**Prof Luise-Charlotte Kappe**
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*"It's a wonderful life! – reflections on a career as a Mathematician"*

Friday, 31 August 2018; 10h30-11h30
CoE-MaSS Seminar Room, 1$^{st}$ floor,
Math Sci Bldg, West Campus, Wits University

We all have our doubts off and on if life is really so wonderful. But that is not what I want to address here. Watching the Jimmy Stewart movie, there was one scene which captured my imagination: The Guardian Angel shows George Bailey how the world would have been without him. Personally, I never had much need to know how the world would have looked without me. However, all other things equal, how life would have been if I had lived in a different time and place, would be something of interest to me! I was born and raised in Germany before WW II. After getting my Ph.D. in 1962, I married a fellow mathematician and we immigrated to the US one year later, where we taught in American universities until our retirements. What would life have been if I stayed in Germany, did not get married, were born fifty or hundred years earlier? Looking at actual and potential role models over the centuries helped me answer some of these questions. In essence, it got me back to the roots of what shaped my life.

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