Note changed date: 22 March 2017, 2pm (Ingram Lecture Theatre) (UCL)

Marzena Szymanska Quantum Fluids of Light in and out of Equilibrium

In specially engineered light-matter structures photons can be made to interact strongly, which leads to a wide range of collective behaviours from order-disorder phase transitions and superfluidity to topological phases. However, normally their intrinsically dissipative nature results in highly nonequilibrium conditions leading to new phenomena which only start being explored. At the same time state-of-the-art semiconductor microcavities allowed recently to achieve a fully thermalised photonic system analogous to cold atoms or liquid Helium. I will discuss a few examples of nonequilibrium collective effects in such systems, as well as the recently achieved equilibrium limit.