The Math/Stats Colloquium
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
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An introduction to spatial graph theory

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Abstract: Spatial graph theory developed in the early 1980's when topologists began using the tools of knot theory to study graphs embedded in 3-dimensional space. Later, this area came to be known as *spatial* graph theory to distinguish it from the study of *abstract* graphs. Much of the current work in spatial graph theory can trace its roots back either to the ground-breaking results of John Conway and Cameron Gordon on intrinsic knotting and linking of graphs or to the topology of non-rigid molecules. This talk will present the history of spatial graph theory and survey some of the current trends in the field.

Background: No background required.

About the speaker: Erica Flapan was a professor at Pomona College from 1986 to 2018. In 2011, Flapan won the Mathematical Association of America's Haimo Award for distinguished college or university teaching of mathematics, and in 2012, she was selected as an inaugural fellow of the American Mathematical Society. From 2015–2017, she was a Polya Lecturer for the MAA. Since 2019, she has been the Editor in Chief of the Notices of the AMS.

Colloquium broadcast on Zoom, 3pm Pacific/6pm Eastern
Email tim.hsu@sjsu.edu for an invitation

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