

Creighton University Department of Mathematics Invites You To Attend

Department of Mathematics Colloquium

Friday, September 6, 2019 | 3:30 p.m. | HLSB 522

“Gerrymandering and Mathematics”



Presented by

Steven Dunbar, Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Kristin Pfabe, Ph.D., Nebraska Wesleyan University

Gerrymandering is the practice of manipulating the boundaries of an electoral constituency to favor one party or class. We'll sketch the history of gerrymandering and the court cases around it. We'll describe "packing" and "cracking", the principal methods for gerrymandering. Quantifying gerrymandering leads to some interesting mathematics. We'll show geometric ways of characterizing gerrymandering and some voter distribution measures, along with their advantages and disadvantages. Some very new gerrymandering measures using advanced statistical sampling were featured in recent Supreme Court cases and we'll survey those. Various remedies for gerrymandering are being considered in several states, including Nebraska, and we'll finish with a discussion of them. Join us for a reception before the talk in HLSB 503 at 3:00 p.m.