In the winter semester 2014/15, Professor Dr. John Wilson from the University of Oxford was appointed as Leibniz-Professor in the Leibniz Programme of the Research Academy.

Professor Dr. John Wilson is a celebrated mathematician, whose research is primarily in the theory of groups. He is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Group Theory.

From 1994 to 2003 Professor Wilson held the Mason Chair of Mathematics at the University of Birmingham, and from 2004 to 2010 he was Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford. He is also a Fellow of Christ’s College, Cambridge.

John Wilson is an honorary professor at Aston University, and he has held visiting professorships and similar positions of various durations at other universities around the globe, most recently at the Humboldt University in Berlin, at ETH Zürich, at the University of California at San Diego and at the University of Geneva.

Professor Wilson’s research interests include profinite groups, finite and infinite soluble groups, finite simple groups, model theory of groups, branch groups, word growth of groups, and finitely presented groups. He is the author of the monograph *Profinite Groups* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 2008).

During his tenure as Leibniz-Professor at Leipzig University he undertook various research projects, and studied in particular in the model theory of infinite groups and metric ultraproducts of simple groups.

His inaugural lecture entitled *Schöne Strukturen in Mathematik und Musik: Beiträge einiger Leipziger Meister* was held on Monday, 10 November, in the Alter Senatssaal of Leipzig University (Ritterstr. 26). Besides he gave lectures for mathematics students on *Themen der Gruppentheorie*. 
Inaugural lecture by Prof. Dr. John Wilson in the Leibniz-Programme

On 10 November 2014, the Leibniz-Professor in winter semester 2014/15 Prof. Dr. John Wilson from Oxford University (United Kingdom) delivered his inaugural lecture in Alter Senatssaal at Leipzig University. The numerous guests were welcomed by the rector of the university Prof. Dr. Beate Schücking, before the director of the Leibniz-Programme Prof. Dr. Martin Schlegel held a laudation for the new Leibniz-Professor Wilson. Among the audience were mathematicians and computer scientists as well as visitors who were attracted by the unusual topic. The previous Leibniz-Professor Florian Steger who himself gave a lecture about the relationship of art and medicine on the very same location travelled from Halle to Leipzig to witness the presentation of his successor.

The inaugural lecture by Prof. Wilson was entitled Schöne Strukturen in der Mathematik und Musik: Beiträge einiger Leipziger Meister. Wilson examined the work of some mathematicians and musicians of Leipzig such as Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, Felix Klein as well as Johann Sebastian Bach, Richard Wagner and Alban Berg and thereby emphasised the mutual relation of science and art in Leipzig. Consequently he illustrated the principals of mathematical patterns in music as well as the attributes of artistic beauty using the example of mathematic. Wilson emphasized that a lecture like this can almost exclusively take place in Leipzig, since it has a great reputation for being the workplace of many recognized mathematicians and musicians.

Prof. Wilson illustrated the principals of mathematical patterns in music as well as the attributes of artistic beauty using the example of mathematic. He opened with a quote of Leibniz who said that “music is the pleasure the human mind experiences from counting without being aware that it is counting.” – taken from a letter to Christian Goldbach, 27 April 1712. Trailing the very vivid lecture the audience was easily convinced of the mutual relation between mathematic and music. The versatile mental stimulations were deepened during the reception that followed the lecture.