Tadashi Tokieda, currently the Director of Studies in Mathematics at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, grew up as a painter in Japan, became a classical philologist in France, and has been an applied mathematician in the United States and England. He is active in outreach in the developing world, especially via the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences.

Would you like to come see some toys?

‘Toys’ here have a special sense: objects of daily life which you can find or make in minutes, yet which, if played with imaginatively, reveal surprises that keep scientists puzzling for a while. We will see table-top demos of many such toys and visit some of the science that they open up.

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