller extent than the U.S., mathematics in Canada itself profited from immigration, with the group theoretic school of Richard Brauer in Toronto being the biggest success, although Brauer left for the U.S. in 1948. Brauer's case will be examined in some detail while others (Peter Scherk, Alexander Weinstein, Hans Schwerdtfeger, Hans Heilbronn, and George Lorentz) will be mentioned passingly. The cases of Schwerdtfeger and Heilbronn, who came respectively in 1957 and 1964 from Australia and England, shows the more indirect consequences of the emigrations from Europe. To complete the picture one would have to include second generation emigrants (children of emigrants having their mathematical education in the New World) and those coming after the war directly from Germany (G. Lorentz and others) due to economic hardships and scientific isolation there. The talk is part of a book on German refugee-mathematicians which came out in 1998 in German and will be published in an extended English version with Princeton University Press.