

Logical Journeys Webinar: a brief report

Alexandra Silva, Mehrnoosh Sadrzadeh, Renato Neves

January 18, 2021

Abstract

This document provides a brief report of the webinar *Logical Journeys*, organised by Alexandra Silva, Mehrnoosh Sadrzadeh, and Renato Neves (UCL) in the context of World Logic Day 2021.

Logical Journeys took place virtually, via the Zoom platform, in the 14th of January 2021 from 14h00 to 16h30. The goal was to discuss the past use of logic in different domains, and the challenges it faces from emerging paradigms such as machine learning, probabilistic, cyber-physical, and quantum computing. The webinar consisted of a keynote talk by Samson Abramsky and a discussion session on *the many facets of logic* led by a panel of researchers with different backgrounds but with logic as a central pillar in their careers.

The event started with the aforementioned keynote by Samson Abramsky, Christopher Strachey Professor of Computing and a Fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford University. Samson discussed his past experiences on different aspects of logic in the fields of domain theory, probability, and quantum theory with a particular focus on contextuality. Overall the talk provided a rich view of Samson's research work in the last decades, which covered different topics but was always connected to logic.

The keynote talk was followed by the introduction of the discussion panel. Specifically, each panellist provided a short summary of past personal experiences with logic in diverse domains such as machine learning, linguistics, philosophy, and program verification. It was fascinating to see how despite their backgrounds being so different logic always took a central rôle in their work. The webinar then proceeded to the discussion session, which was devoted to foster discussions between the audience and the panel on the past, present, and future of logic. The interaction between the panel and audience was excellent; both technical and more open-ended questions were extensively discussed.

Logistics: Our Zoom account registered 208 participants. A record of the event is available on YouTube. A website of the event is also available online.