"Let me just say philosophically that there are three streams of thought involved in the proof [of the 4-dimensional Poincaré conjecture], and I'll personify them by giving them each a name... [Smale, Casson]... and the other is under the name of Bob Edwards who represents what you might call the Texas school of topology...

   Now sometimes this Texas school is called decomposition space theory or wild topology; it's the Moore, Bing school. It's actually interesting, you know. 50 years ago, there were significant regional differences in mathematics. It's sort of like linguists talk about dialects develping and new languages forming, and I think the modern world, with all the jet travel, until corona put an end to that, and the internet, homogenized mathematics to some extent. You won't see regional differences. But when I was working on these things in 1980, there really was a type of topology done in Texas, Oklahoma, Wisconsin and Bob Edwards was sort of the heavy-weight champ... and even to say that there was a champ shows you it's a little bit different flavor. No one would talk about the champ of algebraic geometry."

<div align="right">—Michael Freedman</div>

The Trivial Notions Seminar
Proudly Announces

An introduction to the classification of 4-manifolds

A talk by
Josh Wang

Abstract

I'll tell you about the classification of simply-connected closed 4-manifolds. Dimension 4 is very unique, and I'll tell you about two major results that have defined the field. The first is Freedman's work on topological four-manifolds, and the second is Donaldson's work on smooth four-manifolds. Their work on four-manifolds won each of them a Fields Medal in 1986.

Friday, November 6$^{\text{th}}$, at 12 noon