

“Wrrrrr” –Hovercat

# The Trivial Notions Seminar Proudly Announces

## How to Abelianize Groups That Are Difficult to Abelianize

A talk by  
Thomas Koberda

### **Abstract**

If we are given a finite presentation for a group, computing the abelianization is a mechanical task. If on the other hand the group is defined as the set of symmetries of a certain object or as  $\pi_0$  of some Lie group, computing the abelianization might become highly nontrivial. We will consider the mapping class group of a closed surface and compute its abelianization, and discuss the abelianizations of some finite index subgroups. We will motivate this discussion with some aspects of the representation theory of the mapping class group.

Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:07 pm  
Science Center 507