



The Math/Stats Colloquium
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
San José State University



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*The Efficiency Gap, Voter Turnout,
and the Efficiency Principle*

APRIL 18, 2018, MH320

Abstract: Recently, scholars from law and political science have introduced metrics which use only election outcomes (and not district geometry) to assess the presence of partisan gerrymandering. The most high-profile example of such a tool is the efficiency gap, which was used in *Gill v. Whitford*, the Supreme Court Case on gerrymandering in Wisconsin.

The efficiency gap is a number that uses the concept of a “wasted vote” and is intended to indicate when gerrymandering may have occurred. In this talk, I’ll discuss the efficiency gap and show some of the perhaps unexpected ways in which it acts. In particular, I’ll show how uneven voter turnout can affect the efficiency gap.

Background: No particular knowledge required.

About the speaker: Ellen Veomett is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Saint Mary’s College of California. Her most recent research has been on isoperimetric inequalities on graphs and the mathematics behind detecting gerrymandering.

SNACKS IN MH331B AT 2:30 PM

TALK STARTS AT 3:00 PM

For more information, see our full schedule at:

<http://www.math.sjsu.edu/~hsu/colloq/>