

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE
and
MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

Joint Colloquium in Mathematics

Thursday, February 20th, 2020
4:30 – 5:30PM, Wickersham Room 201, Millersville University

Dr. Annalisa Crannell, Franklin & Marshall College

Anamorphic distortion: it's closer than you think

Abstract:

What is the difference between Trompe L'Oeil and anamorphic art? One difference is that we think of the former as being surprisingly realistic, and as the latter as a distortion that can morph into being realistic if we stand in the "correct" spot. But both of these perspective art genres employ the same underlying mathematics, and in that sense, one might conclude they are both equally realistic. In this talk, we offer a measure of anamorphic distortion and describe its dependence on the standard measure of viewing distance. We conclude that Trompe L'Oeil and anamorphic art are not truly different in kind, but are rather variations along a spectrum, and that the spectrum varies with relative distances of the image to the viewing target of the particular piece.

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