Mary Wynne Warner

1932–1998

A Welsh mathematician and leading figure in fuzzy topology

Mary Wynne Warner (née Davies) was a pure mathematician and leading figure in the field of fuzzy topology, which is a study of continuous processes on data that are inherently inexact or 'fuzzy'. Her aim was 'to make precise the property of imprecision'.

Mary Wynne Davies was born in Carmarthen. Having excelled at Howell Girl's School, Denbigh, she won a scholarship to study mathematics at Oxford University; she graduated in 1953, and continued her studies specialising in algebraic topology. In 1956, she married diplomat and intelligence officer Gerald Warner, and began to travel widely with him through his many postings. She combined a demanding diplomatic, social and family life with her mathematical research, holding academic positions in countries such as China, Myanmar, Switzerland, and Poland, where she wrote a PhD thesis in algebraic topology for the University of Warsaw in 1966. Her husband was knighted for his services to the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS/MI6), for which he was sometime a Deputy Chief. Lady Warner's research on tolerance spaces and automata, led her to be one of the foremost researchers in fuzzy mathematics. She became a professor in 1996, and died in 1998, aged 65.

Full name: Mary Wynne Warner
Born: 22 June 1932
Hometown: Carmarthen, Wales
Occupation: Mathematician
Died: 1 April 1998
Best known for: Fuzzy topology

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