

Gnus, moas, porcs and other exotica: a mathematical odyssey

Inaugural Lecture by Professor Eamonn O'Brien

“Symmetry is one idea by which man through the ages has tried to comprehend and create order, beauty, and perfection.” (H. Weyl)

The concept was formalised in the powerful and elegant notion of a group. Despite two centuries of effort, many natural questions remain unanswered. A particularly challenging problem is to decide how many distinct groups of a given size exist.

In our odyssey, we report on the chequered history of mathematicians to solve some of these problems, encountering along the way some exotic objects.



7pm, Thursday 31 July 2008

Rm 423-342 Conference Centre
22 Symonds St, CBD

Public function from 6pm in the
Conference Centre foyer

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