
Author Biographies

Toufik Mansour obtained his Ph.D. degree in mathematics from the University of Haifa in 2001. He spent one year as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Bordeaux (France) supported by a Bourse Chateaubriand scholarship, and a second year at the Chalmers Institute in Gothenburg (Sweden) supported by a European Research Training Network grant. He has also received a prestigious MAOF grant from the Israeli Council for Education. Toufik has been a permanent faculty member at the University of Haifa since 2003 and was promoted to full professor in 2014. He spends his summers as a visitor at institutions worldwide, for example, at the Center for Combinatorics at Nankai University (China), at the John Knopfmacher Center for Applicable Analysis and Number Theory, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa), and at the University of Prishtina (Kosovo).

Toufik's area of specialty is enumerative combinatorics, and more generally, discrete mathematics and its applications to physics, biology, and chemistry. Originally focusing on pattern avoidance in permutations, he has extended his interest to set partitions, words, compositions, inversion sequences, ascent sequences, etc. Toufik has authored or co-authored over 500 papers in this area, many of them concerning the enumeration on bargraphs. He has given talks at national and international conferences, is very active as a reviewer for several journals, and is a co-founder and editor-in-chief of the journal *Enumerative Combinatorics and Applications*. Since 2022, he has also co-organized the annual International Conference on Enumerative Combinatorics and Applications (ICECA) each year.

Armend Sh. Shabani obtained his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Prishtina in 2016. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Prishtina, where his research interests lie primarily in enumerative combinatorics, with particular emphasis on bargraphs, polyominoes, compositions, and pattern avoidance. He has co-authored over 30 research papers. He is a co-founder and managing editor of the journal *Enumerative Combinatorics and Applications*. Since 2022, he has also co-organized the annual International Conference on Enumerative Combinatorics and Applications (ICECA).

He is an active referee for numerous international journals, including the *Journal of Algebraic Combinatorics*, *Journal of Combinatorics, Applied Math-*

ematics Letters, Mathematics in Computer Science Pure Mathematics and Applications, Journal of Automata, Languages, and Combinatorics, Journal of Integer Sequences, and the Turkish Journal of Mathematics.

In addition to his research activities, Armend has made substantial contributions to mathematics education in Kosovo. He has served as team leader for the International Mathematical Olympiad, coordinator for EGMO 2024, and co-organizer of the European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad 2025. Over the past decade, he has been deeply involved in curriculum development, textbook review, and national assessment projects in Kosovo. He has also authored and co-authored numerous textbooks, problem collections, and educational materials used in pre-university education. Armend has served two terms as President of the Kosovar Mathematical Society.