



Berlin
Mathematical
School

BMS Friday Colloquium

Friday 10 January 2014 at 14:15

Tea & Cookies starting at 13:00

ZIB Lecture Hall, 14195 Berlin Dahlem, Takustr. 9

Benson Farb

(U Chicago)

Braids, homology, permutations and polynomials

In his talk, Benson Farb will explain some beautiful connections between the space of configurations of n distinct points in the plane, braids, representations of the symmetric group, counting problems for polynomials over finite fields, and more. Farb will use this “mathematically interdisciplinary” example to describe his personal voyage of discovery with Tom Church (and later joined by Jordan Ellenberg), which began within low-dimensional topology, but ended up leading them through many different areas of mathematics.

Benson Farb is an American mathematician and professor at the University of Chicago. A pure mathematician, Farb specializes in the interaction between geometry, topology and group theory. Farb earned his bachelor's from Cornell University and, in 1994, he obtained his doctorate from Princeton University. In 2002, he received the University of Chicago's Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, and to date he has supervised thirty one PhD students. Farb is the editor of several journals, and his publications include four books. His awards include a Sloan Foundation Fellowship and a National Science Foundation Career Award. In 2012, he became a fellow of the American Mathematical Society.