

## Preface

The research articles included in this volume represent the proceedings of the Conference “Ischia Group Theory 2008”, the third in a series that previously included “Ischia Group Theory 2004, in honour of Marcel Herzog” and “Ischia Group Theory 2006: in Honor of Akbar Rhemtulla”. The Conference took place at the Jolly Hotel, Ischia (Naples, Italy) from April 2nd to April 4th, 2008.

The scientific committee was formed by Mariagrazia BIANCHI (Università di Milano), Patrizia LONGOBARDI (Università di Salerno), Mercedes MAJ (Università di Salerno), Carlo Maria SCOPPOLA (Università dell’Aquila), while the local organizing committee, at Università di Salerno, consisted of Costantino DELIZIA, Annamaria LUCIBELLO, Chiara NICOTERA, Carmela SICA, Antonio TORTORA, Maria TOTA.

The papers in this volume are contributions by speakers and participants of the conference.

The span of the research topics represented in these Proceedings is rather large, and includes classification of classes of  $p$ -groups, character theory, finiteness conditions, profinite groups and pro- $p$ -groups, subgroup structure, linear groups, Gelfand pairs, varieties of groups, groups and graphs.

The schedule of the talks and the list of all participants are included in these Proceedings.

A poster session on various research topics augmented the scientific program.

It is our pleasure to thank our colleagues of Università di Salerno, who made our stay very smooth and pleasant; the speakers, who greatly contributed to the scientific interest of the conference; the participants, who created an intense and lively atmosphere; the authors of all papers, for their interesting contributions; the referees of the papers, for their effective and accurate effort in providing the editors with reliable information; the staff of the Jolly Hotel for their patient, effective and accommodating support; the Publisher, for the professional and timely production of these Proceedings.

Last but not least, we thank our Sponsors, listed in the next page.

The Editors