

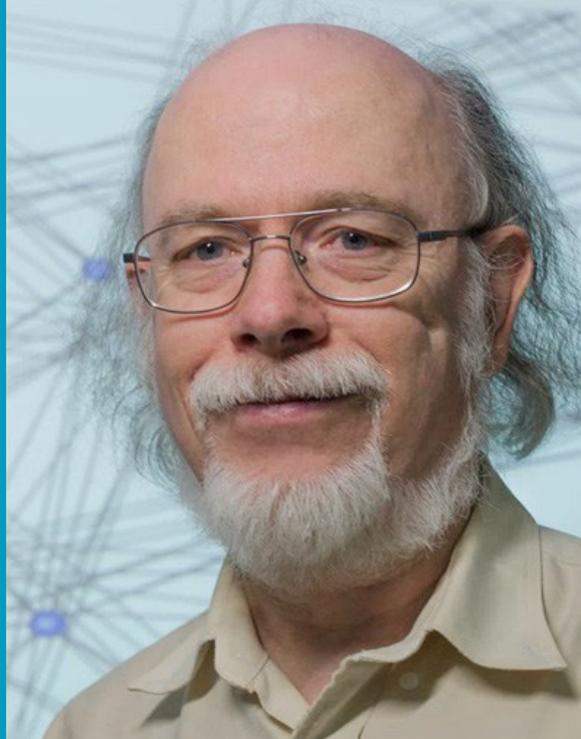
FRANCQUI

Prof Dr Brendan McKay

International Francqui Professor Chair 2018-2019

Invitation Inaugural lecture

4 June 2019



Prof Dr Rik Van de Walle, Rector Ghent University

Prof Dr Mieke Van Herreweghe, Vice-rector Ghent University

Prof Dr Isabel Van Driessche, Dean Faculty of Sciences, Ghent University

Prof Dr Gunnar Brinkmann and Dr Jan Goedgebeur, Department of Applied Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics, Ghent University

Prof Dr Hadrien Mélot, Computer Science Department, University of Mons

Prof Dr Bernard Fortz, Department of Computer Science, Université libre de Bruxelles

Are pleased to invite you to the inaugural lecture of the 'International Francqui Professor 2018–2019'

Incumbent

Prof Dr Brendan McKay

Research School of Computer Science, Australian National University, Australia

Inaugural lecture

"A scientist's adventure in pseudoscience: the strange case of the Bible Codes"

The inaugural lecture will take place in Auditorium A2, Campus Sterre, building S9, Krijgslaan 281, 9000 Ghent on Tuesday 4 June, at 16:00 and will be followed by a reception for which you are kindly invited.

Please confirm your attendance by 28 May via www.ugent.be/mckay

This inaugural lecture is the first lecture in a series of lectures that professor McKay will be giving at various Belgian universities.

The full programme of this lecture series can be consulted at www.ugent.be/mckay

Prof Dr Brendan McKay obtained his PhD in 1980 at the University of Melbourne. Then he became Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt University until he obtained a faculty position at the Australian National University in 1983. The core topic of Brendan McKay's research is "computational graph theory" and he is the world leader in this field of research. His program "nauty" is part of practically every software system dealing with isomorphisms of graphs, his graph generators are used for research in mathematics, physics and chemistry and his mathematical results - often obtained with the help of computational methods - were published in practically all top journals in combinatorics.

He gave more than 60 invited talks, amongst them such prestigious talks as at the "International Congress of Mathematicians 2010". Furthermore, his articles (in total more than 200) have been cited more than 9000 times - which is quite unusual for mathematics - and he is editor and on the editorial board of several influential mathematical journals.

Though one may call "computational graph theory" the core topic of his research, he also obtained several important results in other fields of science and is famous even outside science for refuting the "bible code" claim. This research even resulted in several appearances in newspapers, on the radio and TV.