Comments on IPP Theory Fellowship program
Heather Logan (Carleton U.)

- Started 2006 as joint project (IPP/Perimeter); continued 2008 IPP alone

- Provided $20k/year for 2 years for a postdoc; 2 postdocs per year → $80k/year steady state cost

- \( O(10) \) nominations per year, almost all of good quality; typically 1 nomination per group (i.e., of their top candidate)

- committee made ordered reversion list; offers typically ran down below the “half-way point”

Issue: intense hiring cycle (see D. Morrissey’s talk) means reversion-list frenzy during January–early February; ability to land one’s top candidate a rare thing.

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Distribution of IPP(+Perimeter in cycle 1)–funded postdocs:

- McGill 7
- UBC 3
- Carleton 1 → faculty job abroad after 6 mo.
- McMaster/Perimeter 1 joint position
- U. de Montréal 1
- Toronto 1

Distribution does not reflect the selection committee’s orderings. Main selection factor in practice was which groups managed to hire their first-choice candidate. “The rich get richer . . .”

And this was a zero-sum game since the money came from the SAP envelope!

My perception was that the IPP fellowship offer did not have a significant effect on postdoc candidates’ acceptance decisions.

My main concern for future IPP theory-HQP support: should not inadvertently funnel yet more resources to the largest groups.

Should aim to best leverage Theory faculty’s research capacity to maximize physics output.

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