



Imperial College Alumni
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Jointly present

Title **Lotteries, Luck, and why Lightning Does Strike Twice**

Speaker Professor David J. Hand
Head of Statistics, Department of Mathematics, Imperial College London
Date 10 April 2006 (Monday)
Time 1900 hours
Place NUSS Guild House, 5th Floor, Suntec City (above Carrefour), Singapore

Abstract

Coincidences are events which seem so improbable, so unexpected and unlikely, that they suggest a higher power is somehow influencing our lives, entertaining itself by playing games with us. Often they merely startle us, and give us stories to tell. But at other times they can significantly alter our lives - for the better, as with the lottery winner who happens to pick the random set of numbers that come up, or for the worse, as with the man who was struck by lightning twice. This talk examines coincidences, looking at the ways they have influenced lives, how people have sought to explain them, how they have been studied, and why one might often expect the incredibly unlikely to happen surprisingly often.

Biodata of Speaker



David J. Hand is Professor of Statistics in the Department of Mathematics at Imperial College. He has broad research interests, including multivariate statistics, classification methods, pattern detection, the interface between statistics and computing, and the foundations of statistics. He is interested in applications in medicine, psychology, and finance. He has wide-ranging consultancy experience to organizations ranging from banks, through pharmaceutical companies, to governments.

David has won many awards and honours, including Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute (1988), Honorary Fellow of Institute of Actuaries (1999), Thomas L. Saaty Prize for Applied Advances in the Mathematical & Management Sciences (2001), Guy Medal in Silver from Royal Statistical Society (2002), Fellow of the British Academy, (2003), and IEEE-ICDM Outstanding contributions award at IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (2004). He is President of International Federation of Classification Societies (2006 - 2007) and President of British Classification Society (1989 – 1992)

David Hand's personal webpage can be found at
http://stats.ma.ic.ac.uk/djhand/public_html/

Registration Information

Cost (Includes dinner): S\$21 pax for ICAAS members & S\$26.25 pax for non-members (inclusive GST)

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