

“I smell the blood of an Englishman!” — The Giant

The Trivial Notions Seminar  
Proudly Announces

Discuss your favorite Galois representation  
in ten words or less

A talk by  
Jay Pottharst

**Abstract**

We will show that  $p$ -adic Galois representations of a field of characteristic  $p$  are very simple: namely, they can be completely determined by specifying a single matrix. This description is in terms of objects called étale  $\varphi$ -modules, which come from *semilinear* algebra. We will state the Dieudonné–Manin theorem, which shows how  $\varphi$ -modules are very nice compared to their corresponding linear algebraic objects. Time permitting, we will sketchily describe how these objects fit into algebraic geometry. Prerequisites: familiarity with (complete) DVRs, including the  $p$ -adic numbers, and with Hilbert’s Theorem 90.

Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm  
Science Center 507