

## **BERNARD BOLZANO'S 1804 EXAMINATION : MATHEMATICS AND MATHEMATICAL TEACHING IN EARLY 19th CENTURY BOHEMIA**

**Davide Crippa – corresponding author** (Université Paris Diderot - Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski")

**Elias Fuentes Gullén** (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, UNAM)

We shall present here a manuscript containing Bernard Bolzano's written examination to become professor of elementary mathematics at Prague University. This examination took place in October 1804, and consisted of a written and an oral part. Only two candidates took part to it: Bernard Bolzano and Ladislav Jandera. The latter won. The committee asked three questions to the candidates : to find the formula of the surface and volume of a sphere, to find the formula which measures the speed of water filling a tank, to explain the proof of the law of the lever. In our talk, we shall analyze Bolzano's answers, especially to the first question, in light of his later reflections on the foundations of mathematics. This document represents an important source to understand both the evolution of Bernard Bolzano's mathematical thought and, more generally, an important source on the practice of teaching in early 19th Century Bohemia.