DR. JACQUES HURTUBISE, McGill

Gauge theory, looking back.

(or the Uses of instantons, with apologies to Sidney Coleman) When giving a talk linked to a career award, the obvious option is to review one's own work. This can unfortunately be quite dull. Instead, I will try to review the evolution of a subject whose rise to prominence coincides roughly with the start of my career and which has insinuated itself into a surprising number of subjects of mathematics.