Optimal constants and domain geometry by Bernd Kawohl (University of Cologne, Germany)

The optimal constants for embeddings of type

 $\|u\|_{W^{1,p}(\Omega)} \le c(\Omega) \|u\|_{L^q(\Omega)}$

depend on Ω .

Sometimes they are isoperimetric, i.e. among all bounded domains Ω of given *n*-dimensional volume the minimal $c(\Omega)$ is attained for the ball, and then the function u, for which the inequality becomes sharp, is radial.

In my lecture I report on inequalities which lead to elliptic Euler-Lagrangeequations of second and fourth order and focus on the question if

a) the constants are isoperimetric and

b) the solutions of the equations are symmetric provided Ω is symmetric.