NCG Seminar: Thursday Feb 21, LOV200, 2pm

Speaker: Rafael Torres-Ruiz (MPI)

Title: A lenient introduction to smooth 4-manifolds

Abstract: Four dimensional topology hosts phenomena not present in any other dimension. For example, an n-manifold admits infinitely many different (non-diffeomorphic) smooth structures if $n = 4$. The talk reviews the basic topological invariants in order to point out the clash between the smooth and topological categories. Extra attention is set on an open 4-manifold of particular physical interest and its peculiar behavior.