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

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What is a Mapping Class Group?

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Abstract: The mapping class group can be defined, informally, as the group of symmetries of a surface. But what is a surface? And how can you construct a symmetry of one? In this talk, we will answer these questions and more! Time permitting, I will also share a bit of my own research related to mapping class groups.

Background: No particular background necessary; all students are welcome.

About the speaker: Marissa Kawehi Loving is an NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor in the School of Math at Georgia Tech. She graduated with her PhD in mathematics in August 2019 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she was supported by an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and an Illinois Graduate College Distinguished Fellowship. Marissa was born and raised in Hawai'i where she completed her B.S. in Computer Science and B.A. in Mathematics at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

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