

## Preface

The 7th international conference on Permutation Patterns was held at the University of Firenze in July 2009. This volume to mark the conference contains some of the most significant of the papers presented at the conference, as well as additional papers from this area of research.

The conference attracted 65 delegates, more than any previous conference in this series, showing that Permutation Patterns research continues to grow as an important area in combinatorics. The scientific program of the conference consisted of 33 contributed talks and one plenary lecture delivered by Einar Steingrímsson. The range of papers presented at the conference and in this volume show the health of this research area in two distinct ways. The first is that many of the papers were coauthored by eminent mathematicians, whose contributions in several fields of discrete mathematics and computer science are fully acknowledged by the international community. This clearly shows that the permutation pattern viewpoint is nowadays considered to be essential in several contexts of modern mathematics. The second is the evidence of increasing numbers of papers by young researchers who have chosen to begin their careers by studying the many intriguing topics connected with permutation patterns. This surely will lead to the research area becoming an even more important combinatorial discipline in the future.

We thank all the participants at PP2009, the contributors to this volume, as well as all the members of the scientific and organizing committee, especially those from Firenze and Siena, whose hard work was fundamental in making the conference a success.

Mike Atkinson, Luca Ferrari.