Ng Kong Beng Public Lecture Series
黄光明公开讲座

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Waking Up from Leibniz' Dream: On the Unmechanizability of Truth

The dream of a mechanical procedure for determining truth has had a curious and peripatetic history. Turned into a tool of evangelization in the 14th century, championed by Leibniz in the 17th, parodied by Swift in the 18th, it found its natural home in mathematics the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Hilbert asked for an algorithm to decide mathematical provability. Work of Alan Turing and others proved that this challenge cannot be met. This negative result has had significant positive consequences, including the development of the field of Computability Theory.

Professor Denis Hirschfeldt
The University of Chicago, USA

FREE ADMISSION

Date: **Thursday, 14 September 2017**
Time: **2 - 3 p.m.**
Venue: **Lecture Theatre 31**
National University of Singapore
Block S16, Level 3
6 Science Drive 2
Singapore 117546

About the Speaker

Denis Hirschfeldt is a Professor of Mathematics at The University of Chicago. His research is in computability theory, especially computable mathematics, reverse mathematics, and algorithmic randomness. He is a two-time recipient of the Shoenfield Prize of the Association for Symbolic Logic for outstanding expository writing in the field of logic.

For more information, visit http://ims.nus.edu.sg