

## Feeling for a Context: Bernard Bolzano and his Contexts

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Chairperson: Dr Elías Fuentes Guillén (FLÚ AV ČR)

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### Abstract

Throughout his life, Bernard Bolzano, as Professor of *Religionslehre* (1805–1820) and as house-guest of the Hoffmanns (1823–1841) struggled with the tension between following his talents in mathematics and his moral mission of promoting the well-being (*Gemeinwohl*) of the community. We make proposals for the radical enrichment of the usual contextual factors (social, political, conceptual, etc). Consequently we show how close attention to the context of Bolzano's life might illuminate our understanding of the way he saw his work in mathematics, his moral mission, and the tension between them.



*Portrait Áron Pulzer 1839 in Těchobuz 1*

*Please see the extended abstract, with questions and requests, at <https://bernardbolzano.org/Contexts2022/Abstract.pdf>. The extended abstract invites those interested to offer feedback by email **before or after** the event, in addition to participation during the event. All responses to [russ.steve@gmail.com](mailto:russ.steve@gmail.com) are most welcome.*

After studying Mathematics at King's College, London in the mid-1960s Steve Russ taught mathematics in schools for ten years. Appointed a Lecturer in Computer Science in the mid-1980s at the University of Warwick, he retired as Associate Professor in 2012. He collaborated with Meurig Beynon in developing a new research area [Empirical Modelling](#) (including an Erasmus+ project on *Making Construals* 2014-17). He published *The Mathematical Works of Bernard Bolzano* (OUP, 2004) and is currently working on a dissertation on the moral and religious context of Bolzano for an MA (by research) in History at Warwick.