

For favour of posting

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS AND ACTUARIAL SCIENCE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

(jointly organized by the Department of Systems Engineering and Engineering Management  
at City University of Hong Kong)

Seminar

**Professor Mark BROWN**

Department of Statistics  
Columbia University  
USA

will give a talk

entitled

**APPROXIMATIONS WITH ERROR BOUNDS IN APPLIED  
PROBABILITY MODELS: EXPONENTIAL AND  
GEOMETRIC APPROXIMATIONS**

Abstract

Frequently in probability work simple approximations are sought for mathematically intractable probability distributions. Limit theorems often supply the approximating distribution, but what is really needed are error bounds for fixed  $n$  or  $t$ .

In this talk I'll discuss some of my work over the years in error bounds for exponential and geometric distribution approximations. Points of interest include:

- 1) The waiting time for patterns in multinomial trials.
- 2) The first passage time to a set,  $A$ , for time reversible Markov chains.
- 3) The approximate exponentiality of geometric convolutions, with various applications.
- 4) The reliability of repairable systems.
- 5) Hazard function based bounds and inequalities.

on

**Tuesday, May 31, 2016**

*(Refreshments will be served from 3:45 p.m. outside Room 301 Run Run Shaw Building)*

**4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

at

**Room 301, Run Run Shaw Building**

**Visitors Please Note that the University has limited parking space. If you are driving please call the Department at 3917 2466 for parking arrangement.**

All interested are welcome