

Mentor Lecture Series

Organizer(s): Shaowei Lin & Diogo Oliveira e Silva

Monday, 4:10–5:00pm, 60 Evans

May. 5 **Martin Olsson**, UCB

Why groupoids?

For a student learning algebraic geometry, it can sometimes seem as if the subject in its modern formulation is overwhelmingly abstract. While we may be interested in solutions to polynomial equations, we study schemes, and then the much more abstract notions of algebraic space and stacks. I will try to motivate in this talk why these more general objects are natural to consider, and even indispensable.

The Mentor Lecture Series is designed for first and second year graduate students. The series aims to acquaint beginning graduate students with potential dissertation supervisors whom they might not otherwise closely encounter, and to impart a taste of research activity in the mathematics department in order to help beginning students choose fields of specialization.