The Rado graph and the Urysohn space

Peter Cameron (QMUL)

Rado's universal graph, published in 1964, is the unique countable "random graph", and has many remarkable properties, involving automorphisms, decompositions, first-order properties, Ramsey properties, amenability of groups, etc. I will discuss some of these.

The graph is also one of a family of structures, of which perhaps the first to be recognised was a remarkable Polish (complete and separable) metric space found by Urysohn: this is the unique Polish space which is universal (it embeds all Polish spaces isometrically) and homogeneous (every isometry between finite subsets extends to the whole space).