



**Inaugural Lecture: Professor Andrew Granville**  
**'The pretentious approach to analytic number theory'**

**Speaker:** Professor Andrew Granville, UCL

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**Date/Time:** Wednesday, 10 February 2016, 4:00pm

**Venue:** Room 505, Mathematics Department

**Title:** The pretentious approach to analytic number theory

**Abstract**

Deep ideas that tie together seemingly different fields, are often the catalyst for the most insightful work in mathematics. In 1859 the great geometer, Bernhard Riemann, wrote his only article about prime numbers, a ten page memoir that was to have an enormous influence in the development of the subject, suggesting a brilliant and surprising approach involving complex analysis of functions. This became the main approach to the whole subject of analytic number theory for the next 150 years.

Over those years, various researchers have developed "ad hoc" approaches to specific questions, that did not use Riemann's ideas directly, yet it was only about six years ago that Soundararajan and the speaker suggested that the whole subject might be approached by a combination of these alternative ideas, and then went on to show that this is so.

Since we released a first draft in 2011, many of the finest young minds in analytic number theory have joined in developing this approach, and recently some well-known, challenging problems have been resolved that had been inaccessible to the old methods.

In this inaugural lecture we will give some idea of what is interesting about these recent developments, and explain what is "pretentious" about our approach to the subject.

**Details**

Celebrating the Inaugural Lecture of Professor Andrew Granville in Room 505, Mathematics Department

**Programme:**

4:00 Introduction to Proceedings, Professor Nick Brook, Executive Dean, Mathematical and Physical Sciences Faculty (MAPS), UCL.

4:10 Inaugural Lecture by Professor Andrew Granville 'The pretentious approach to analytic number theory'.

Lecture is chaired by Professor Nick Brook, Executive Dean, Mathematical and Physical Sciences Faculty (MAPS), UCL and introduced by Professor Robb McDonald, Head of Department of Mathematics. Professor Robb McDonald will be giving the vote of thanks.

5:00 Reception in Room 502.

Link: <http://iris.ucl.ac.uk/iris/browse/profile?upi=AGRAN98>