



Professor Allison Henrich

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A Mathematical Tale of Games on Knots

Abstract: When you imagine what a mathematician does all day, you probably picture someone standing at a chalkboard covered in equations and numbers. It's true that many of us do fulfill this stereotype at times, but we also draw amazing and beautiful pictures and think about things that may not seem obviously to be mathematical. In fact, there are many mathematicians who devote their time to thinking about knots. (Think: tying a knot in your shoelace or trying to untangle your headphones.) Some of us even do research on games! We invent interesting games then try to figure out what strategies players can use to win. In my talk, I will show how these two areas of research may actually be combined into an incredibly fun kind of mathematics. We'll play several games using knots and links and discuss ways we can "stack the deck"

www.frath.washington.edul-mathcircle/mathhniv

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April 27, 2014 Sunday, 1-2pm