

EEI-KOLLOQUIUM

The Life of James Clerk Maxwell

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Sonnet Software, North Syracuse, NY

Dienstag, der 04.05.2010, 10⁰⁰ Uhr (Sondertermin)

Cauerstraße 9, Seminarraum 4.14

Diskussionsleitung: Prof. Dr.-Ing. R. Weigel

James Clerk Maxwell stands shoulder to shoulder with Newton and Einstein, yet even those of us who have spent decades working with Maxwell's equations are almost totally unfamiliar with his life and times. This presentation, from the viewpoint of a microwave engineer, draws on many sources in providing an understanding of James Maxwell himself. What was Maxwell like as an infant? What was the tragedy at eight years old that profoundly influenced his life? What unique means of transportation did young Maxwell use to escape a cruel tutor? What memorable event occurred on his first day of school? When did he publish his first papers, and what were they about? What did Maxwell have to do with the rings of Saturn? Why did he lose his job as a professor? Why did he have a hard time getting another job? What was his wife like? What is Maxwell's legacy to us? The answers to these questions provide insight into Maxwell the person and add an extra dimension to those four simple equations we have studied ever since.