

The Marriage Equation

A Practical Theory for Predicting Divorce and a Scientifically-Based Marital Therapy.

Thursday, Nov. 18, 7:00 pm

Smith Hall 100
207 Pleasant Street SE
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis

Free and open to the public



James D. Murray, FRS, Acad. Sci. (Paris)

Emeritus Professor of Mathematical Biology, University of Oxford
Emeritus Professor of Applied Mathematics, University of Washington

The rise in divorce rates in developed countries, including the US, is a widespread, important and poorly understood phenomenon. The distinguished mathematician James Murray will describe his interdisciplinary work with psychologist John Gottman which has led to a marital interaction theory based on key empirical findings from extensive observations of couples. The mathematical model, of similar genre to those widely applied in the biomedical sciences, characterizes differences between different types of stable couples whose marriages are likely to last from two types of unstable couples, and has been used to predict the longitudinal course of marital relationships with an accuracy of 94% and to help design new scientifically-based intervention strategies for troubled marriages.