



The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Department of Mathematics

Seminar on Applied Mathematics

**Swings of science: from complexity to simplicity
and back**
by

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Abstract

From the very beginning of civilization, man tried to introduce order - and thereby "unheard-of simplicity" into the infinite complexity of the surrounding world. The order, in its simplicity, had been, however, always fragile and hard to sustain, as it was overpowered by ever present ambient complexity, as well as by internal complexity of man who never stops at simple explanations and simple rules. The lecture introduces the book under the same title published by Springer Verlag this month. This book is a personal account of some aspects of the emergence of modern science, mostly from the viewpoint of those branches of physics which provided the much needed paradigm shift of "more is different" that heralded the advent of complexity science as an antidote to the purely reductionist approach in fundamental physics.

Date: Friday, 18 January 2019
Time: 11:00a.m. – 12:00p.m.
**Venue: Room 5506, Academic Building,
(Lifts 25-26), HKUST**

All are welcome!