

PROFESSOR SIR MICHAEL BERRY/ NATURE'S OPTICS AND OUR UNDERSTANDING OF LIGHT

School of Physical Sciences: Stephen Gray Lecture Series

As part of the School of Physical Sciences' Stephen Gray Lecture Series, Professor Sir Michael Berry will be delivering a talk on Thursday 15th February about nature's optics and our understanding of light.

The lecture will be followed by informal discussions and light refreshments.

ABOUT THE LECTURE / NATURE'S OPTICS AND OUR UNDERSTANDING OF LIGHT

Optical phenomena visible to everyone abundantly illustrate important ideas in science and mathematics. The phenomena considered include rainbows, sparkling reflections on water, green flashes, earthlight on the moon, glories, daylight, crystals, and the squint moon. The concepts include refraction, wave interference, numerical experiments, asymptotics, Regge poles, polarization singularities, conical intersections, and visual illusions.

When: Thursday 15th February

Time: 3 – 4 pm

Where: Ingram Lecture Theatre, Ingram Building

ABOUT THE SPEAKER / PROFESSOR SIR MICHAEL BERRY

Melville Wills Professor of Physics (Emeritus) at the University of Bristol, UK.

After graduating from Exeter and St Andrews, Michael Berry entered Bristol University. Applications of his work include the geometry of singularities in optics and other waves, connections between classical and quantum physics, and the physical asymptotics of divergent series. His publications include:

- Singularities of smooth gradient maps in rainbows and tsunamis;
- The Laplace operator in oriental magic mirrors;
- Geometry of twists and turns in quantum indistinguishability.

