

**Inaugural Lecture: Professor Erik Burman  
'Prophecy, prediction, approximation and computation'**

**Speaker:** Professor Erik Burman, UCL

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**Date/Time:** Wednesday, 19 November 2014, 4:00pm

**Venue:** Room 505, Mathematics Department

**Title:** Prophecy, prediction, approximation and computation

**Abstract**

It has always been important for mankind to be able to make predictions of the future. It is a recurring theme in religion, literature and of course science. In this talk we will start by giving a brief history of prophecy and prediction up to the invention of the digital computer. We will discuss the tools that are used in numerical modelling and give some evidence of the role of physics in computational methods. In the form of a game we will illustrate one of the difficulties related to numerical mathematics and finally end the talk with a series of examples of computations.

**Details**

Celebrating the Inaugural Lecture of Professor Erik Burman 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 Erik Burman 'Prophecy, prediction, approximation and computation.'

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=ENBUR31>