

Open for Business at 7:20 am

Raman Sanyal on Günter M. Ziegler's 60th Birthday



When I started writing my diploma thesis under the supervision of Professor Günter M. Ziegler, I asked him if I could come by from time to time to ask questions. Günter, as he insisted I call him, smiled and said, "Sure! I'm usually in by 7:20 am." He laughed when I told him that 7:20 am wasn't exactly my *Klimazone* (clime). However, I soon discovered that this wasn't such a bad time to be at the office. It was

quiet, and from the sixth floor of the math department at TU Berlin, you could watch planes (and the sun) rise in the distance. But more importantly, there were few of the many other people that wanted to talk business (math and otherwise) with Günter.

Günter's dedication to mathematics in all its aspects was amazing. (I think it still is but, currently, he has to oversee the well-being of all sciences at Freie Universität Berlin.) He always had time to discuss math with his many students, postdocs, and academic guests, and with as little as resting his eyes for an instant, he would contribute an interesting idea to the conversation.

Beyond research, Günter substantially contributes to the mathematical community by organizing, editing, communicating, and advocating. Moving from student, to colleague, to currently running the "Polytope Villa," as his working group is known, I wonder: How does he do all that? I guess I have to ask him at our next coffee at 7:20 am.

[Prof. Dr. Raman Sanyal](#) is a professor for Discrete Geometry at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt. From 2022-2023, he was a professor at Freie Universität Berlin and acting head of the "Discrete Geometry Group and Topological Combinatorics" group (head: Prof. Dr. Günter M. Ziegler). Raman Sanyal graduated from Technische Universität Berlin and did his PhD under the supervision of Günter M. Ziegler.

His research interests are mainly in the areas of discrete and convex (algebraic) geometry but also in topological combinatorics and combinatorial commutative algebra. He is a member of the program committee of the newly funded DFG priority program SPP 2458 "Combinatorial Synergies."