



Speaker: Daniel Ramras
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Thursday, September 21, 2017

2:00 PM

258 Hurley Hall

Title: Topology of character varieties

Abstract:

Character varieties parametrize conjugacy classes of representations of discrete groups into algebraic groups. I'll discuss some recent results on the topology of these varieties and their compactifications, focusing in particular on the fundamental group. These results have some surprising applications to Chern-Simons theory and to the structure of centralizers in Lie groups.