

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

My work is motivated by conformal field theory (CFT), and my research program seeks to build a unified mathematical framework for the study of CFT, as well as to study new mathematical connections which arise as a result. Mathematical objects which arise include operator algebras, subfactors, functorial field theories, vertex operator algebras, quantum algebra and tensor categories, vector-valued modular forms, and complex function theory.

EMPLOYMENT

Australian National University

Mathematical Sciences Institute Research Fellow (July 2018 - present)

University of California, Santa Barbara

Visiting Assistant Professor (September 2015 - April 2016, September 2016 - June 2018)

Max Planck Institute for Mathematics, Bonn

Postdoctoral Researcher (August 2014 - August 2015, June 2016 - August 2016)

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

PhD, Mathematics (September 2008 - May 2014)

Advisor: Vaughan F. R. Jones

Pomona College

BA, Mathematics (September 2004 - May 2008)

Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, math department award, and thesis award

EXTERNAL FUNDING

1. AMSI Scientific Workshop Funding 2019
2. AMS-Simons Travel Grant 2017-2019
3. NSF Graduate Research Fellowship 2009-2011

PUBLISHED ARTICLES AND PREPRINTS

1. *Classification of extremal vertex operator algebras with two simple modules*
[arXiv:1811.02180](#) (with J. Connor Grady)
2. *Representation theory in chiral conformal field theory: from fields to observables*
[arXiv:1810.08168](#)
3. *Positivity and fusion of unitary modules for unitary vertex operator algebras (expository)*
RIMS Kôkyûroku, to appear.
4. *Singular values of weighted composition operators and second quantization*
Int. Math. Res. Not., to appear. [arXiv:1612.03970](#) (with Mihai Putinar)
5. *On classification of extremal non-holomorphic conformal field theories*
J. Phys. A: Math. Theor., 50 (2017), 115204. [arXiv:1611.04071](#) (with Zhenghan Wang)
6. *Geometric realization of algebraic conformal field theories*
 submitted. [arXiv:1611.01176](#)
7. *Construction of the unitary free fermion Segal CFT*
Commun. Math. Phys. 355 (2017), no. 2, 463-518. [arXiv:1608.02095](#)

8. *Planar algebras in braided tensor categories*
submitted. [arXiv:1607.06041](#) (with André Henriques and David Penneys)
9. *Internal trace for module tensor categories over braided tensor categories*
Documenta Math., 21 (2016) 1089-1149. [arXiv:1509.02937](#) (with André Henriques and David Penneys)
10. *Subfactors of index less than 5, part 4: vines*
Int. J. Math., 23 (2012), no. 3, 1250017. [arXiv:1010.3797](#) (with David Penneys)
11. *Unitary equivalence to a complex symmetric matrix: low dimensions*
Lin. Alg. Appl., 437 (2012), no. 1, 271-284. [arXiv:1104.4960](#) (with Stephan R. Garcia and Daniel Poore)
12. *Unitary equivalence of a matrix to its transpose*
J. Operator Theory, 68:1 (2012), 179-203. [arXiv:0908.2107](#) (with Stephan R. Garcia)
13. *Projections and idempotents with fixed diagonal and the homotopy problem for unit tight frames*
Oper. Matrices, 5 (2011) 139-155. [arXiv:0906.0139](#) (with J. Giol, L.V. Kovalev, D. Larson and N. Nguyen)
14. *Unitary equivalence to a complex symmetric matrix: an algorithm*
J. Math. Anal. Appl., 341 (2008) 640-648. [arXiv:0908.2201](#)

SELECTED RECENT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES PRESENTED AT (SINCE JUNE 2016)

1. Workshop on Subfactors and Fusion Categories
Banff International Research Station, October 2018
2. Workshop on Geometric and Categorical Aspects of CFTs
Casa Matemática Oaxaca, September 2018
3. Algebraic Methods in Mathematical Physics
CRM Montreal, July 2018
4. (Sub)Factors in Maui, May 2018
5. Workshop on algebraic combinatorics and representation theory of finite groups and vertex operator algebras
Kyoto RIMS, December 2017
6. Shanks workshop on subfactors and applications
Vanderbilt University, October 2017
7. Workshop on Subfactors, higher geometry, higher twists and almost Calabi-Yau algebras
Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Cambridge, March 2017
8. Southeastern Analysis Meeting 2017
UT Knoxville, March 2017
9. Berkeley-Tokyo Autumn School on Quantum Field Theory and Subfactors
UC Berkeley, November 2016
10. Modular Categories—Their Representations, Classification, and Applications
Casa Matemática Oaxaca, August 2016
11. Workshop on Von Neumann Algebras
Hausdorff Institute for Mathematics, Bonn, July 2016
12. Mathematics and Physics at the Crossroads trimester program seminar
National Institute for Nuclear Physics, Frascati, June 2016

RECENT INVITED SEMINAR AND COLLOQUIUM TALKS (SINCE APRIL 2017)

1. Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, April 2018
2. University of Arizona Mathematics Colloquium, February 2018
3. UC Davis Seminar on Algebra & Discrete Mathematics, November 2017
4. OSU Seminar on Quantum Algebra & Quantum Topology, September 2017
5. OSU Seminar on Non-commutative Geometry & Operator Algebras, September 2017
6. Claremont Colleges Mathematics Colloquium, April 2017

ADVISING

- I supervised the undergraduate honors thesis of J. Connor Grady at UCSB (title: *The Classification of Extremal Vertex Operator Algebras of Rank 2*)

SERVICE AND ORGANIZATION

- Co-organized nine conferences and workshops over the period 2012-2019, on the subjects of subfactors, quantum algebra, and quantum field theory. I am currently organizing three more conferences and workshops in 2019.
- Started the UC Santa Barbara seminar on quantum topology and quantum algebra, a research and learning seminar with significant interdisciplinary participation by graduate students from the mathematics, physics, and computer science departments.
- Served as a referee for many journals, including Duke Mathematical Journal, Advances in Mathematics, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Proceedings of the AMS, Transactions of the AMS, Annals of Functional Analysis, Reports on Mathematical Physics, AMS Contemporary Mathematics series, Journal of Differential Equations, Vietnam Journal of Mathematics, Operators and Matrices, and the American Mathematical Monthly.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND AWARDS

- At ANU, I was the convenor for Advanced Complex Analysis in Semester 2 of 2018. I was nominated by students for the 2018 Joint Colleges of Science Award for Teaching Excellence (ineligible to win; the award requires at least three years of prior employment at ANU).
- At UC Santa Barbara, I was the instructor of record for 11 ten-week courses, including Calculus II (5 times), Transition to Higher Mathematics (4 times), and upper division Linear Algebra (2 times). Course sizes range from 150-350 for calculus and 35-60 for proof based courses. On a scale of 1=excellent to 5=poor, my average course rating by students was 1.2.
- As a graduate student at UC Berkeley, I was the instructor of record for Matrix Theory and Differential Equations, and a teaching assistant for Calculus II, Precalculus, Matrix Theory, and Linear Algebra. I received an Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor award.