



*Tadeusz Fiśka*

## **Tadeusz Figiel (1948–2025)**

We announce with deep sorrow that Tadeusz Figiel passed away in Gdańsk on 8 September 2025. Professor Figiel was a distinguished mathematician, one of the representatives of the ‘second golden age’ of the Polish functional analysis school.

Professor Figiel was born in Gdańsk on 2 July 1948. He was thrice a laureate of Polish Mathematical Olympiads, in 1964, 1965 and 1966, and started his mathematical studies at the University of Warsaw directly from the 2nd year. Notably, he published his first two research articles still as an undergraduate student. In 1970 he completed his MSc in mathematics, and two years later defended his PhD thesis, written under the supervision of Aleksander Pełczyński. In 1975 he defended his habilitation thesis ‘On modules of convexity and smoothness’ at IMPAN (Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences), and a year later obtained the Banach Prize of the Polish Mathematical Society.

During the International Congress of Mathematicians in Warsaw in 1983 he delivered a Section Lecture (Real and Functional Analysis Section) ‘Local theory of Banach spaces and some operator ideal’. In 1986 together with Aleksander Pełczyński he was responsible for the selection of problems for the International Mathematical Olympiad, which then took place in Warsaw. In 1990 he received the title of Full Professor, and in 2009 the Banach medal of the Polish Academy of Sciences. For many years he led the Gdańsk branch of IMPAN.

Tadeusz Figiel was a mathematician of extraordinary range and depth, whose work transformed the landscape of functional analysis. He brought quantitative clarity to the geometry of Banach spaces, developed profound results on convexity, smoothness, and finite-dimensional structure, and extended these ideas to the theory of operators, traces, ideals, and approximation properties. His collaborations with many leading analysts introduced methods that now belong to the common language of the field, from factorization and local theory to probabilistic and nonlinear approaches. Figiel’s research combined geometric insight with analytical precision, influencing topics as diverse as asymptotic convex geometry, the theory of types and cotypes, and the study of metric embeddings. Beyond individual theorems,

he shaped the way analysts think about structure and analysis in infinite dimensions. His mathematics remains both a foundation and an inspiration – elegant, durable, and undoubtedly his own.

Throughout his career Tadeusz Figiel was very closely connected to *Studia Mathematica*. He published 19 articles in the journal, spanning the period from 1972 to 2015. More importantly, he was a member of the Editorial Board of *Studia* from 1989 until the very end of his life, and the Executive Editor during 2005–2015. His influence on the journal cannot be overestimated.

*Adam Skalski and Yuri Tomilov*  
*Executive Editors of Studia Mathematica*