

Adolf Hildebrand

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Essay by Farrah Rahman

Adolf J. Hildebrand was born on November 25, 1956. He possesses two PhD degrees, one from the University of Freiburg in 1983 and the second from Université de Paris-Sud the following year. He currently teaches at the University of Illinois. His research primarily falls under the areas of Number Theory, Probability and Statistics, and Asymptotic Analysis. Hildebrand has an accomplished career in academia. In addition to being a Professor Emeritus, he has received numerous awards for his teaching, such as a Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 2011.

He is fluent in and has published papers in German, English, and French throughout his career, with his earlier work being written in a rather solid mix of the three, but his more recent papers being almost exclusively in English, reflecting the languages used by the universities he taught / researched at at different stages in his career.

Having much of his work focused on number theory, he has published numerous papers focused on areas of mathematics and theorems developed by Ramanujan. These include Über die punktweise Konvergenz von Ramanujan-Entwicklungen zahlentheoretischer Funktionen (About the pointwise convergence of Ramanujan expansions of number-theoretic functions), and On the number of prime factors of an integer, which discusses the magnitudes of different functions for finding the number of prime factors that were introduced by Ramanujan and his mentor Hardy. Besides the work of Ramanujan, Hildebrand's research continually returns to several topics like properties of primes and prime factors, as well as the properties of arithmetic and additive functions and arithmetic progressions.