

Friday, 23 January 2026 at 15:00

TU Berlin, University Library, Fasanenstraße 88, Lecture Hall BIB 014

Gavril Farkas, Andrea Walther, Alexandra Wesolek

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Frustration (in) Research

Mathematical research can be thrilling, beautiful, and open new horizons. At the same time, it can be frustrating, nerve-wracking, and overwhelming. How can one cope when stuck in the n^{th} dead end, and it feels there'll never be any progress (ever again)? Is that normal, or is one the only one who gets stuck? Everybody else seems to understand everything and make constant progress, publishing the next article.... The road to the doctorate and beyond towards professorial positions is long, lonely, and seems never-ending – or?

We invite you to join us for a talk with Gavril Farkas, Andrea Walther, and Alexandra Wesolek, who will share their experiences and strategies for coping with set-backs, dead ends, and other challenges in mathematical research.

Gavril Farkas is a professor of Algebraic Geometry at HU Berlin, Andrea Walther is a professor of Mathematical Optimization at HU Berlin, and Alexandra Wesolek was a Dirichlet Postdoc at the group of Stefan Felsner until September 2025 and is now a substitute professor of Theoretical Computer Science at U Potsdam.

