Building a Nation: The Evolution of a Mathematical Research Community from the Italian States to the Kingdom of Italy.

This talk traces the revival of Italian mathematics in the second half of the nineteenth century in an institutional, historical, political, and mathematical context with a focus on the developments that occurred during the process of political unification. After surveying the state of mathematics in the first half of the century, it will examine the changes that took place after 1861: the reform of the Italian educational system, the establishment and reorganization of institutions for higher education, the development of scientific academies and societies, the foundation of specialized mathematical journals, and the efforts of a group of scholars who worked in political, educational, and mathematical venues in order to improve the state of mathematics in unified Italy. (Received September 21, 2009)