

Alex Rubinov Memorial Oration 2020

The Forgotten Geometry of Mesopotamia: Revelations from an ancient clay tablet

Dr Daniel Mansfield

Abstract:

Mathematics is said to have begun long ago in ancient Mesopotamia, also known as the cradle of civilization. This culture had slipped into legend until the late 19th century when archaeologists uncovered thousands upon thousands of clay documents from lost cities such as Sippar, Lasa, and Babylon.

Amongst these tablets were mathematical and geometric texts. Many are yet to be translated and some are surprisingly advanced.

This talk is an introduction to the Mesopotamians' unique form of arithmetic and geometry, including some very recent discoveries.

Biography:

Daniel began his academic career at the University of New South Wales in 2015. He is an inspiring educator who has received many teaching awards, such as the KPMG Inspiring Teacher Award in 2017 and the AustMS Teaching Excellence Award (Early Career) in 2018.

He is notable for his research with colleague Prof. Norman Wildberger on the famous Plimpton 322 tablet, and more recently for his work on Mesopotamian geometry and land measurement.



7.00pm Monday 30 November
via MS Teams

Each year a public oration is held to commemorate the life of Professor Alexander Rubinov and to celebrate his contribution to Federation University as founding Director of the Centre for Informatics and Applied Optimisation.

REGISTRATION

