

**SIMONS
INSTITUTE**
for the Theory of Computing



MEDIA ADVISORY
October 30, 2014

Contact: Anne Pfister, annepf@msri.org
510.642.0448

**Join Microsoft's Dr. Cynthia Dwork for the
Latest Research in Online Privacy Issues
7 p.m., Wed., Nov. 5 at Berkeley City College Auditorium**

WHAT: “I'm in the Database (But Nobody Knows)” will be presented by Dr. Cynthia Dwork. She examines the small print: “Your data will only be used in aggregated form.” What does this statement mean, and why is it so often included in privacy policies? Drawing from examples in the popular press and the technical literature, the talk will scrutinize the common intuition that privacy is ensured by aggregation and show that information—and hence privacy loss—flows in mysterious ways. Arguing that the situation demands a mathematically rigorous treatment of privacy, the talk will introduce “differential privacy,” a field of research supporting a strong definition of privacy tailored to analysis of large data sets. This still growing approach is thriving and seems poised to begin entering practice.

Her talk is part of the “Not on the Test: The Pleasures and Uses of Mathematics” series of four public lectures in 2014–15, and it is jointly presented by the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI), the Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing, and Berkeley City College (BCC). The series is made possible with funding from the Simons Foundation.

WHO: **Dr. Cynthia Dwork**, Distinguished Scientist at Microsoft Research, is renowned for placing privacy-preserving data analysis on a mathematically rigorous foundation. A cornerstone of this work is differential privacy, a strong privacy guarantee frequently permitting highly accurate data analysis. Dr. Dwork has also made seminal contributions in cryptography and distributed computing, and is a recipient of the Edsger W. Dijkstra Prize, recognizing some of her earliest work establishing the pillars on which every fault-tolerant system has been built for decades. She is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

WHEN: 7:00–8:15 P.M., WED., NOV. 5, 2014

WHERE: Berkeley City College's Auditorium at 2050 Center Street (between Shattuck Ave. & Milvia St., one half block west of the Downtown Berkeley BART station on Shattuck Ave; for a map, see <http://goo.gl/0vJRT>) in Berkeley. For information, the public can call MSRI at 510.642.0143.

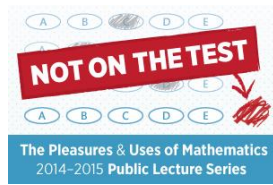
WEBPAGE: See http://www.msri.org/general_events/20903

HOW: Free Admission. Reserve your ticket at <http://tinyurl.com/CynthiaDwork>

PHOTO: Photo of Dr. Dwork available by request to Anne Pfister at annepf@msri.org.

SPONSOR: The generous support of the **Simons Foundation** (www.simonsfoundation.org) has made possible the “Not on the Test” MSRI-BCC lecture series.

--more--



About MSRI: The **Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI, www.msri.org)**, in Berkeley, California, is one of the world’s preeminent centers for research in the mathematical sciences and has been advancing mathematical research through workshops and conferences since its founding as an independent institute in 1982. Approximately 2,000 mathematicians visit the MSRI each year, and the Institute hosts about 85 leading researchers at any given time for stays of up to one academic year. The Institute has been funded primarily by the National Science Foundation with additional support from other government agencies, private foundations, corporations, individual donors, and more than 100 academic institutions. The MSRI is involved in K-12 math education through its annual Critical Issues in Mathematics Education conferences for educators, math circles, the National Association for Math Circles and its website (NAMC, www.mathcircles.org), and Olympiad math competitions; in undergraduate education through its MSRI-UP program; and in public education through its “Conversations” series and a variety of public events.

About BCC: **Berkeley City College (BCC) (www.berkeleycitycollege.edu)**, one of California’s 112 community colleges, is part of the Peralta Community College District, which includes College of Alameda, Laney College and Merritt College. BCC, which began in 1974, is centrally located in downtown Berkeley, only 1-1/2 blocks from the U.C. Berkeley campus. BCC’s mission is to contribute to the success of all students and to the well-being of the community by offering the best possible education which promises intellectual growth, social mobility, economic development and an understanding of diverse ideas and peoples. The college is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. BCC offers transfer and occupational training classes, associate degree and certificate programs. The college is an active partner in local economic development and employment training endeavors. Financial aid, academic and career counseling, programs for students with disabilities and assistance for economically disadvantaged students are available. The college maintains a strong and unique community college/university collaboration with the University of California at Berkeley. BCC is second in California in the percentage of students who transfer to U.C. Berkeley and is second in the state in the percentage of students who transfer to all U.C. campuses in Northern California.