

**Speaker: Jennifer Marie BROWN (University of Edinburgh, Ireland)**

**Title: Defects and the A-polynomial**

**Abstract:** The A-polynomial is a knot invariant build from character varieties. When it was first constructed, it was believed to be independent of Jones-type invariants. Now we understand that the close relationship between these invariants only manifests after they're quantized. This talk will introduce the A-polynomial and explain a procedure for quantizing it that relies on defects in skein theory.