



## ELECTIONS 2021

*Professor Minhyong Kim, Director of the International Centre for Mathematical Sciences and Sir Edmund Whittaker Professor of Mathematical Sciences at both Heriot-Watt University and the University of Edinburgh, with effect from September 2021, reflects on his time as a continuing Council Member-at-Large and why the annual elections are so important.*



It took many years, essentially a lifetime, for an individualist like me to appreciate the importance of learned societies in the life of practising academics. I joined the Council of the London Mathematical Society this year more as an educational experience rather than with any real sense of mission. However, the short time I've spent engaged in its work has been highly illuminating, providing me with a hands-on course in civic virtue and the decision-making process. There is no question in my mind now that the activities of the LMS are genuinely important contributions to the health and prosperity of the mathematical community in the UK and the world.

Among the many issues to keep in mind coming to the election, I do hope you will pay attention to diversity of representation. A few months ago, during one of the meetings, some research was revealed to the effect that I am only the second BAME member of Council in the history of the Society. The sole previous representative was Michael Atiyah. I have to admit that this bit of information came as quite a shock, forcing me to reassess my understanding of some foundational aspects of the structure of academic communities. I hope you are also at least a bit surprised.

Professor Minhyong Kim  
Council Member-at-Large  
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