Speaker: Ben Hayes

Title: Sofic groups and approximation of L^2 -invariants.

I will discuss the notion of a sofic group, which is a group which can be approximated, in a somewhat weak sense, by finite groups. I will discuss how this approximation can be used to give finitary approximations to L^2 -invariants. Time permitting, I may also discuss how this approximations relate to problems in computing sofic entropy.