

# Mentor Lecture Series

Organizer: Daniel Erman and Bianca Viray

Monday, 4:10–5:00pm, 60 Evans

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Mar. 20    **Hugh Woodin**, UCB

*The Transfinite Universe*

Many of the fundamental questions of Set Theory, such as the Continuum Hypothesis, cannot be solved on the basis of the axioms, ZFC. Further the realm of sets is at best completely hidden from us, there are no computer experiments (so far) which can help guide our intuitions and no probes we can launch to search for answers.

Perhaps this is simply because there is no realm of sets and the subject is nothing more than a reflection of the mathematician.

I shall survey some recent developments which collectively provides evidence for a realm of sets which is every bit as real as the realm of number theory.

*The Mentor Lecture Series is designed for first and second year graduate students. The series aims to acquaint beginning graduate students with potential dissertation supervisors whom they might not otherwise closely encounter, and to impart a taste of research activity in the mathematics department in order to help beginning students choose fields of specialization.*