

# The Ada Lovelace Bicentenary Lectures on Computability, December 2015 – January 2016

[Stewart Shapiro](#) (Ohio State University)

## *Computing with Numbers and Other Non-Syntactic Things*

Sunday, 31 January, 17:00-18:30

Michael Rescorla has argued that it makes sense to compute directly with numbers, and he faulted Turing for not giving an analysis of this. In line with a later paper of his, I'll argue that it only makes sense to compute directly with syntactic entities, such as strings on a given alphabet. Computing with numbers involves issues of notation, and broader issues involving de re propositional attitudes towards numbers and other non-syntactic abstract entities.

Watch the video

